

# Technology & Transformation NEWSLETTER

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the  
Technology and Transformation Communications Team.

If you wish to contribute please contact us at:  
[Communications.TechnologyAndTransformation@hse.ie](mailto:Communications.TechnologyAndTransformation@hse.ie)

## St. Vincent's and University Hospital Limerick Launch Virtual Wards for Cardiology and Respiratory Patients

### A LEAP FORWARD IN PATIENT CARE



**By Linda Reck**  
Communications, Technology and Transformation.

On 14th June, 2024 Virtual Wards, a new digital initiative, was announced for cardiology and respiratory patients of St. Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) and University Hospital Limerick (UHL), the technology aspect spearheaded by our Telehealth Team under the direction of Programme Manager Julie Bellew.

This innovative digital initiative provides

a safe and efficient alternative to hospital stays, allowing patients to receive expert care, monitoring, and treatment in their own homes. Launching later this month, Virtual Wards will initially cater to patients with respiratory or cardiac conditions who are medically stable but still require continuous monitoring.

*Continued to next page.*

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Virtual Wards .....	1-2
Integrating Data and Collaboration in Healthcare .....	2
Training & Development Courses .....	3
Implementation of Single Sign-On .....	4
Digital Health Roadmap .....	5
Fran Thompson CIO attends UiPATH Conference .....	5
Lunch and Learn .....	6
Pets Corner .....	6
Microsoft AI Summit – Emma Hinch guest speaker .....	7
HSE Sponsored IT Project Showcase .....	7
Technology and Transformation: Hell and Back Event .....	8
Evolution and Impact of Ireland's Health Provider Portal .....	9
Reflections from John Ward: Transforming Healthcare .....	10
NIMIS Event at Connolly Hospital .....	11
Upcoming Events .....	12

# Virtual Wards: A leap forward in Patient Care

Working closely with the Digital Health Clinical Office, Office of the CCO and local implementation teams in both hospitals, the Telehealth Team's leadership has been instrumental in making this service a reality, empowering patients to be active participants in their healthcare while reducing the strain on hospital resources.

This initiative not only supports patient recovery at home but also helps mitigate the risks associated with hospital stays, such as infections and muscle strength loss.

For more information on this transformative program, [please visit the HSE website](#), and to read more about our Telehealth Team, [you can visit ehealthireland.ie/telehealth](http://youcanvisitehealthireland.ie/telehealth).

*Photographed on the front page at the launch of the Virtual Wards is LtoR:*

*Prof. Richard Greene, HSE Chief Clinical Information Officer and Dr. Conor Kennedy, Senior Project Manager, Technology and Transformation Telehealth Programme.*

[View a short video of the launch on LinkedIn.](#)



L-R Back: Mary Nolan, Conor Kennedy, Andrea Ormond, Karen Donohoe, Loretto Grogan, Georgina Bassett, Stanley Miller, Aoiheann Ni Shuilleabhain. L-R Front: Richard Greene, Patricia O'Gorman, Kenneth McDonald, and Deirdre McNamara.

## Innovative Synergies:

### Integrating Data and Collaboration in Healthcare

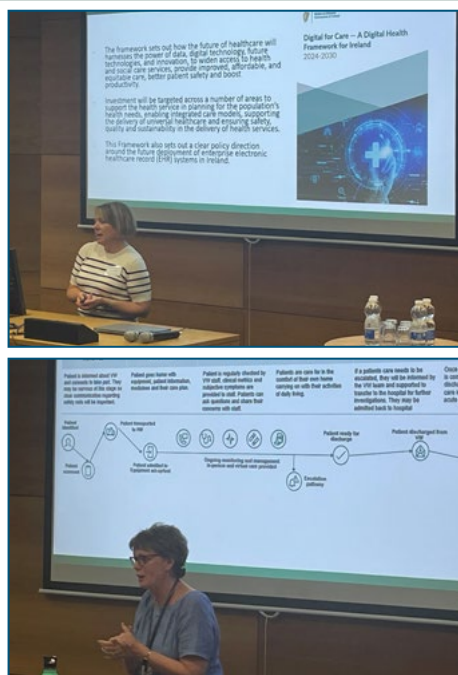
By Aoife Walsh,  
Training and Development Team.

Held in DKIT on Thursday 27th June 2024, this conference was an overview of the implications and obligations for data integration and collaboration in line with the European Health Data Space.

Representing the HSE were speakers such as Irene Finnegan, outlining the IHI and overview of the project, Loretto Grogan speaking about Data Maturity and our Digital Health Framework; Niall Halliday also spoke on data framework and collaboration with the Health App; and Julie Bellew also spoke about the Virtual Wards project and the data coming from this and information needed to integrate it.

