



An Roinn Sláinte  
Department of Health

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Interop, Data Strategy, Standards & Plans

- and why its clinically important



# Interop, Data Strategy, Standards & Plans - and why its clinically important

- Development of a Digital Health Strategic Framework & corresponding Strategic Implementation Plan are under way
- Question may be less to do with what is needed but more to do with how to get there
- The role of SNOMED and interop standards are critical to our digital health journey

# What's changed since 2013 ?

- GDPR became law in May 2018
- Health Identifiers Act July 2014
- Ireland joins SNOMED November 2016
- Market trends with EHRs
- International experience (EHRs & Digital Health) since 2013
- International developments – emergence and consolidation of standards
- EU Developments (Cross border SCR, ePrescribing, EFGS & DCCs, EHDS)
- Technology developments – ubiquitous connectivity
- Patient and Citizens expectations
- Pandemic and experience with agile delivery
- Cyber attack May 2021
- Funding and resourcing now versus 2019 – in 2024 and beyond
- Health Information Bill and National Health Information Authority

# SNOMED CT (Clinical Terminology)

- SNOMED CT is a language for health terminology that is recognised as the most comprehensive set of healthcare terms in the world.
- It enables clinicians and other healthcare professionals to record patient data more precisely, by providing a standardised set of clinical terms for use across more than 80 countries.

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- Co-exists with LOINC (labs) and DICOM (imaging)
- Is a resource with extensive, scientifically

# SNOMED in Ireland

- June 2014 - HIQA recommends the introduction of SNOMED CT to improve the quality of clinical data in patient records and the overall quality of care received by patients.
- HIQA stated that ‘ ‘The adoption of a standard terminology system such as SNOMED CT is essential to the implementation of the eHealth strategy, including implementation of electronic health records and ePrescribing. It is also essential to the delivery of a health information infrastructure based on the

# HIQA recommends SNOMED to facilitate data sharing across the entire health system

- “SNOMED CT is an essential element of eHealth and electronic health records as it supports the sharing of clinical information between different healthcare practitioners and across organisational boundaries. It is critical to ensuring that accurate information can accompany the patient along the care pathway, thereby substantially reducing the amount of duplication and fragmentation, while at the same time improving data quality.”

# HIQA recommends a single license for all

- HIQA recommends that the Department for Health purchases a national licence for SNOMED CT, rather than making it a requirement for individual organisations such as hospitals, academia, or general practices to purchase individual affiliate licences at significant greater cost.

# HIQA recommends a stepwise deployment

- As SNOMED CT is a complex system to implement, due to both its size and structure, HIQA is proposing that it be adopted gradually on a project-by-project basis, with a national release centre to support stakeholders with implementation. HIQA suggests that focusing on a phased approach based on incorporating SNOMED CT into new systems rather than trying to retrofit it within existing systems would be a more practical and cost-effective approach.

