



An Roinn Sláinte  
Department of Health

# Digital Transformation of our Healthcare Service: The critical need for data standardisation

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Empowering People. Connecting Lives.

# Why did we need a strategy refresh ?



- Current strategy is **10 years old** and constraining vision
- Need to evolve from eHealth to Digital Health – **Digital Services not eHealth Systems**
- Leverage Global **Digital Technology** Developments, **data** to inform decision making & learn from **experience** in our service & other countries
- **Patient Expectations** of the use of Digital have increased as have **demands for services**
- **EU obligations & Targets** - the **EU Digital Decade** and **European Health Data Space Directive** (EHDS) & **Government Digital Strategy** ‘Harnessing Digital’
- Learnings from the **Pandemic** & criminally motivated **Cyber-attack**
- Establishment of **Regional Health Areas**, a need to **enable integrated care** and emergence of **Health Information Bill** to clarify obligations to share
- Need for a vision to **align stakeholders** & secure **commitment**

Some Examples of nations included in our research



Australia



New Zealand



Northern Ireland



Wales



Denmark



Scotland



Finland

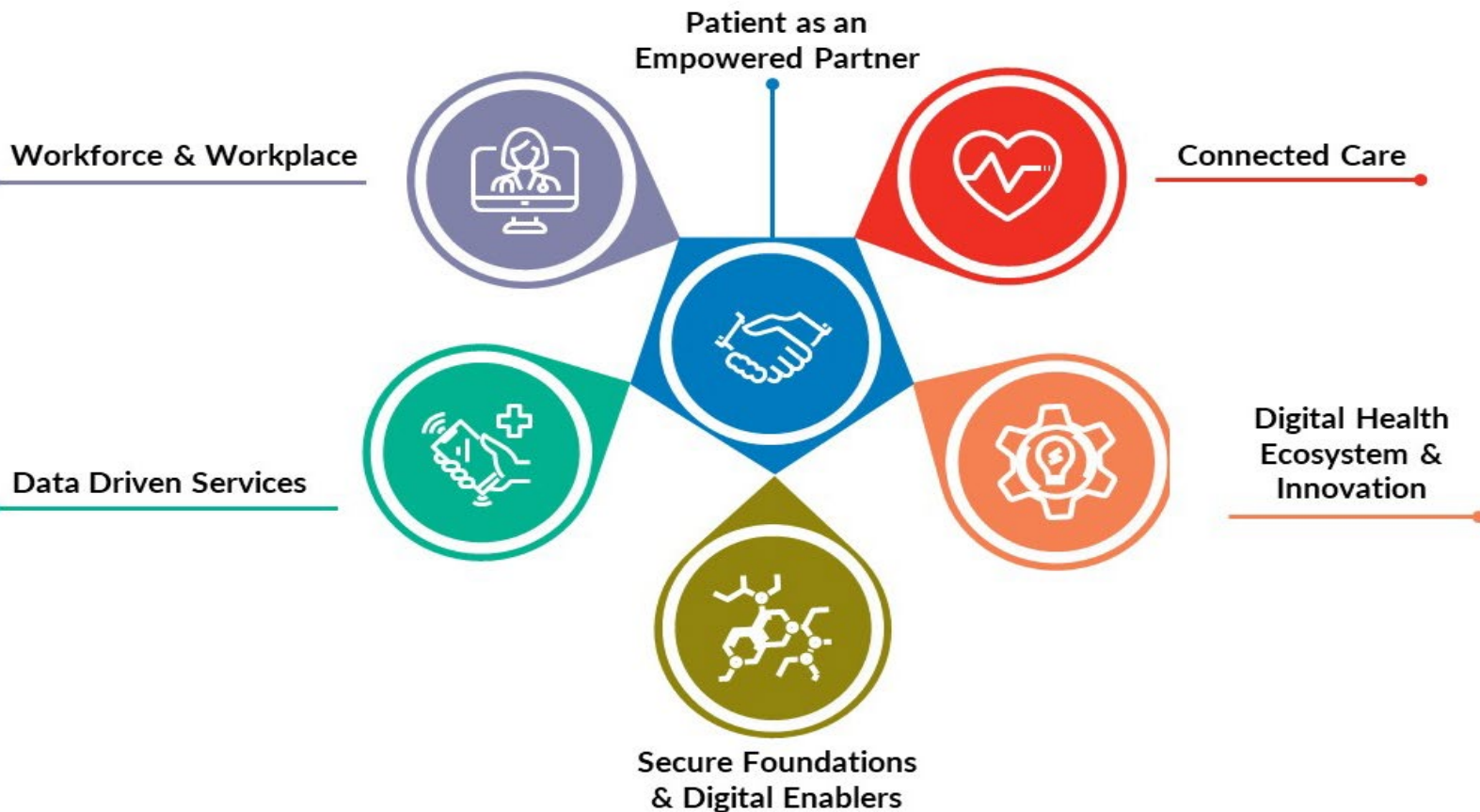


Germany



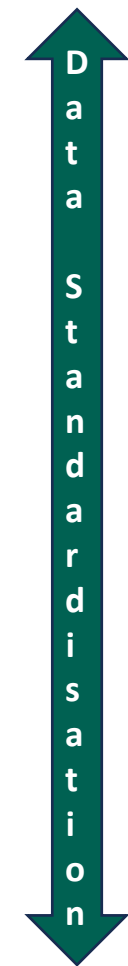
Canada

# Digital for Care: A Digital Health Framework for Ireland 2024-2030



## Some Key Deliverables:

- Patient App –Dec 2024, Q1 2-25
- Shared Care Record
- Electronic Healthcare Record
- National Laboratory & National Imaging Systems
- Digitising Benefits & Schemes
- HSE Live & Contact Care
- Telehealth & Virtual Care
- Modern Workspace and Productivity Tools
- Healthcare Data Analytics
- Resource Management (SAP IFMS & HR)
- Expanding wifi across healthcare services.