Several other guest speakers from private industry gave presentations detailing their projects and the data that they were currently capturing.

Dr. Frances Burns spoke on Northern Ireland progress and how the different trusts were collaborating and sharing data.



There were also representatives from EIT Health and also CeADAR – Ireland centre for AI and how they were promoting the use of AI in the data space.

*Photographed from top right: Loretto Grogan, National Clinical Information Officer for Nursing and Midwifery HSE and Julie Bellew, ICT Programme Manager Telehealth and CAWT.*



## RECRUITMENT

[recruitment.technologyandtransformation@hse.ie](mailto:recruitment.technologyandtransformation@hse.ie)  
[hr.technologyandtransformation@hse.ie](mailto:hr.technologyandtransformation@hse.ie)

## EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

[employeerelations.technologyandtransformation@hse.ie](mailto:employeerelations.technologyandtransformation@hse.ie)

## TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

[training.technologyandtransformation@hse.ie](mailto:training.technologyandtransformation@hse.ie)

## FINANCE

### Revenue contacts:

Corporate and East: [revenue.po@hse.ie](mailto:revenue.po@hse.ie)

Midland: [carmel.hayes@hse.ie](mailto:carmel.hayes@hse.ie)

Mid West: [sarahellen.daly@hse.ie](mailto:sarahellen.daly@hse.ie)

North East: [maria.smith@hse.ie](mailto:maria.smith@hse.ie)

North West: [deirdre.ohagan@hse.ie](mailto:deirdre.ohagan@hse.ie)

South: [ICTBizOps.south@hse.ie](mailto:ICTBizOps.south@hse.ie)

South East: [ITPurchasing@hse.ie](mailto:ITPurchasing@hse.ie)

West: [anita.gaffney@hse.ie](mailto:anita.gaffney@hse.ie)

### Capital Contacts:

Corporate and Infrastructure Orders:

[Infrastructure.orders@hse.ie](mailto:Infrastructure.orders@hse.ie)

Acute and Community Orders:

[CapitalOrders.SE@hse.ie](mailto:CapitalOrders.SE@hse.ie)

## EXECUTIVE SUPPORT

[DSHmgt.Support@hse.ie](mailto:DSHmgt.Support@hse.ie)

### New Staff:

[newstaffit.TechnologyAndTransformation@hse.ie](mailto:newstaffit.TechnologyAndTransformation@hse.ie)

## COMMUNICATIONS

[communications.technologyandtransformation@hse.ie](mailto:communications.technologyandtransformation@hse.ie)

## MOBILE TELEPHONY

HSE SOUTH: Cork, Kerry.

[ictbizops.south@hse.ie](mailto:ictbizops.south@hse.ie)

HSE EAST: Dublin, Wicklow, Kildare.

[mobile.queries@hse.ie](mailto:mobile.queries@hse.ie)

HSE WEST: Galway, Mayo, Roscommon.

[ictbizops.west@hse.ie](mailto:ictbizops.west@hse.ie)

HSE NORTH WES: Sligo, Donegal, Leitrim.

[ictbizops.nw@hse.ie](mailto:ictbizops.nw@hse.ie)

HSE NORTH EAST: Louth, Cavan, Meath, Monaghan.

[ictbizops.ne@hse.ie](mailto:ictbizops.ne@hse.ie)

HSE MIDWEST: Limerick, Clare, North Tipperary

[ictbizops.mw@hse.ie](mailto:ictbizops.mw@hse.ie)

HSE MIDLANDS: Westmeath, Longford, Laois, Offaly.

[ictbizops.ml@hse.ie](mailto:ictbizops.ml@hse.ie)

HSE SOUTH EAST: Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Carlow.

[ictbizops.south@hse.ie](mailto:ictbizops.south@hse.ie)



# TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFORMATION

## Training & Development

A schedule of our upcoming courses is listed below:

### Future-proof your finances: Plan in advance for your retirement

Date	Duration	Venue	Start & Finish Times	Closing Date
17/09/24	1 day	The Richmond Education and Event Centre No 1 North Brunswick Street, D7.	09:30 – 17:00	03/09/24

### Managing People Using HR Policies

Date	Duration	Venue	Start & Finish Times	Closing Date
09/10/24	1 Day	Technology and Transformation, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Southgate, Colpe Cross, Drogheda, Co. Meath, A92 YK7W	09:30 – 17:00	25/09/24

If you are interested in attending any of these programmes and have line-manager approval to do so, please [enrol via HSeLand](#).

If you are experiencing problems trying to locate or enrol onto a course, please [review our support documents](#).

Alternatively please contact [Training.TechnologyAndTransformation@hse.ie](mailto:Training.TechnologyAndTransformation@hse.ie) and we will be happy to assist you.

