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Live: Private company 'solely responsible' for security after major health hack, Health NZ says

February 24, 2026 · 5:30pm

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Unclear how many people affected by hack, deputy PM says

What you need to know

- A **hack of medication platform MediMap** has led to some alive patients being marked as deceased, and others labelled as “**Charlie Kirk**”, **the conservative activist who was shot dead in the US last year**.
- The **digital medication management** platform MediMap, **widely used across the aged care, disability, hospice, and community health sectors for real-time electronic charting and management of patient medication, remains offline after some records were found to have been “incorrectly modified”**.
- One nurse told *Stuff* a third of the patients at the aged care facility where he worked had their records changed during the hack, and that the company did not have two-factor authentication to access MediMap.
- Health NZ says it is working with MediMap, but that the private company is “solely responsible” for security following the hack.
- ***Do you know more or are you affected? Email newstips@stuffdigital.co.nz***

Sam Smith



Private company 'solely responsible' for security after major health hack, Health NZ says

Health New Zealand says MediMap is 'solely responsible' for ensuring the security of its platform after it was hacked.

MediMap, a privately owned and operated medication management platform, took its platform offline on Sunday after identifying unauthorised activity within its system.

In a statement on Tuesday afternoon, Health New Zealand Digital Services Acting Chief Information Technology Officer, Darren Douglass, said MediMap needs to be doing everything it can to manage this incident and minimise any potential impact.

"New Zealanders expect that companies involved in healthcare have secure systems and platforms that safeguard their private information," he said.

"Health NZ is supporting MediMap with its response and has activated our Cyber Incident Management Team to assist. We are also working with other relevant agencies to respond including the National Cyber Security Centre."

MediMap has advised users of its platform to implement their business continuity plans to ensure patients can continue to receive care without disruption.

These include some Health New Zealand services, such as transfer of care when residential care patients are discharged, and opioid recovery service.

MediMap has notified the Office of the Privacy Commissioner and NZ Police.



MediMap Director Geoffrey Sayer. Supplied

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24/02/2026

06:04 pm

Stan Ellis



MediMap not used in prisons

Corrections' chief digital officer Tom Baker says MediMap is not used in New Zealand's prisons, after a pilot of the app at Whanganui Prison and Christchurch Women's Prison between 2022 and 2024.

"We understand the significant importance and sensitivity of people's information and are working with urgency to get confirmation from MediMap whether any Corrections data from this pilot has been involved in this MediMap breach," Baker said in a statement.

"If any prisoners or former prisoners are found to have been impacted as a result of any data stored during this pilot, we will work with MediMap to ensure these people are notified and supported.

"As you can appreciate, we are working at pace to determine the full facts of this situation and we will proactively provide you with an update as soon as we are in a position to do so."

24/02/2026

05:29 pm

Stan Ellis



Report of privacy breach confirmed

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner has confirmed it was notified of a privacy breach by MediMap on Monday, in accordance with requirements under The Privacy Act.

"As with any breach, Medi-Map Limited will need to investigate so they can fully understand the size and scope of the breach and its impact on New Zealanders. Our initial focus in this situation is to support agencies who have experienced a breach with advice on how to minimise the harm to any people affected," the office said in a statement.

"New Zealanders rightly expect any agency collecting, holding, using or storing their sensitive health information to maintain high standards of privacy and data protection. The management of health information is an issue the Office is the Privacy Commission is currently looking into as part of [its inquiry](#) into the cyber security breach affecting patient data within the patient portal provided by Manage My Health Limited."



Privacy Commissioner launches inquiry into Manage My Health data breach

The privately run patient portal used by some general practices detected the breach in the early hours of December 31.

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24/02/2026

03:13 pm

Sam Smith



Health Minister reacts to 'concerning' situation

Health Minister Simeon Brown has called the hack situation "concerning", adding that it was up to MediMap to address the matter with those affected directly.

"New Zealanders rightly expect their personal health information to be kept secure. Private providers have a clear responsibility to meet that expectation," he said.

"The Government expects MediMap to communicate proactively and without delay with any patients whose information may have been impacted."

