

# Technology & Transformation NEWSLETTER

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

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## Congratulations to Tom Laffan on his appointment as - Chief Data and Analytics Officer (CDAO)



**By Cathy Reilly,**  
Business Manager,  
Chief Data and Analytics Office.

We're delighted to announce that Tom Laffan, has been appointed as the HSE's Chief Data and Analytics Officer (CDAO).

This appointment highlights the HSE's continued focus on making better use of health data to support patients, staff, and services.

In the CEO's memo from 16 January 2025, he outlined the purpose of the role: *"To ensure high-quality health data that can drive value for all of the people who need to use and access data within our health system, while ensuring the right tools and insights are available to all our services and staff to manage this data for the benefit of patients, staff and our services."*

Tom brings a wealth of experience to this new role and is already gearing up to lead the way in integrating data analytics across the health service. His first priority will be to connect with key stakeholders over the next few months, working towards a patient-focused, data-driven health system. As part of this move, Integrated Information Systems and AI and Automation COE will now sit under the CDAO function.

Meanwhile, Corporate Delivery continues its important work under the leadership of Noreen Noonan, who will be expanding her portfolio to include major Corporate Programmes alongside her Population Health workstream.

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## Congratulations to Tom Laffan on his appointment as Chief Data and Analytics Officer (CDAO)

Noreen has over 30 year's experience within Healthcare ICT across a broad range of functions and will continue to focus on committed delivery of eHealth initiatives across the Corporate and Population Health domains and ensure alignment with the HSE's strategic goals.

These changes mark an exciting shift in how we use data and deliver corporate projects, ultimately supporting a better, more efficient health service.

Best of luck to Tom and Noreen in their new roles.

## Unlocking the European Health Data Space: Webinar Series



The European Health Data Space (EHDS) is set to revolutionise the way health data is used and shared across the EU, empowering patients and enabling better healthcare delivery. To help stakeholders understand its impact and implementation, the EU Health Policy Platform team, in collaboration with DG SANTE, is hosting a series of three informative webinars. These sessions will provide essential insights into the EHDS, covering its primary and secondary uses, as well as governance and implementation.

Mark your calendars and register now to stay ahead in the evolving digital health landscape:

### **Webinar 1: Primary Use of Health Data and Electronic Health Record Systems**

**Date: 18 February @11:00-12:30 CET:**

This session will explore how the EHDS will grant patients greater control over their health data while facilitating seamless data exchange for improved healthcare outcomes. They'll also examine the requirements for electronic health record (EHR) systems and interoperability, offering practical

insights for healthcare providers, patient organisations, and system manufacturers.

### **Webinar 2: Secondary Use of Health Data**

**Date: 27 February @15:30-17:00 CET**

Discover how health data can be utilised for research, innovation, and policy development within a secure and regulated framework. This webinar will guide participants on how to locate relevant datasets, apply for data permits, and ensure compliance with robust safeguards. It is particularly relevant for researchers, policymakers, and industry stakeholders interested in responsible and efficient data usage.

### **Webinar 3: Implementation and Governance – Who Does What?**

**Date: 6 March @10:00 - 11:30 CET**

Join this webinar for an in-depth discussion on the implementation of the EHDS at the Member State level. This session will highlight the roles of digital health authorities and health data access bodies, providing actionable guidance on infrastructure, governance frameworks, and operational readiness. Attendees will gain clarity on their responsibilities and the available resources to support their efforts.

#### **Why Attend?**

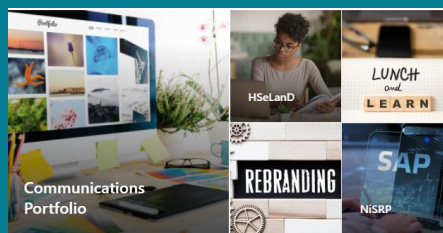
- Gain a deeper understanding of the EHDS and its implications for healthcare and research.
- Learn best practices for managing and utilising health data securely.
- Engage with experts and policymakers shaping the future of digital health.

[Register now by visiting \*\*ehealthireland.ie\*\* Events Page.](#)



### **Your one-stop-shop for Technology and Transformation**

Discover a wealth of resources designed to support you in your role. Our eHub is your one-stop destination for everything you need—right at your fingertips. Simply click on any of the icons below to access key areas, explore valuable tools, and uncover helpful information.