Parking at [The Richmond](#) is limited and offered on a first come, first-served basis. Smithfield Car Park is 5mins from the venue. [Click here](#) if you wish to book in advance.

View our 2024 Technology and Transformation Training Prospectus [here](#).

Parking at our offices in Southgate, Drogheda is available for free in the Dunnes Stores underground carpark. Please be aware there is no parking on the ground level around the shopping centre as clamping will take place after 2 hours.

Food Requirements: We offer a light lunch on our full day courses which consists of sandwiches/wraps and tea/coffee. Please let us know in advance if you have any special dietary requirements.



## Technology and Transformation eHUB

[eHub](#), our dedicated internal platform designed to support our Technology and Transformation staff. This centralised space is a valuable resource created to assist you in your daily work and keep you updated with the latest departmental news.

The eHub is an exclusive platform tailored for our

Technology and Transformation team. It hosts a variety of resources including important documents, guidelines, updates, and news relevant to our department. The platform is secure and only accessible to our staff, ensuring that the information is specific to our needs.

# Enhancing Healthcare Efficiency: IMPLEMENTATION OF SINGLE SIGN-ON IN IRELAND'S HEALTH SERVICE

By Cathal Collier  
ICT Programme Manager.

## Introduction:

Ireland's Health Service Executive (HSE) aim is to provide a digital workplace for staff in the health and social care sector. The implementation of Single Sign-On in the Irish healthcare system aims to enhance clinical efficiency and cybersecurity by allowing healthcare professionals to use a single secure login for accessing multiple systems and applications. This technology minimises the time spent on logging in and out of various systems, thus maximising patient care time and reducing the frustration associated with multiple passwords.

## Challenge:

With the increase in available solutions there are challenges, one of which is an increase in the administrative tasks associated with system access, cumbersome login procedures with multiple user IDs and passwords, exacerbated by old and slow technology. These are creating bottlenecks for clinicians in accessing healthcare systems, stealing valuable time from patient care.

## Solution:

To help staff access systems in a more efficient way the HSE introduced Single Sign On, this will allow staff to just tap their ID badge and they will have instant access to all clinical systems. Single Sign-On in the context of the Irish Health Service refers to a system that allows healthcare professionals to access multiple health-related applications with one set of login credentials. This is designed to streamline access to patient records, reduce the time spent on authentication, and improve overall efficiency and security within the healthcare system.

## Benefits:

- **Efficiency:** Reduces the need for multiple logins, saving time for healthcare professionals.
- **Improved Workflow:** Simplifies the workflow by allowing seamless transitions between applications.

- **Enhanced Security:** Centralised authentication can be more secure and easier to manage.

- **User Experience:** Provides a better user experience by minimising login issues and password fatigue.

## Complexity:

Implementing Single Sign-On (SSO) in the Irish Health Service presents several challenges, reflecting the complexity and sensitivity of the healthcare environment:

- The HSE ICT estate comprises numerous legacy systems, proprietary software, and modern applications. Integrating these disparate systems under a single authentication framework can be highly complex.
- Buy-in from all stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, IT staff, and administrators, is crucial for successful implementation.
- Single Sign On solution must be scalable to accommodate the entire healthcare system, including future expansions and increased user loads.
- Older applications might not support modern provisioning standards.

## Current Status and Future Direction:

The Irish Health Service, through the Health Service Executive (HSE), has been progressively implementing Single Sign On to enhance the digital infrastructure of healthcare services. This is part of a broader strategy to digitise healthcare and improve service delivery. The scope of the project is to implement the solution in all acute services with a view to expand this to other areas within the HSE in the future.

Multi-site deployments are currently in progress, with many locations already utilising Single Sign-On. Upcoming sites include Beaumont Hospital, Holles Street, The Rotunda, and the National Rehabilitation Hospital.

Future directions include expanding the range of integrated applications, improving security protocols, and continuously refining the user experience.



Welcome to another month for our Technology and Transformation Book Club. Our club meeting will take place today:

**Tuesday, 9th July 2024  
at 1pm via MS Teams**

New members are always welcome to join. For more information, please contact us:

**Communications  
Technology and Transformation.**

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at lunchtime. If you haven't read the book you are still encouraged to join us for a chat and a cuppa. Its always fun to link in on a teams call that isn't work related!





## Chief Technology Transformation Office (CTTO)

# DIGITAL FOR CARE

## We're on the move

By Elaine McLoone,  
HSE Digital Health Strategic Implementation Roadmap Programme Team.



The publication of the much anticipated [Digital Health Roadmap](#), which forms part of our overarching Digital for Care domain, lays the foundations to deliver a more efficient and patient focussed health service in Ireland.

