

Data swap difficulties

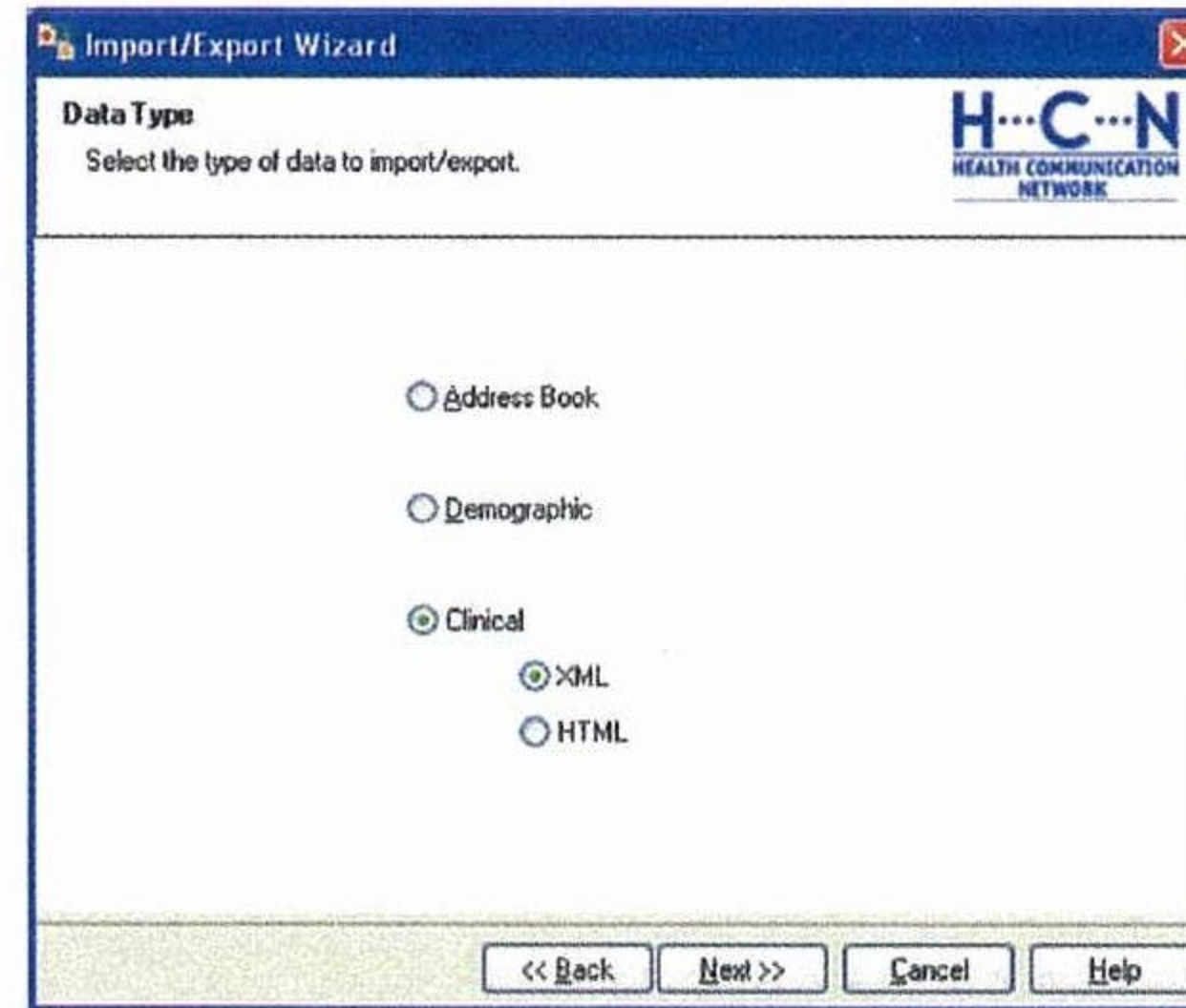
Expect complications when trying to import or export patient files to new locations.

THERE are several scenarios where practices need to import and export patient clinical records. The most common reasons for sending a patient record to another practice include the patient moving, a practice closing or a solo GP retiring.

And these days, some aged care facilities have installed clinical software with the patient records kept at the facility rather than the GP's surgery. In this case the patient files need to be exported from the surgery and imported into the aged care facility's system.

What should be a simple process is complicated where the two locations have different clinical software or, in the case of Medical Director, you have MD2 in one location and MD3 in the other.

When exporting/importing clinical records between MD2 and MD3, use the XML format. The correct



method to export/import data between different versions of MD does not appear to be particularly well documented anywhere, but these tips should help.

Exporting patient records

When exporting files between two locations that have MD2, the process is simple. The import and export type are both 'clinical' and this is done through

MD2 Maintenance > Data transfer > Import or Export.

In MD2 you are able to export the clinical data in XML format, but only from within the individual patient record. Select Tools > Export Patient — select XML format. The only problem with this is that you have to do the patients one at a time, going into each patient record and exporting the file.



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When exporting/importing clinical records between MD2 and MD3, use the XML format.

The MD2 Maintenance program does not allow you to export in XML format, but the Maintenance programs of both MD2 and MD3 allow you to import patient files in XML format.

Importing patient records

■ MD2 Maintenance > Data Transfer > Import — select clinical data and select XML format.

■ MD3 HCN Maintenance > Common > Import/Export — select Import > Clinical and when prompted, import in XML format.

Other information

In MD2 you can use the Maintenance program to export patient records while users are logged into Medical Director. However, when importing patient records you cannot have other users logged into Medical Director.

In MD3 you can use HCN Maintenance to import and export patient records while other users are logged on.

In MD2 you can export a patient record from within the patient record, but MD3 lacks this feature.

If you think this is complicated, it is nothing compared with the difficulty — and sometimes impossibility — of importing/exporting between different clinical software packages. ●