# HSE TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFORMATION

## Training and Development

A schedule of our upcoming courses are listed below:

Course	Date(s)	Duration	Venue	Start/Finish Time	Closing Date
<b>Business Writing Skills</b>	12/03/25	1 day	T&T Offices Southgate Eir Code A92 YK7W	09:30-17:00	07/03/25
<b>Delivering Effective Feedback</b>	25/03/25	1 day	The Richmond Events and Education Centre Eir Code: D07 TH76	09:30-17:00	06/03/25
<b>Management Development Programme</b>	26/03/25 27/03/25 30/04/25 01/05/25	4 days	The Richmond Events and Education Centre Eir Code: D07 TH76	09:30-17:00	12/03/25
<b>Creative Problem Solving (CPS Workshop)</b>	26/02/25	1 day	Tangent, Trinity's Ideas Workspace, 183-188 Pearse St. Dublin 2.	09:30-16:00	19/02/25
<b>Design Thinking Workshop</b>	02/04/25	1 day	Tangent, Trinity's Ideas Workspace, 183-188 Pearse St. Dublin 2.	09:30-16:00	19/03/25
<b>Personal Effectiveness</b>	08/04/25	1 day	The Richmond Events and Education Centre Eir Code: D07 TH76	09:30-17:00	25/03/25

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

Access our Training Prospectus and support documents for help with finding or enrolling in courses [by clicking this link](#) for assistance.

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

### PARKING:

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

**Tangent (Trinity College)** are available [here](#).

**T&T Offices at 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.



# Building Connections and Embracing Change: Community Health Team Day 2025

By Megan O'Neill  
Community Health Delivery

On a foggy Tuesday morning, nestled in the Heart of Portlaoise, the Technology and Transformation Community Health Team met for the first in-person team meeting of 2025. In the foyer of the Midlands Park Hotel, our colleagues gathered to catch-up over some teas and coffees before kick-starting our gathering.

Mary Cooke, Delivery Director for Community Health, welcomed the group and Ciara O'Shea, Project Manager, inducted us into the icebreaker. Mary then returned to the microphone, and shared a brief presentation on HSE and Technology and Transformation topics, covering the Digital for Care initiatives and welcoming new staff amongst other items



communication as a major key to success. The teams then presented their drawings to the group, and they were placed on the walls around the room, as our own temporary art exhibit.

closed out the meeting with a presentation and speech for Pat O'Driscoll, Primary Care Programme Manager, who will be retiring from his esteemed service in the HSE this February.



Following on from Mary's brief, Ciara then turned our focus back to the tables, where three circles, coloured red, green and orange were waiting. Ciara invited all staff to write something that we as a group should Stop, Start, and Continue, with the colours corresponding to the meanings. Each table then discussed all the suggestions and nominated their favourites which will feed into process improvements and enhancements across Community Health over the coming months.

It was then time for a team building challenge 'Multi Drawers'. This team building exercise required strategy, tactics, and leadership, with

After breaking for lunch, the group reconvened to begin our afternoon activity, the Programme Stands which appeared first at our team meeting last year. Each programme split into two groups. One presenting and the other networking with colleagues on other programmes to ask questions, share knowledge, and learn more about what we do. After thirty minutes, the teams swapped duties, and the timer began again. We were even lucky enough to have a special guest, Fran Thompson, Chief Information Officer, visiting the stands and asking questions.

As the day drew to an end, Mary Cooke

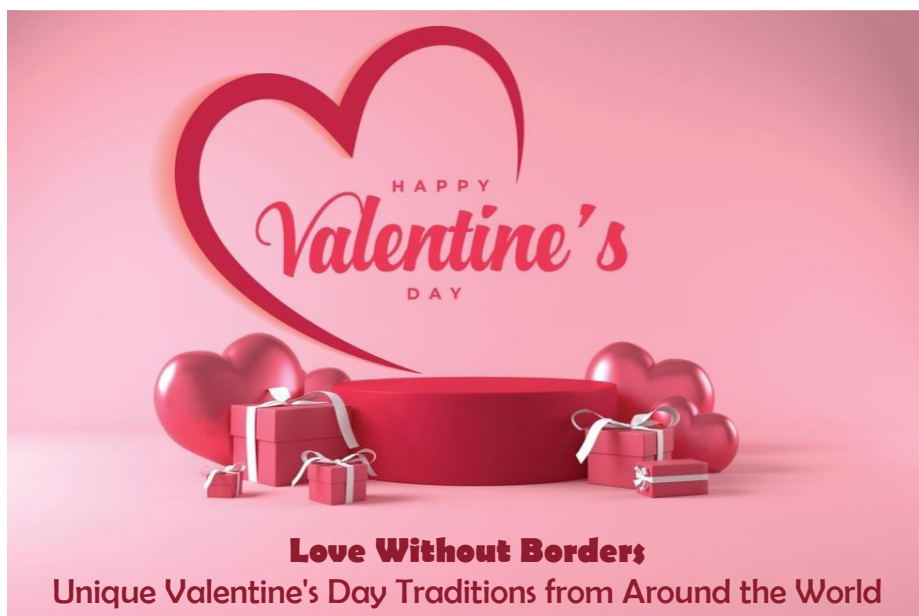
While the team will greatly feel his loss, we celebrate his phenomenal contributions across the service, whether it be in his local stomping grounds of Kerry, his birthplace of Cork, or across the nation in its entirety. Pat is greatly respected and revered for his work ethic, his leadership, his sense of humour, and his determination to help and uplift as many of his colleagues as he can. Fran Thompson also stepped forward to thank Pat, and echoed the team's sentiments of how thrilled we are that Pat can now take a well-deserved rest, and how lucky we are to have worked alongside him.