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24/02/2026

02:45 pm

Sam Smith



Patients' meds 'not going out' on time after major hack, nurse feared

A registered nurse, who asked to remain anonymous because he was not authorised to speak to media, said up to 20 patients at his aged care facility had their records changed during the hack, out of a total of 60.

"We just kept losing more patients from the screen. And so I started panicking because it was nearly tea time and medications were not going to be given.

"That is when I felt the magnitude of this - I realised the meds were not going out at that time, and all that information and their charts had been changed and I didn't know how long it would be until they were restored."

The nurse said that included blood pressure, heart pressure and diabetes medications, as well as medicines for patients who had cognitive problems and were prone to falls.

MediMap was still unavailable on Tuesday afternoon and the nurse's facility had reverted to a paper-based charting system for medications, which the nurse said was time-consuming.

The nurse said that they required a company login and a personal login to access MediMap, but it did not have two-factor authentication.

Reporting from Isaac Davison

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24/02/2026

01:40 pm

Poppy Clark



Unclear how many people affected by hack, deputy PM says

David Seymour, the deputy prime minister and associate health minister, said the exact number of people affected by the MediMap hacking is still yet to be determined.

Speaking to the media this afternoon, Seymour said he had been briefed on the situation, adding that there were issues around criteria for holding people's medical records online.

"I think the challenge is if you have permission to hold New Zealanders medical records - what criteria are you meeting?

"I think New Zealand has been behind other countries for many years on this our government is now working very rapidly to keep up and this is being discussed in the highest levels of government as recently as a few weeks ago," Seymour said.



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01:15 pm

Poppy Clark



Health NZ in contact with MediMap

Darren Douglass, Acting Chief Information Technology Officer, Digital Services for Health New Zealand said they have been made aware of MediMap's "IT issue".

He said they were in contact with the privately owned medication management platform, MediMap, to understand the impact and scope of the issue.

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24/02/2026

12:59 pm

Poppy Clark



Aged Care Association reacts

The Aged Care Association (ACA) Chief Executive Tracey Martin said she was [contacted by affected members on Sunday](#).

"Since that time, they have been forwarding to me the communications issued by MediMap over the preceding 36 hours, as MediMap has not contacted the Association directly."

Martin said MediMap is a business system choice made by individual providers to manage resident medication and clinical information and there is no obligation on vendors to provide information to the Association.

The ACA rely on members to keep them informed where issues arise.

"Members have advised that MediMap instructed them to revert to manual, paper-based medication systems while the issue is being resolved.

"While this is more time-consuming for staff, we are being told that it is functioning in practice and providers have activated their standard clinical safety and contingency procedures."

The ACA was not aware of any confirmed cases of patient records being deliberately altered to change prescribed medications.

Martin said they hadn't received any information indicating that medications have been incorrectly administered as a result of the current system suspension.

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12:52 pm

Poppy Clark



PM reacts to MediMap hacking

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon says he is aware of the MediMap hacking incident.

"It's an issue to direct to Health NZ," he told *Stuff*.

"Obviously its concerning particularly when it follows Manage My Health. It's a reason why I have been advocating very strongly that we need to strengthen our cyber security laws here in NZ and also make sure that we are not laid back.

"I think in 2026 sometimes our New Zealand business environment has been way too laid back and not taking the risks and the threats seriously enough."

24/02/2026

12:50 pm

Poppy Clark



Nurse says patient was 'incorrectly marked as deceased'

A registered nurse, who *Stuff* agreed not to name, said their facility had been affected.

“When I searched for one of the missing patients using their NHI number, I located the profile and observed that the patient had been incorrectly marked as deceased.”

They contacted support immediately to report the first occurrence but it wasn't long before they found more irregularities.

“When I searched for one of the missing patients using their NHI number, I located the profile and observed that the patient had been incorrectly marked as deceased.”

They contacted support immediately to report the first occurrence but it wasn't long before they found more irregularities.

“More patients were marked as deceased, names appeared to have been changed to Charlie Kirk, ages were altered, and some patients were assigned to different facilities.”