The ambition to implement digital care in Ireland by the end of 2030 has been categorised within 48 initiatives, 6 principles and 1 vision that will bring numerous benefits to both healthcare staff and patients.

Contained within the 48 initiatives, key components include:

- **An Electronic Health Record (EHR):** The nationwide implementation of an EHR will ensure that patient information is accessible in real-time to healthcare providers, facilitating better coordination of care.
- **Telehealth Services:** Expansion of telehealth capabilities will enable remote consultations, reducing the need for in-person visits and making

healthcare more accessible, especially for patients in rural areas.

- **HSE app:** Improve patient experiences when accessing health services. Patients will have access to their information enabling them to take a more active role in their health.
- **Data Analytics:** Use of data analytics to improve diagnosis accuracy and predict patient outcomes.
- **Cybersecurity Measures:** Strengthening cybersecurity protocols to protect sensitive patient data and ensure the integrity and confidentiality of health information systems.

As we collectively embark on this transformative journey we will create a healthcare environment that leverages technology to improve outcomes, enhance patient experiences, and support our dedicated healthcare staff.

Read the [Digital Health Roadmap here](#) and further information is also available on [ehealthireland.ie/CTTO](https://ehealthireland.ie/CTTO).

If you wish to contact our Programme team, please email:

[cto.digitalstrategy@hse.ie](mailto:cto.digitalstrategy@hse.ie)

## UiPATH Business Automation Platform

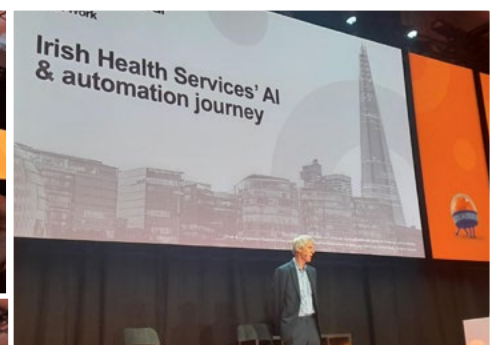
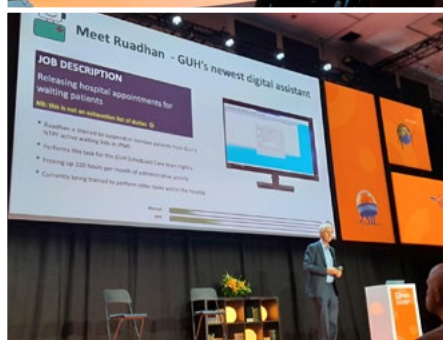
# FRAN THOMPSON, CIO, GUEST SPEAKER AT LONDON EVENT

On Tuesday, 2 July, 2024, Fran Thompson, Chief Information Officer (CIO) HSE was one of the guest speakers at the UiPath Conference in London at The O2.

Fran joined over 20 speakers at the event and gave insights into the Irish Health Services' AI and automation journey.

UiPath is a business automation platform and gathered for this years event were AI experts, practitioners, and business leaders in the UK and Ireland.

A huge thank you to Kevin Kelly, GM Digital Workflow Automation, for capturing the event in London for us.



# LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES

The Lunch and Learn on 21st June, 2024 featured the GP eOrdering Project with Thomas Walsh. As the sessions are 30 minutes in duration the Lunch and Learn team ran out of time to answer all of the questions that were submitted by attendees.

Below are the remaining Q&A's from the session that were not covered:

**Q. Is there any functionality within the solution to prevent the GP re-ordering any unnecessary tests? i.e. tests that have already been ordered or recently resulted?**

A. There is no functionality to prevent this. This may potentially be included in ongoing improvement initiatives based on user feedback.

**Q. Are there any plans to roll this out in the Northwest region?**

A. Not immediately. Immediate focus is on Dedalus sites (APEX/ TP).

**Q. Items such as bottle colour, are they hospital specific?**

A. Yes - each page is defined by local laboratory. This includes bottle colour.

**Q. After Beaumont, what is the road map for the rollout of MedLIS to other hospitals?**

A. A roadmap for MedLIS is currently being drafted.

**Q. Are the priority 1 tests determined by the user i.e. GP or is it controlled by the Lab/Healthlink?**

A. The list was determined by GP community stakeholders.

**Q. Is this solution compatible with all 4 GP Practice Management Systems (HealthOne, Helix Practice Manager and Socrates, and CompleteGP)?**

A. Yes, its working with all four of these systems.

**Q. Will a national list be presented to the GP regardless of the site they want to order against, or is there the ability to provide a site-specific list of exams - i.e. if site does not carry out certain tests that are on the national list?**

A. The national catalogue is managed through the Laboratory Services Reform Programme, but the orders page is tailored to the hospital based on available tests.