Pat closed out and thanked his colleagues for the presentation, and noted just how far the organisation - and technology have come since the beginning of his career, reminiscing on a time when floppy disks actually were floppy, or when an entire hospital was run on a machine with only half a gigabyte of RAM. Pat shared that given how far the HSE has grown over his time in service, he anticipated great things ahead for the organisation at large as well as our Community Health Team, and wished every success to us in the future. With that, Pat sliced into the golf-themed cake, and the Community Health Staff Day came to an end.

[More photos from the days events on the next page.](#)

# Community Health Staff Day 2025





## Love Without Borders Unique Valentine's Day Traditions from Around the World

By **Ryan Campbell**

Technology and Transformation Communications.

Valentine's Day, celebrated on February 14th, has become synonymous with expressions of love and affection. From sending roses and chocolates to sharing heartfelt messages, the holiday is dedicated to showing appreciation for the ones we care about. Here are some ways Valentine's Day is celebrated around the world.

### Japan

In Japan, women take the initiative on Valentine's Day, giving gifts to men rather than receiving them. One popular gift is honmei-choco, a homemade chocolate that expresses genuine affection. Men then reciprocate on White Day, March 14, by gifting women white chocolate and other white-themed presents as a gesture of their love.

### Finland and Estonia

On February 14, both Finland and Estonia celebrate Friend's Day, a time to honour not just romantic partners, but also friends, family, and even neighbours. While gifts and cards are exchanged, it's also a common day for engagements. In Estonia, singles can take part in a unique tradition—the Love Bus, a fun ride designed to help people meet someone special.

### Ghana

In Ghana, February 14 is celebrated as National Chocolate Day, a special occasion introduced in 2007 to spotlight the country's status as one of the world's largest cocoa producers. The day is filled with concerts, performances, and chocolate-themed dishes at restaurants, all celebrating the country's rich chocolate heritage.

### Dublin

In Dublin, many people seeking love make a pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Valentine,

believed to contain relics of the original Saint Valentine, who was martyred for secretly marrying soldiers. This tradition draws those hoping to connect with the spirit of love and romance.

### Germany

Tired of the usual heart-shaped gifts on Valentine's Day? Take inspiration from German couples, who opt for pig shaped presents instead. In Germany, pigs are considered symbols of love, so it's common to exchange pig statues, plush toys, and other pig-themed items.



Valentine's Day is celebrated in unique and meaningful ways around the world. From women taking the lead in Japan, to Finland and Estonia honouring both friends and loved ones, and Ghana's celebration of its rich chocolate heritage, each culture brings its own special touch to the occasion. Whether it's the pilgrimage to St. Valentine's Shrine in Dublin or the Love Bus tradition in Estonia, these customs show that love and affection are universal, crossing borders and traditions. Ultimately, the heart of the holiday remains the same: a celebration of connection, kindness, and love in all its forms.

## 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:

#### 21st February, 2025:

##### **Patient App**

with Fran Thompson, HSE CIO.

#### 28th February, 2025:

##### **Cyber Risk**

with Neal Mullen, HSE CISO.

#### 4th March, 2025:

##### **Lunch and Learn with CTTO**

with Damien McCallion.

#### 14th March, 2025:

##### **Outbreak Case and Incident Management System (OCIMS)**

with OCIMS team.

#### 21st March, 2025:

##### **Children's Hospital Update**

with Dee O'Connor and Adrian Carroll.

#### 4th April, 2025:

##### **Communication Innovations for Technology and Transformation**

with the T&T Communications Team.

If you missed some of the previous sessions, they are available on the Discovery Zone on HSeLand and on our [Resources Page on our eHub](#).

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



# Technology and Transformation Leadership Programme 2025



Photographed above our Leadership Programme Participants photographed alongside our Senior Management Team that were in attendance on the day.