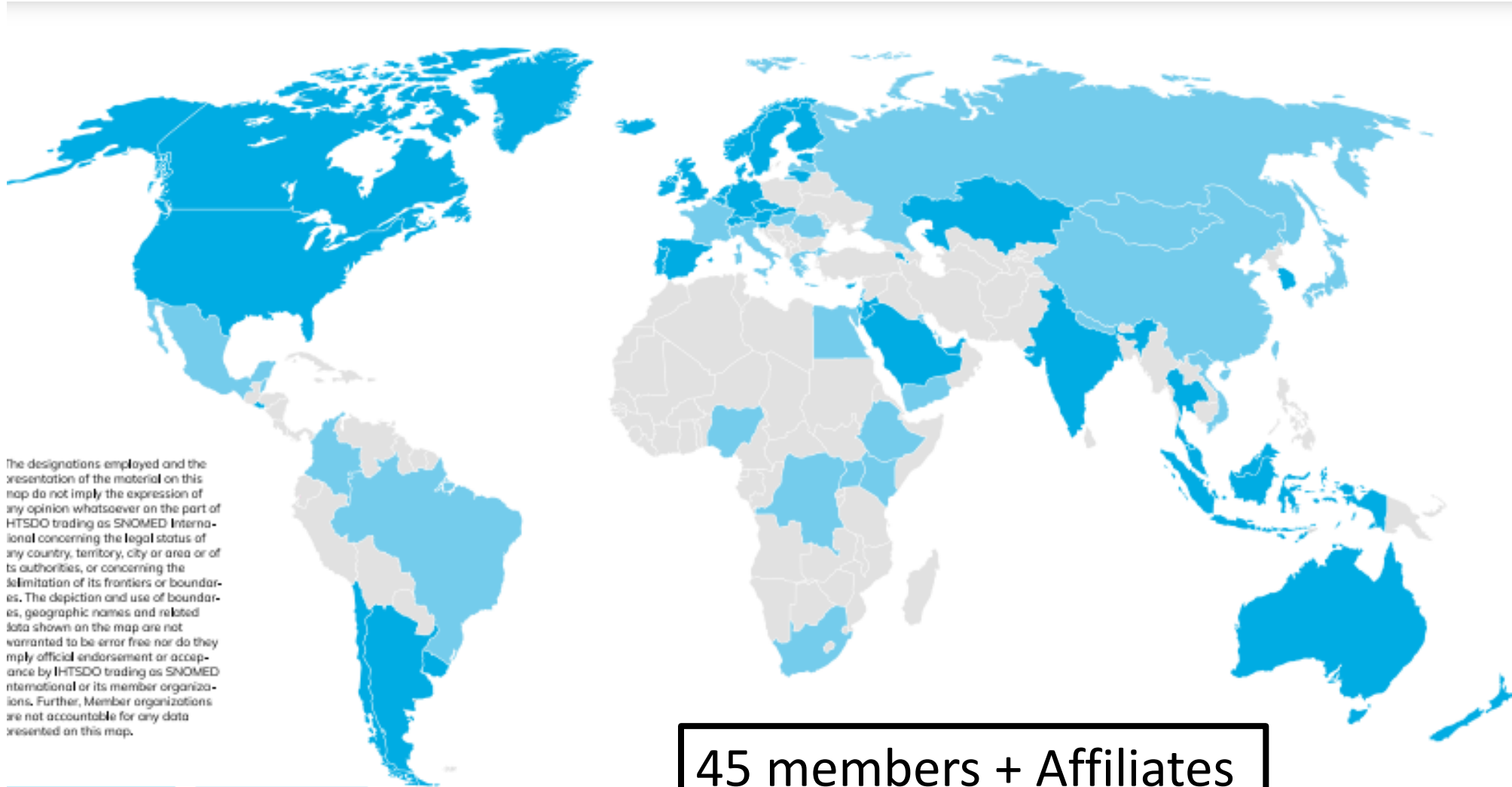


Ireland

Ireland joined as a Member in November 2016 after an extensive consultation process, which included a report from the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA).



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Member

Affiliate Licensee

45 members + Affiliates

**AMERICAS**

- Argentina
- Canada
- Chile
- El Salvador
- United States
- Uruguay

**EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA**

- |                |         |             |                      |                      |
|----------------|---------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Austria        | Finland | Lithuania   | Republic of Slovenia | United Kingdom       |
| Belgium        | Germany | Luxembourg  | Saudi Arabia         | United Arab Emirates |
| Cyprus         | Iceland | Malta       | Slovak Republic      |                      |
| Czech Republic | Ireland | Netherlands | Spain                |                      |
| Denmark        | Israel  | Norway      | Sweden               |                      |
| Estonia        | Jordan  | Portugal    | Switzerland          |                      |

**ASIA PACIFIC**

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Australia        | Malaysia            |
| Brunei           | New Zealand         |
| Hong Kong, China | Republic of Armenia |
| India            | Republic of Korea   |
| Indonesia        | Singapore           |
| Kazakhstan       | Thailand            |