**Q. If the patient has never attended the hospital how is this created - do you create service contact or episodes for these or are they created directly on your system?**

A. The information is taken from the GP system. They will have a practice system number and IHI number.

The patient record is then created on the lab system. In the case of MedLIS an electronic GP referral encounter is created for that date.

Apex systems also have a new patient record created and matched also on the IHI number or to any existing patient records previously sent from the GP practice.

# LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES

The latest list of lunch and learn sessions are listed below.

All sessions take place on Fridays at 12.30 unless otherwise stated. These sessions have been hugely beneficial for us to learn about the work going on in teams across Technology and Transformation.

**Coming up soon:**

**12th July, 2024:**

**MyHealth@EU Programme**

with Kathryn Kissane, John Gilmartin and Tony Hamill.

**26th July, 2024:**

**Positive Psychology**

with Tanya Hudson from Kinch Lyons Business Psychology Group.

**30th August, 2024:**

**IFMS and SAP CoE Support**

with Margaret Kilmartin, Sean Duffy and Geraldine Kilkenny.

**13th September, 2024:**

**Preventing Work Related Stress**

with Nodlaig Carroll.

**27th September, 2024:**

**Cultural Diversity in the Workplace**

with the Diversity Equality and Inclusion Team.

**18th October, 2024:**

**Halloween 'Samhain'**

with storyteller Grainne Rafferty.

[View this handy guide on how to find the Discovery Zone on HSeLand.](#)

If you missed some of the previous sessions this year, all of the Lunch and Learn recordings are now available on our eHub on the Resources Page.

[You can view the Resources Page on our eHub here.](#)

## Pets Corner



This is Leila and she lives with Michael McGovern.

Leila is keeping her age a secret, but she spent several years in two different homes before finding Michael this past May.

She happily goes on long walks and visits various nearby parks several times a week. However, Michael is proving to be quite a challenge to train!

While he's mastered throwing the ball, he still hasn't learned the perfect spot to scratch or when it's time to put down

the headset and go for a walk. Leila's not worried though as she knows there are years of happy practice ahead.



Leila





## Emma Hinch guest speaker at the Microsoft AI Innovation Summit



The Microsoft AI Innovation Summit, an in person event was hosted in the Dublin Royal Convention Centre on Thursday, 16th May 2024.

This event brought together decision makers and industry experts to unlock the potential of AI. The purpose of the event was to allow attendees gain a

better understanding of AI Innovations via interactive demos. On the day, Microsoft partners provided valuable insights into their customer AI journeys.

Emma Hinch from Corporate Delivery was invited by Microsoft to share their team's journey in utilising Microsoft Copilot Studio. This was facilitated by way of a

Q&A session, with Emma interviewed by Dave Power, Microsoft. According to Dave, this was *"one of the highlights of the day for our customers to hear a real-life story of how using our technology could make such a big impact. It was amazing to hear how such innovations are enabling our customers to do more with less."*

Emma spoke about how her team used MS Copilot Studio to deploy a Chatbot to assist staff members who had forgotten their usernames to a self-service portal related to NiSRP.

While there is out of the box functionality for users who forget their passwords, the team had noticed a sharp influx of support requests for users who could not recall the username they had created. The team configured MS Copilot Studio to enable portal users to self-serve and reduce the volume of these requests coming through the NiSRP support desk. They programmed the chatbot to converse with the user, and upon successful verification of two key data points, provide their username.

Emma received a lot of positive feedback on the day from other attendees who expressed their gratitude for sharing her experience and for presenting a real-life scenario that could be applied to other organisations.

## HSE Sponsored IT Project Showcase

By Sean Toner,  
Training and Development Team.

I was delighted to represent the HSE's Technology and Transformation division and be in attendance at a student event in the National College of Ireland in Dublin on Wednesday 29th May 2024.

This event was an IT Project Showcase for BSc in Computing and BSc in Technology Management undergraduate students. The HSE also sponsored the event, with a prize being awarded to the winning student project, as voted on by members of the faculty.

The showcase featured a wide array of project submissions from across the technology and computing space.

The winning project idea was from Fabien Felix Gal, whose software development project named 'VR-Adset' focused on providing a platform for using Virtual Reality for advertisers and developers.