**By Thelma Pentony**  
Manager, Training and Development.

On Thursday 23rd January we gathered for the participants of our Leadership Development Programme pitch presentations to our Senior Management Team.

This event presented the 19 participants with the opportunity to use the new knowledge and skills acquired over the programme to present a proposal to Technology and Transformation Senior Management Team. We were very excited and impressed with all of the brilliant ideas and innovations aiming to improve the everyday workings of Technology and Transformation for HSE staff and patients.

## **The list of participants and their pitches, as follows:**

- Tommy Maher - Reducing the use of email to boost productivity and collaboration.
- Christopher Cosgrave, Reece Romain and Stephanie Cremen - Technology and Transformation Project Hub, the front door to T&T for HSE Services.
- Lise-Ann O'Neill - internal bank of HSCP Experts to support new digital projects in T&T.
- Michael Cremin - All Things Testing.
- Sri Hari Gunasekaran - Personalised and Preventive Healthcare.

- Michael Murray - Strategic approach to EU grants in Digital Health: Building Capacity in T&T.
- Dorothy Fitzgerald - A use-case for AI.
- Jason Cooney - Securing the future: Introducing YubiKeys to the HSE.
- Marie Brennan - Artificial Intelligence in Data Migration.
- Damien Hogan - Embracing Copilot for enhanced meeting efficiency.
- Tiernan Wright - Post-Learning Applied Training (PLAT).
- Marguerite Sinnott - SIIF Ask Annie.
- Kiran Patil - Transforming hospital communication with MS SharePoint.
- Loritta Munyimani - Leveraging existing skill sets to maximise organisational efficiency.
- John O'Neill - HCWTracker/App (health care worker tracker app).
- Jose Mota - fostering agile succession planning within HSE Technology and Transformation.
- Dara Keely - WikiMed-IT.

We would like to thank all our amazing participants for their time, effort and determination to this programme and for working on these projects.

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## Vendor Specifications Document SNOMED International

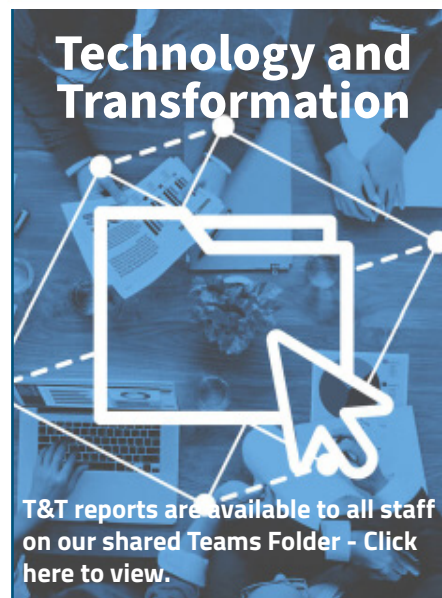
The Irish National Release Centre for SNOMED has produced a vendor specification document to support the procurement of new systems with a clinical terminology component. This specification document has been peer reviewed and approved by the SNOMED Governance Board.

**[CLICK HERE](#)**  
**to view the document**

## TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFORMATION



## Technology and Transformation



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

## Leadership Programme 2025



We would also like to thank all our Senior Management Team and guests for taking the time to attend, listen and engage.

The Leadership Programme aims to advance the effectiveness of seasoned

managers by challenging them with new insights, high energy learning exercises using best practices and tools as well as networking opportunities.

View a video from of the Leadership Programme [here](#).



## MyHealth@EU

HSE Technology and Transformation Staff from the Shared Care Records Team photographed alongside other Healthcare Professionals who were participating in a HL7 FHIR training initiative with Fire.ly to design, develop, implement, and support systems that use HL7 FHIR for the secure exchange of electronic health data.

Also photographed is the Group Tutor and the event was held at The Richmond Event and Education Centre, Dublin.



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# Standards and Shared Care Record TEAM DAY

By John McDonagh,  
Project Manager, National Shared Care Record.

A very successful Standards and Shared Care Record Team Day was held on Thursday the 16th of January 2025. After coffee and networking, a warm welcome and preview of proceedings was provided by Kathryn Kissane, Deputy Delivery Director for Engagement and Delivery. Kathryn introduced Gary Wilson as the new Senior Solution Architect for the MyHealth@IE programme and went on to describe highlights of the last year, including the establishment of governance for the programme and the soft go-live of the HSE App.

included engaging with key stakeholders both clinical and technical, representing the HSE on the international stage and leveraging learning from other SNOMED member countries. More recent achievements include production of the SNOMED Vendor Specification Document, publishing of 22 reference sets with new content authorised, establishment of the Data Specification Management Process with 8 datasets progressed, 9 Irish Edition releases and the work with the National Medicinal Product Catalogue to develop the NMPC with the SNOMED Data model.

with the latest on the Data Specification Management Process (DSMP) and the progression to SNOMED CT and identified some of the challenges faced by the participating projects.