- E-Pharmacy/Prescriptions.
- Automation, AI & Open Innovation
- Cybersecurity & Resilience



A modern, patient-centred, and sustainable health and social care system for patients and workforce

# Digital for Care: Ireland's Roadmap 2024-2030

## Our Vision

Better health outcomes enabled by seamless, safe, secure and connected digital health services and which support health and wellbeing for both our patients and providers.

### Patient as an Empowered Partner

#### 11 Key Initiatives

- Patient Portal
- HSE app
- HSELive - Contact Centre
- Patient Feedback Platform
- Remote Care Monitoring and Digital Therapeutics
- Benefits and Schemes access
- Public Facing Engagement and Digital Literacy Development Programmes
- Public Website Content Management
- Open Health API Framework
- Contact Care Platform
- Telehealth

### Workforce and Workplace

#### 6 Key Initiatives

- Reliable Secure Connectivity
- Modern Workspace and Productivity Tools
- Improve Employee Experience
- Mobile Ecosystem for Front Line
- Employee Feedback Platform
- Digital Finance and HR

### Digitally Enabled and Connected Care

#### 11 Key Initiatives

- Shared Care Record
- Population Health Management
- Care Coordination
- Medication Management\*
- Diagnostics
- Order Comms and Care Delivery\*
- Patient Safety and Quality of Care\*
- EHR Procurement and Delivery
- Digitisation of Health Care Records\*
- National Clinical Information Systems\*
- Medical Device Integration

### Data Driven Services

#### 4 Key Initiatives

- Patient Journey Analytics
- Healthcare Data Analytics
- Integrated Referral Management
- Scheduling, Rostering and Resource Management



## Digital Health Ecosystem and Innovation

### 4 Key Initiatives

- Precision Medicine Support
- Healthcare Research
- AI in Healthcare
- Open Innovation and Ecosystem