Fabien's project aims to support the VR industry by providing developers with an alternative tool for advertising and providing advertisers with the



Back L-R: Professor Paul Stynes, Dean of School of Computing; Dr Prag Sharma, Global Head of AI at Citi; Professor Gina Quin, President of NCI; Seán Toner, Senior ICT Support Officer, HSE; Professor Cristina Hava-Muntean, Vice Dean; Assistant Professor Frances Sheridan, Programme Director. Front L-R: Jade Fogarty, Citi Gold Award; James McGrath, Ada Lovelace Award; Taziwa Mushayabasha, Fidelity Investments Bronze Award; Fabian Gal, HSE Silver Award; Mark Cummins, Citi Gold Award. Photograph by Keith Jordan.

opportunity to reach a new audience.

As Fabien's project was successful on the day he was awarded the HSE's sponsored prize of an iPhone 14.

I would like to congratulate Fabien and all of the students that took part in the wonderful Showcase. These events highlight the excellent work and ideas being generated in our colleges, showcasing endless innovative ideas and proving to us all, the future is bright for the workforce of tomorrow.



Photographed above is Fabien Felix Gal who was the winner if the HSE Sponsored IT Project Showcase in the National College of Ireland, Dublin.

# Technology and Transformation

## HELL AND BACK

By James Hughes  
Cloud Platform Team.



We are excited to announce the Technology and Transformation Hell and Back day out on Saturday, 21st September 2024. I would encourage everyone to participate, and the event is open to both Technology and Transformation colleagues and their family members. We look forward to a day of fun and challenges together.

For anyone who may not know, Hell and Back is one of Ireland's most popular team adventure races. Set in the magnificent Killruddery Estate, Bray. The course offers stunning views of Dublin Bay from the Little Sugar Loaf mountain. It combines man-made obstacles with Killruddery's natural terrain, including lakes, mountains, bogs and forests, which helps to create a unique challenge.

Please note, this is not a race - This is a Team Challenge. Although you will feel a profound sense of personal accomplishment completing this event, you will require the help of the team and other fellow hell raisers to complete the course. This is an 8km course and it does not need a very high level of fitness, just a deep desire to get mucky and the ability to withstand cold water, the odd electric shock and perhaps the ability to run past snipers shooting pellets at you. The usual Saturday afternoon experiences!

As we know the sense of personal accomplishment is not always enough to sell this type of event, we have decided to raise some much-needed funds for

charity, as an incentive. The charity we have chosen to support is [Féileacáin](#). This is a not-for-profit organisation that provides support to those affected by the death of a baby during or after pregnancy. This organisation attends hospitals and supports families at their darkest moments, providing comfort items and a structure that families never thought they would need.

For anyone reading this, who would love to challenge themselves, but is afraid they can't make it around the course? Don't be, you will do great, and we will get each other around the course.

At the minute we have a limited number of places reserved, but this can be increased if we have high demand. We plan to arrange a bus to the event, which also depends on the demand and location logistics.

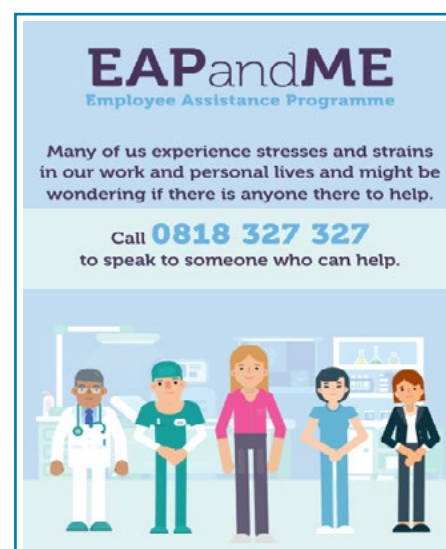
For now, can those interested please [register here](#). The cost includes the event and a Finishers T-Shirt, which you will have earned.

We can provide Féileacáin sponsorship cards for those who would like to raise funds personally and we have an [iDonate](#) site created for online donations to the event. This can be shared for anyone who would like to do so.

For anyone who would like more information, or has further questions, you can contact me at: [James.Hughes@hse.ie](mailto:James.Hughes@hse.ie)



eHealth reports are available to all staff on our [shared Teams Folder](#) - [Click here to view](#).





## ADVANCING PUBLIC HEALTH:

# The Evolution and Impact of Ireland's Health Provider Portal

By Éadaoin O'Hanlon,

Business Analyst, Access to Information and Health Identifiers (A2i-HIDs).

The Health Provider Portal (HPP), built in-house by the A2i-HIDs development team, is a suite of four web-based applications:

- HSE PharmaVax
- HSE GPVax
- HSE CommunityVax
- HSE Vaccination History Search

The first of these applications, HSE PharmaVax, went live on 14 June 2021. Developed initially to support COVID-19 vaccine administration across Community Pharmacies, HSE PharmaVax is now available to over 1600 registered Pharmacies in Ireland.