## **MyHealth@EU 2025 Update – Patrick Marren, MyHealth@EU Lead**

An international flavour was introduced by Patrick, who provided an overview of the latest progress in relation to the MyHealth@EU project which aims to ensure 100% of EU citizens will have access to their medical records by 2030. Patrick went on to describe the European Health Data Space (EHDS) legislation, objectives, and timelines. Approval from DG SANTE was received for Country B health data exchange (EU data into Ireland), and a communication plan for Irish clinicians is being developed. The role of the NSCR in the provision of the data to the National Contact Point and the role of the Central Terminology Server were identified as key to the achievement of the goals of the MyHealth@EU project.

## **National Shared Care Record (NSCR) 2025 Plan - Tony Hamill, NSCR Senior Project Manager**

Tony started the NSCR update with a summary of the procurement phase of the NSCR initiative. Tony acknowledged the massive amount of work carried out by the Procurement Evaluation Group and Subject Matter Experts during 2024, with the aim of completing the procurement and approvals in Q1 2025.

*Continued to next page.*



*Photographed above speaking to the group is Fran Thompson, HSE CIO.*

## **2024 The Year in Review - Fran Thompson, T&T CIO**

A comprehensive and entertaining look in the rear-view mirror was provided by Fran Thompson. Fran reminded us, while reflecting on last year, we often focus on what wasn't done, but significant progress has been made. Our security environment has stabilised, infrastructure improved, and major projects advanced. Despite challenges, our efforts have led to substantial achievements, and we continue to evolve and improve. Fran expressed a huge thank you to all in Technology and Transformation who worked so hard to bring about the achievements delivered in 2024.

## **Clinical Terminology & SNOMED 2025 Plan Theresa Barry, Clinical Terminologies Lead**

Theresa spoke about the many achievements of the Clinical Terminology, including SNOMED, Data Standards and the Data Dictionary during last year. This

The Central Terminology Server and Data Dictionary procurements were progressed during 2024, and both are scheduled to be completed by Q2 2025. a new 3 year SNOMED strategy aligning Digital for Care and the European Health Data Space needs to be developed in 2025. Theresa concluded the update



*Photographed above from LtoR: John Gilmartin, Kathryn Kissane, Tony Hamill, Theresa Barry and Patrick Marren.*

## Standards and Shared Care Record Team Day

Implementation preparation includes ongoing data discovery and progress of the draft data roadmap, commencement of engagements with GPs for Phase 1, engaging stakeholders on the Data Roadmap, and progressing dialogues to identify a Phase 1 location, with first go-live scheduled for Q4.

### HSE App Update and 2025 Plan - John Gilmartin, HSE App Senior Project Manager

John gave a detailed update on the latest progress in relation to the HSE App. Following on from the successful Beta and soft go-live of the HSE App during 2024, a public launch of the app is expected in Q1.

The 2025 Roadmap strategy is to align with the NSCR data roadmap, extending to include all hospital appointments (vs maternity appointments at launch), integrating stand-alone apps, and developing priority features identified by user research. Upcoming releases will also include reminders for appointments and for EHIC/Schemes cards expiry.

John encouraged anyone present who hadn't already signed up to the HSE App to do so as soon as possible, and to spread the word to colleagues.

### Guest Speakers

Brian Dunne, Programme Manager of the EHR team, and Emer Doyle from the Health Information Policy Unit of the Department of Health were guest speakers on the day. Brian spoke on the plans for a National EHR, noting that the theme of 'One Patient – One Record' is key to the initiative. Brian indicated that the Preliminary Business Case is expected to be approved during Q2 of 2025.

Emer gave a comprehensive and insightful update on the much-anticipated Health Information Bill, including an overview

of the process ahead and the likely timelines. Once the Bill is passed, initial



compliance with regulation is expected in Q1 2029 and full compliance should be in place by 2031. Under the Duty to Share element of the legislation, a duty



*Photographed above from LtoR: Brian Dunne, Kathryn Kissane, Emer Doyle and Fergus Murray.*

is placed on health services providers to share health information with each other when it supports the care and treatment of a patient. Reference was made to the specific Digital Health Record sections of the bill which include the data for inclusion in the Patient Summary.