## Secure Foundations and Digital Enablers

### 12 Key Initiatives

- Legislation, Regulation, Standards, Governance
- Patient Identity Management
- Healthcare Worker Identity and Access Management
- Architecture, Service Design and Knowledge Management
- Culture, Change and Agile Delivery
- Talent Identification and Development
- Integration, Interoperability, Data Engineering
- Crisis-Responsive Healthcare
- ICT Cyber Programme
- Foundational Infrastructure
- Regional Strategic Implementation
- 24/7 Support Function

# Digital for Care: A Vision of Success

**Patients' voices are heard** – ease of access to their health information

Integration and **responsiveness** to the changing needs of patients

**Digitally skilled and literate** workforce who are supported to welcome new technologies through ongoing training

Continuous **engagement with all stakeholders** to help adopt digital health by understanding its **values and benefits**

Leaders capable of driving the digital agenda, **effective change management**, cultivating innovation

**Clear Governance structures** that support effective decision making

Harnessing of **data** to drive improvements

Compliance with **data protection and safeguarding** standards

Sustained **investment** is essential

**Collaborative** working across the Health Service **sharing** digital infrastructure and data

One single health record - **EHR** incorporating medication management tools, and the digitisation of the whole health care record

# Data Standardisation in Healthcare - Making the Case



- **1. Enhancing Patient Care:**
  - **Accurate Diagnoses:** Standardised data ensures that patient records are consistent and accurate, reducing the risk of misdiagnoses and inappropriate treatments.
  - **Timely Access:** Clinicians can quickly access comprehensive patient histories, leading to faster and more informed decision-making.
- **2. Improving Interoperability:**
  - **Seamless Data Exchange:** Standardisation of data is needed to allow different parts of the healthcare service to communicate effectively, ensuring that patient information is easily shared across facilities.
  - **Reduced Fragmentation:** Eliminates data silos, providing a holistic view of patient health and improving care coordination.
- **3. Enhancing Research and Innovation:**
  - **Reliable Data for Studies:** Consistent data enables researchers to conduct more accurate and meaningful research and studies, accelerating medical discoveries and innovation.
  - **Clinical Trials:** Standardised data helps identify suitable candidates for clinical trials, to enhance the development of new treatments.

# Data Standardisation in Healthcare: Addressing Challenges and Realising Benefits



## 1. Overcoming Data Inconsistencies:

- **Unified Coding Systems:** Implementing standardised medical codes reduces errors and misinterpretations in patient records. One of the reasons Denmark is a leader in digital health is because it has extensively coded diagnoses for 40 years – albeit with ICD (rather than SNOMED). GPs in the UK have just switched from READ coding to SNOMED.
- **Quality Assurance:** Ensures data quality and reliability, which is crucial for patient safety and effective care delivery.

## 2. Streamlining Operations:

- **Efficiency Gains:** Reduces administrative burdens on healthcare professionals, allowing them to focus more on patient care.
- **Cost Savings:** Minimizes unnecessary tests and procedures, lowering healthcare costs and improving resource allocation/reinvestment opportunities.

## 3. Regulatory Compliance:

- **Meeting Standards:** Helps the health service and healthcare organisations comply with regulatory requirements, avoiding penalties and ensuring patient data privacy.
- **Enhanced Reporting & Transparency:** Facilitates accurate and timely reporting to regulatory bodies, improving overall healthcare system transparency.



# Concluding Remarks



- Government approval of policy direction (Digital for Care Framework & HSE Roadmap)
- Deliver on 2025 & 2026 commitments.
- Work with Stakeholders to secure increased investment enhance the provision of digital health.
- Ensure that the 6 principles guide the development of rolling multi-year action plans for digital health.
- Enact the Health Information Bill, to enable sharing of data and information and meet EU EHDS obligations.
- Clear focus on Data Governance, Structure and Standards
- Implement Data Standards as these are both foundational and crucial for creating a more efficient, secure, interoperable, and patient-centered healthcare system.