In late August 2021, the user base was expanded with the creation of the HSE GPVax application to enable GPs, who do not have accredited practice management systems, to electronically record the COVID-19 vaccinations administered in their practices. The Vaccination History Search facility was also developed at this time to allow users to confirm the vaccination history of a client prior to vaccination.

Both HSE PharmaVax and HSE GPVax are integrated with the national vaccination system, COVAX. This integration, supported by the Individual Health Identifier, ensures that all citizens' vaccination records can be managed centrally regardless of where the vaccination was administered. Reimbursement claims relating to the administration of vaccinations are also communicated from HSE PharmaVax and HSE GPVax to the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) to enable payments to be processed to participating Pharmacies and GPs.

### Progression of the Health Provider Portal

In 2022, HSE PharmaVax and HSE GPVax functionality was extended to enable users to record influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations.



In 2023, the corrections facility for vaccinations was introduced, along with the launch of the HSE CommunityVax application. The CommunityVax application provides a vaccination event recording service for community organisations, care homes and private hospitals who administer influenza vaccinations, as part of the yearly seasonal flu campaign. The HPP Admin Portal also went live in 2023. This provides the HPP Support Team with key system admin functionalities to manage user on-boarding and resolve user issues effectively.

### The Year Ahead

This year the HPP team has already delivered application enhancements to facilitate the Spring COVID-19 Vaccination Programme as well as expanding the HPP System Admin functionality.

By mid-year, reimbursement claims to PCRS for Pharmacies and GPs enrolled in the vaccination programme, will be progressed to near real-time automatic transfer via Healthlink HL7 messaging integration.

Work is ongoing to make our applications as user friendly as possible with

improvements planned for the reporting features and client registration process. Changes will also be implemented to cater for the 2024/2025 influenza campaign.

### Conclusion

As we approach the 3rd anniversary of the inception of the Health Provider Portal, it is humbling to reflect that our in-house developed applications have now recorded nearly 2.5 million vaccinations.

Thanks to everyone involved in the design, implementation and ongoing support of this national public health solution, in particular the Technology and Transformation A2i-HIDs team who led this development, in close co-operation with our Technology and Transformation and clinical/service colleagues (e.g. Covax and IIS teams, National Immunisation Office, Primary Care, Pharmacy and GP representatives, PCRS, Health Protection Surveillance Centre and HSE Live).

The future truly is bright for HPP. A2i-HIDs look forward to expanding the platform's capability further to host new services as and when required.

# TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE:

## Reflections from John Ward Interim CTTO

By **Helena Murphy**,  
Social Media Lead, Technology and Transformation.

John Ward, Interim CTTO gave us some insights into his time with the HSE since stepping into the role after the cyberattack. John has witnessed significant changes, emphasising the transformative power of technology in healthcare. During his tenure, the adoption of cloud technology accelerated, positioning the HSE as a major public cloud consumer in the public sector. This shift enhanced agility and responsiveness, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent cyberattack.

John highlighted the development of the Digital Health Strategic Implementation Roadmap, a comprehensive plan guiding HSE's digital health efforts for the next decade. This roadmap, created in collaboration with stakeholders, including clinical colleagues and the Department of Health, outlines a clear direction for Ireland's digital health future.

The COVID-19 pandemic and cyberattack underscored the crucial role of technology in managing health crises and daily operations. The demand for digital tools to improve patient care has grown, leading to innovations such as virtual care wards, providing acute care at home and addressing physical infrastructure constraints.

John advised staff to take pride in their work's direct impact on patient care, emphasising collaboration with clinical colleagues to co-create effective digital solutions. As he hands over to Damien McCallion, John is confident in Damien's ability to advance the Digital Transformation agenda, given his deep understanding of patient demands and outcomes.

Reflecting on his tenure, John cited securing government support for a seven-year cyber transformation programme and delivering the Digital Health Strategic Implementation



Photographed above, John Ward, Interim CTTO, Technology and Transformation.

Roadmap as standout achievements. Despite challenges in convincing stakeholders of the strategy's efficacy, early project initiations, such as the health app and virtual care wards, demonstrated tangible progress.

Looking ahead, deploying electronic health records (EHRs) is a critical development. EHRs are essential for a digitally enabled healthcare system, facilitating engagement for patients and clinicians. Securing government support and implementing EHRs across the system are vital steps forward.

John acknowledged the challenges of building consensus in a multifaceted organisation like the HSE but remains proud of the strides made. The commitment of staff and the collaborative spirit of clinical colleagues have laid a strong foundation for the future of digital health in Ireland.