Emer also described 3 new authorities to be established under the European

Health Data Space (EHDS). A Digital Health Authority (DHA) to monitor and support implementation of health data for primary use, a Health Data Access Body (HDAB) to provide guidance and support access to data for secondary use, and a Market Surveillance Authority (MSA) to monitor compliance of EHR systems with EHDS Regulations.

### Closing remarks by Kathryn Kissane

Kathryn thanked all who attended and all those who could not attend for their efforts throughout the year to bring about the many achievements and tasks delivered by the SSCR Team. It was acknowledged the entire SSCR team demonstrated much flexibility and adaptability throughout the year, managing to achieve significant milestones despite

often significant challenges. We were reminded that we look forward to another very eventful year for the Clinical Terminologies, MyHealth@EU, NSCR and HSE App domains filled with challenges, milestones and achievements.

Anyone who hasn't signed up to the HSE App you can [click here to Learn more and sign up to test the app.](#)



# MedLIS

## Elevating Standards

DfC Transformation Office and MedLIS Programme Team

The MedLIS project has been progressing for a number of years and represents a forward-thinking approach to safeguarding laboratory data and supporting clinical workflows. Storing laboratory test results in one place where healthcare providers across Ireland can have 24 hour access to up to date lab data provides significant long term benefits for clinicians and patients alike.

### First Site Go-Live - a look back

While this has been an ongoing project for a number of years, challenged with delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the 2021 cyber attack on the HSE, MedLIS went live at its first site in Beaumont Hospital on 17th August 2024. This included the laboratory solutions (PathNet), Order Comms across the full campus, Bridge Specimen Collection for bedside phlebotomy, as well as interfaces to various other national systems. Beaumont Hospital users have now fully embraced the move to a robust, stable and fully supported LIMS.



The Go-Live went very smoothly, considering the huge scope of the transition - an historic moment for all those past and present who have worked so hard on this project. The staff in Beaumont enthusiastically took up the challenge by fully embracing the training supplied to them to make it a success.

Beaumont had a team of superusers on hand called Yellow Bees to support their



*Photographed above from a recent Go-Live at Beaumont Hospital – HSE National Project Team and Oracle.*

staff and extra help was drafted when needed from the MedLIS National Project Team (NPT) to support users, in the Emergency Department in particular. The NPT also manned Support Hotlines in the Command Centre 24/7 during this period. This team remained on-site in Beaumont for the 2-week Early Live Support event during and after the Go-Live.

### Benefits of MedLIS in Beaumont

The implementation of MedLIS in Beaumont has already seen several benefits:

- The system is stable and efficient, standardises laboratory procedures and ensures consistent and high quality service delivery.
- Downtime has been minimal, with little disruption to service (the previous Beaumont LIMS (BHIS) downtime was >10 hours/month). This has now reduced to <2 hours/month with the MedLIS platform, with system uptime availability >99.99%.
- Automatic verification of test results that fall within 'normal' reference ranges was <5% on BHIS. MedLIS has increased this to >50%.
- Significant staff changes amongst users with little impact (e.g. NCHD rotations).

Since Go-Live, support has been taken over by the Oracle Managed Support Service and the MedLIS National Support Office who continue to work closely with Beaumont colleagues to define and refine the change management and support pathways going forward – all learning is

being applied for implementation on the next sites.

The Laboratory Programme now continues to progress at pace, aiming to deploy the system in multiple hospitals across the country. This plan will require the National Project Team with their Oracle associates to employ a different, more agile approach. Currently the team are in the planning phase for this new approach with the official Project Initiation starting in mid-February 2025. First sites formal engagement is planned in March 2025. The NPT has already increased their team in recent months and expect to continue through 2025 to facilitate this ambitious plan.

The next sites due to deploy the system include Our Lady of Lourdes, Drogheda and Cavan General Hospital by the end of 2025 followed by St Luke's Hospital Rathgar and the Regional Midland Hospitals in Tullamore, Portlaoise, and Mullingar.



# Technology & Transformation Pets Corner



## Meet Buddy: The Delightful Morkie

As Buddy approaches his third birthday this February, it's the perfect time to celebrate the joy he brings to everyone around him. Buddy lives with Derek Kelly and Patrick Jones, and this charming Yorkie-Maltese mix, with his playful spirit and loving nature, has become a beloved member of the family.



Buddy's days are filled with his favourite activities: indulging in treats, going for long walks, and enjoying belly rubs. His intelligence shines through in everything he does, making him a quick learner and a delightful companion. Whether he's interacting with adults or playing

gently with small children, Buddy's friendly demeanour makes him a hit with everyone he meets.