Updated: JAN 10 2023



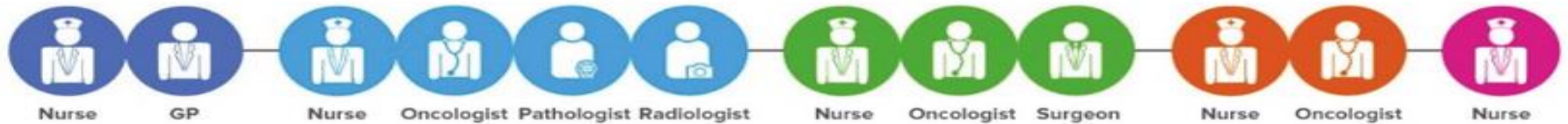
# SNOMED International

- 45 member countries
- Budget >\$10m
- Governance provided by General Assembly (each member has one GA representative) – strategy, priorities, workplans and funding
- Real work is done by the Member Forums – Theresa Barry leads the Irish team
- The outputs are the product of collaboration between countries
- SNOMED in Ireland has a SNOMED Governance Board in place – Dr Kevin O Carrol is chair.

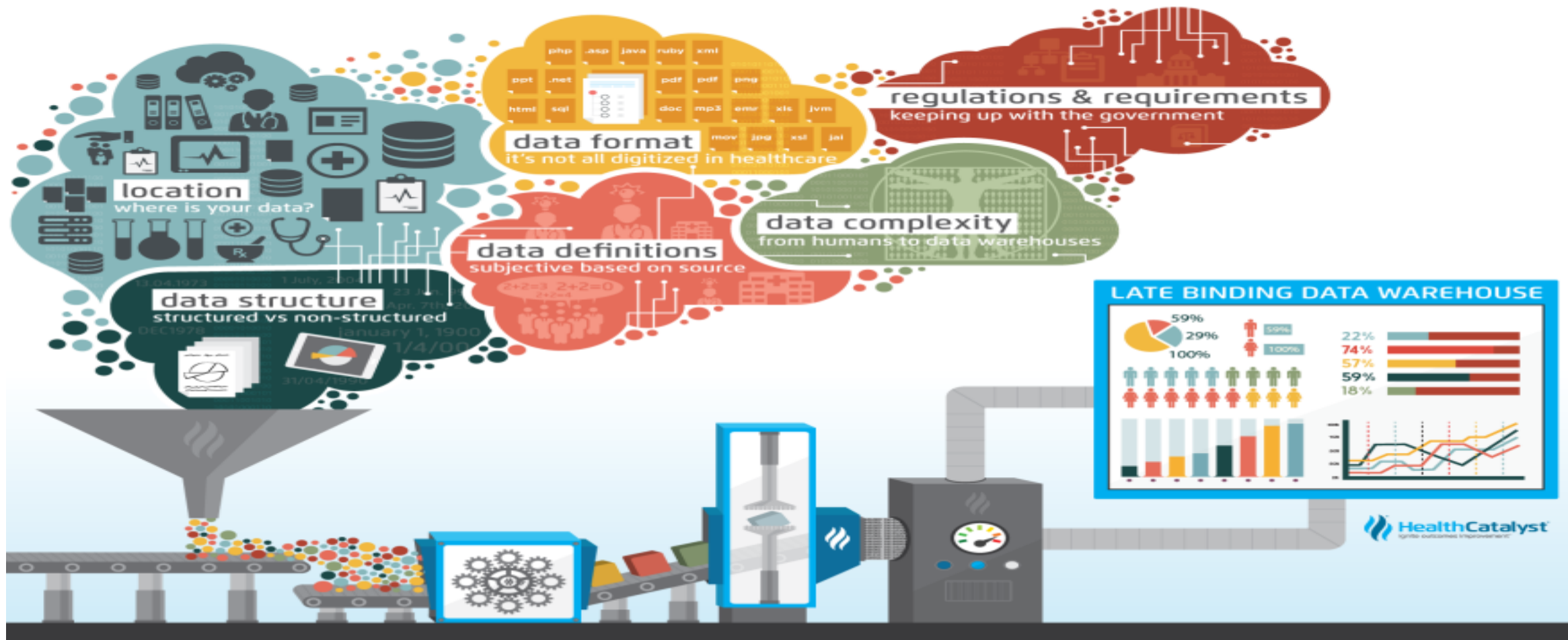
# SNOMED - Why its Clinically Important



## Healthcare professionals along the patient journey

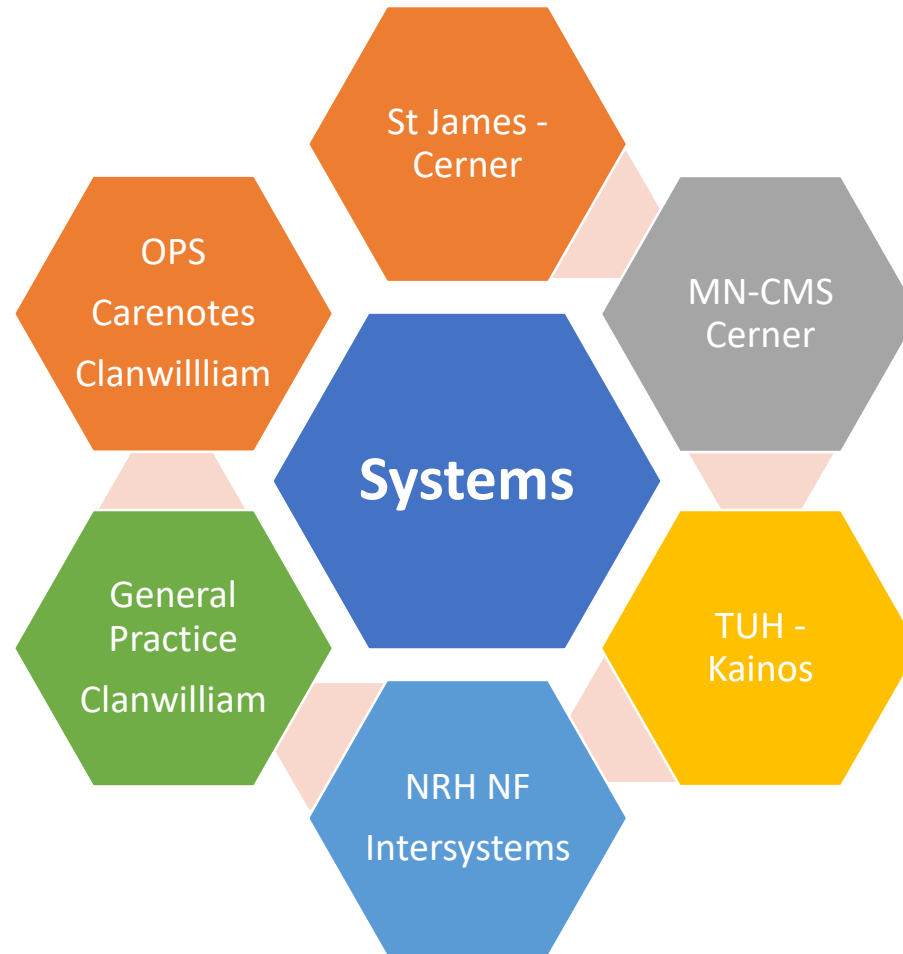


# WHY HEALTHCARE DATA IS DIFFICULT



# Clinical Benefits – we must act now

- Many more standalone applications
- Individual Health Identifier
- Exponential growth in data
- Integrated care considerations



- Minimal standardisation
- Different policies and guidelines
- Reporting and analytics
- Varied governance arrangements

# Clinical Benefits – sample only

- More timely access to required information
- Enter once – use many times
- Retrieval of pertinent information (e.g., patients on a specific medication)
- Facilitates clinical research and clinical decision support
- All the benefits associated with starting to put order on vast amounts of otherwise unstructured and uncoded data