[For more insights, watch the full interview with John Ward reflecting on his tenure as Interim CTTO, HSE.](#)

The full article can be viewed on [ehealthireland.ie/news](https://www.ehealthireland.ie/news)



There are so many acronyms in use within the HSE it can be hard to keep track of them all.

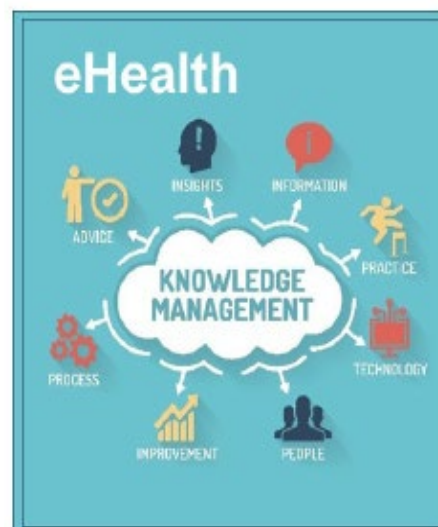
Click here to view this valuable online tool called HALO which documents some of the most common acronyms we use in the organisation.

## Technology and Transformation CAREERS



To find out about any positions that have been advertised for eHealth, please go to our [Careers Page on ehealthireland.ie](#).

You can contact the HR Team on: [recruitment.technologyandtransformation@hse.ie](#)





## User Group Conference

# National Integrated Medical Imaging System (NIMIS)

At Connolly Hospital Academic Centre Auditorium

By **Emily Ennis**,  
Senior Project Manager, NIMIS Programme.

We were delighted to see so many of the NIMIS family come together recently at Connolly Hospital for our NIMIS User Group Conference.

Since we now have so many new administrators across the country it is great to see them all coming together, building relationships with other sites, and most of all to know that there is help and guidance all around. Everyone in attendance was there to improve system quality which in turn impacts on our service users' experience within the Radiology Departments.



Keith Morrissey, NIMIS Programme Lead and Lisa Morrin, NIMIS Programme Senior Project Manager.



Group photo of the NIMIS Team.



L-R: Emma Donoghue, Thomasina Coyle and Linda Mitchell, NIMIS Programme Team.



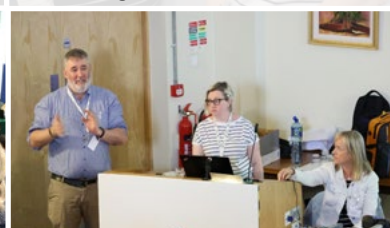
L-R: Carmel Reid and Emma Fitzpatrick from the NIMIS Programme Team.



L-R: Sharon Flatley, Ciara Lynch and Gary Monk, NIMIS Programme Team.



L-R: Lisa Morrin and Emily Ennis, NIMIS Programme Team



L-R: Keith Morrissey, Emily Ennis and Lisa Morrin, NIMIS Programme Team



## Mary from Dungloe International Arts Festival

27 July - 5 August

Experience the magic of the [Mary from Dungloe International Arts Festival](#), celebrating music, culture, and community in Donegal since 1967. This family-friendly festival features a variety of events, including music, arts, sports, and a highlight Carnival Parade. Irish diaspora and local communities nominate young women to represent their areas, adding to the vibrant tradition.



## Irish Museums of Modern Art (IMMA)

[IMMA's summer program](#) offers free activities and events, including exhibitions like "Take a Breath" and "When the Body Says Yes." Enjoy beloved events such as Slow Art Tours, art and mindfulness workshops, yoga classes, heritage and biodiversity tours, family workshops, parent and baby hour and Europe's largest outdoor digital art screen. Relax with Music in the courtyard and visit the award-winning Camerino Bakery Café.

## 26th Galway Film Fleadh

The **36th Galway Film Fleadh** will showcase high-quality films and events, featuring Irish and international cinema from 9 to 14 July.

The 2024 program includes new Irish films, architecture, artist, world cinema, music, and an Irish language strand in partnership with Cine4.

Over 100 short films will be screened, with awards for Best Fiction, Documentary, and Animation. This festival offers a unique film experience for both locals and visitors.



## west | cork | music

The [West Cork Literary Festival](#) running from 12 to 19 July is a key event in the Irish literary calendar. It features master classes, readings, workshops, author interviews, and book launches. This year's notable visitors include Anne Enright, Colm Tóibín, Adania Shibli, David Nicholls, Dolly Alderton, Paul Lynch, and many more.



The [ŠKODA Ring of Clare Cycle](#), on 20th July starting and ending in Ennis, offers 160km and 120km routes through the Wild Atlantic Way, Loop Head Peninsula, and Shannon Estuary Way.

Join 2,500 cyclists on these scenic routes and enjoy the after party in Ennis. Suitable for all cycling abilities.