Despite his small stature, Buddy has a big personality. His "Napoleon complex" often comes into play when he encounters other dogs, but it's all part of his endearing charm. Among his many toys, Buddy's absolute favourite is an unlikely choice—a laundry detergent cap. He carries it everywhere, proving that sometimes the simplest things bring the most joy.

When it comes to food, Buddy has a particular fondness for ham. Although he knows it's a special treat he can't have too often, his excitement is palpable whenever he gets a taste.

As Buddy turns three, his family looks forward to many more years of love, laughter, and unforgettable moments with their furry friend.

If you would like us to share your furry friend(s) and their stories in our Pets Corner feature, please contact us at [T&T Communications](#)



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 for more information.](#)

## EAPandME Employee Assistance Programme

Many of us experience stresses and strains in our work and personal lives and might be wondering if there is anyone there to help.

Call **0818 327 327** to speak to someone who can help.



# Shaping the Future of Healthcare: The Power of Data Standards and SNOMED CT

By Linda Reck

Communications, Technology and Transformation.



The Digital for Care – Transforming Healthcare through Data Standards, including SNOMED CT conference took place on 15th January 2025 at The Gibson Hotel, Dublin, drawing over 300 in-person attendees and more than 150 virtual participants, the event brought together key stakeholders from the healthcare and technology sectors to explore data standardisation, interoperability, and digital transformation in healthcare.

healthcare, technology, and policy shared insights into how Ireland is shaping its health data infrastructure to align with both national needs and European frameworks.

## The Importance of Standardised Clinical Terminology

A central theme of the conference was the role of structured clinical terminology, such as SNOMED CT, in enabling seamless healthcare data exchange. By implementing a common language across all healthcare



Theresa Barry, Data and Clinical Terminology Architecture Lead (HSE), opened the conference by highlighting the importance of collaboration and data standards in enhancing healthcare data sharing. She emphasised the role of standardised clinical terminology in aligning with National and EU legislation, ensuring consistency and accuracy in patient care.

The conference explored the evolving landscape of digital healthcare, focusing on how data standards, particularly SNOMED CT, are critical to improving healthcare interoperability, patient care, and regulatory compliance. Experts across

systems, patient records can be accurately shared, interpreted, and utilised across various care settings. Standardised terminology ensures data consistency, which is crucial for clinical decision-making, patient safety, and healthcare analytics. Additionally, compliance with national and EU legislation requires the use of unified terminologies to ensure interoperability between different systems.

## Digital Transformation in Healthcare

The Digital for Care framework (2024–2030) was introduced as Ireland's strategic roadmap for advancing healthcare through digital means. This framework prioritises

patient-centric care, ensuring that healthcare services are more accessible, efficient, and data-driven. However, a significant challenge is overcoming data fragmentation within the current system. A key focus of the discussion was on streamlining data governance processes to support interoperability, while also addressing regulatory compliance and patient data security.



Photographed above, Theresa Barry, Data and Clinical Terminology Architecture Lead (HSE).

## European Health Data Space (EHDS) and Ireland's Health Information Bill

A major policy-driven discussion centered around Ireland's upcoming Health Information Bill and its alignment with the European Health Data Space (EHDS). EHDS aims to create a unified health data framework across Europe, allowing for better cross-border healthcare and research. Ireland's role in this initiative involves strengthening governance structures, ensuring secure data exchange, and establishing a digital health authority within the HSE. The bill will set out governance rules on how health data is shared and used, both within the country and with European partners.

## Data Standardisation and Strategy

During Fran Thompson's address at the conference he marked an important milestone with the announcement of the establishment of the Chief Data and Analytics Office and the appointment of a Chief Data and Analytics Officer - Tom Laffan.

This office will oversee Ireland's Data Management Program, which aims to consolidate data policies, improve data quality, and drive a national standard for healthcare data management.

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The program will focus on ensuring that healthcare providers, from primary care to hospital systems, work within a unified digital framework, eliminating inconsistencies in data collection and reporting.

## Enhancing Patient Care Through Technology

A key message throughout the conference was that real-time access to accurate patient data can significantly improve healthcare delivery. The discussions highlighted innovative models such as virtual wards and community-based care, which allow patients to receive medical supervision outside of traditional hospital settings. Integrated digital health systems are essential to making these models work, as they enable seamless data sharing between healthcare professionals, reducing hospital admissions and improving patient outcomes.



Photographed above, Fran Thompson, HSE CIO, Technology and Transformation.

## Interoperability Initiatives and Patient Self-Management

Several digital health initiatives were showcased, including myHealth@EU, the Shared Care Record, and the HSE App. These tools are designed to empower patients with access to their health records while enhancing communication between healthcare providers. The goal is to improve self-management of chronic diseases, streamline referrals and prescriptions, and ensure that critical patient information is available across different healthcare settings, reducing errors and improving efficiency.