24/02/2026

12:41 pm

MediMap hack marks alive patients as dead, labels others as Charlie Kirk

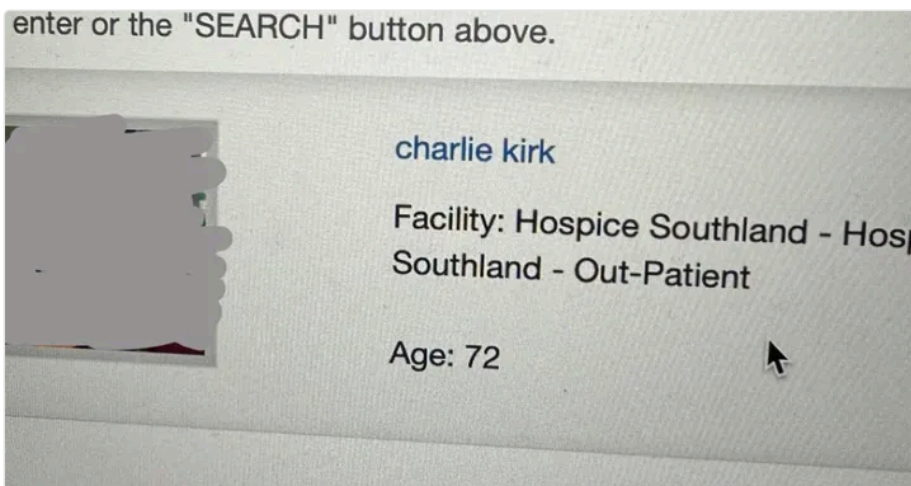
An apparent hack of medication platform MediMap has led to some alive patients being marked as deceased, and others labelled as "[Charlie Kirk](#)".

The digital medication management platform MediMap widely used across New Zealand remains offline after some records were found to have been “incorrectly modified”.

Used by the aged care, disability, hospice, and community health sectors, MediMap is a real-time electronic charting system that allows staff to manage patient medication.

A registered nurse, who Stuff agreed not to name, said their facility had been affected.

Read the full story by Poppy Clark and Paula Penfold below:



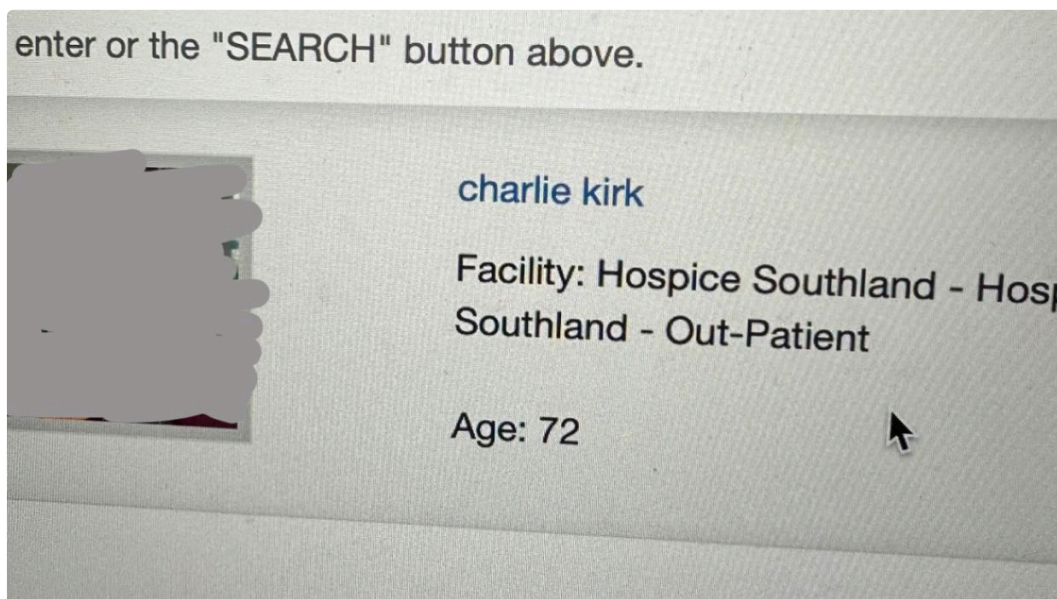
Major NZ health app breach: Alive patients marked as deceased, names changed to Charlie Kirk

Patients are being marked as deceased, names and ages are altered, in major breach of digital medication platform
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Some alive patients are reportedly being marked as deceased and labelled as Charlie Kirk.
Photo: Supplied

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