## AI and Automation in Healthcare

The role of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation in healthcare was a key discussion point. AI is being increasingly used to support clinical decision-making, predict hospital demand, and automate administrative tasks. The conference highlighted global examples of AI applications in healthcare, including:



- AI-driven medication management to reduce prescription errors.
- Predictive analytics for identifying at-risk patients, such as those with chronic conditions.
- Automation in clinical administration to streamline workflows and free up resources for patient care.
- The importance of data standards in AI.

However, ethical considerations were also emphasised, particularly in relation to data privacy, transparency, and the need for human oversight when deploying AI solutions in healthcare.

## Health Information Standards and Data Quality

Ensuring high-quality, standardised health data is a fundamental requirement for both national and EU regulatory compliance. The conference highlighted Ireland's preparedness for the European Health Data Space, which will introduce stricter data-sharing regulations. Discussions focused on the National Hospital Discharge Summary and the National Demographic Standard, both of which are being revised to improve data accuracy and usability. The Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) panel was also introduced as a mechanism to ensure that patient perspectives are considered in the development of health data policies.

## Data as a Catalyst for Innovation

Data was recognised as a powerful enabler of innovation in healthcare. Fireside chats throughout the event explored how high-quality, accessible data can drive advancements in medical research, regulatory compliance, and patient-centered care. One key takeaway was that collaboration between clinicians, policymakers, and technologists is essential to maximising the value of healthcare data while maintaining privacy and security.

## Global Collaboration in Data Standards

International experts from organisations such as SNOMED International, GS1, HL7, and OpenEHR shared their experiences

in building integrated healthcare systems through data standardisation. One of the main topics was the role of barcodes in medication tracking and supply chain management, ensuring patient safety through accurate data capture. The discussion reinforced that adopting global standards is crucial for ensuring interoperability across different healthcare jurisdictions.

## Key Takeaways from the Conference:

- Data standardisation is essential – Without structured clinical terminology like SNOMED CT, healthcare systems will struggle to achieve full interoperability.
- Ireland's digital transformation is accelerating – The Digital for Care framework and Health Information Bill are paving the way for a more connected and efficient healthcare system.



Photographed LtoR: John Ward, EY Ireland Partner, Head of Health Technology and Derek Tierney, Assistant Secretary, Department of Health.

- Interoperability initiatives will empower patients – Programs like myHealth@EU and the Shared Care Record will give patients better access to their own health information while ensuring clinicians have up-to-date data.
- AI and automation will reshape healthcare – AI is already playing a critical role in predictive analytics and administrative automation, but ethical considerations must be addressed.

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- European collaboration is key – Ireland's engagement with the European Health Data Space and international data standards organisations will ensure long-term success in digital healthcare transformation.
- Data Capability Management Maturity Assessment (DCAM) was highlighted including various data management frameworks, baseline existing capabilities, determine capability gaps, and define a set of priority objectives and initiatives based on our most critical gaps.

This conference provided a comprehensive roadmap for the future of healthcare data in Ireland, highlighting that collaboration, innovation, and adherence to international data standards will be key to transforming healthcare delivery.

[You can view here a short video featuring some of the photographs from the event.](#)

### Speakers at the Event

- Theresa Barry, Data and Clinical Terminology Architecture Lead HSE.
- Derek Tierney, Assistant Secretary, Department of Health.
- Muirís O'Connor, Assistant Secretary, Department of Health.
- Fran Thompson, HSE Chief Information Officer.
- Dr. Colm Henry, Chief Clinical Officer, HSE.
- Kathryn Kissane, Deputy Delivery

Director, Standards and Shared Care Records, HSE.

- Niamh Crossan, General Manager, IIS, HSE.
- Prof. Richard Green, Chief Clinical Information Officer, HSE.
- Loretto Grogan, National Chief Nursing and Midwifery Information Officer, HSE.
- Niall Halliday, National Clinical Information Officer, HSCP.
- Noel Carberry, eHealth Director, HSE Dublin and Southeast.
- Lilly Walsh, Digital and ICT General Manager, South West Community Care, HSE.
- John Farrelly, CEO, Mental Health Commission.
- Prof. Zoltan Lantos, eHealth Expert, Department of Health.

- Yvonne Coughlan, Data Specification Management Process Lead, HSE.
- Dara Keely, Solus Project Lead HSE.
- Shane Byrnes – Medicines Management Specialist, HSE.
- Siobhain Duggan – Director of Innovation and Healthcare, GS1 Ireland.
- Ian Green, Customer Relations Lead, SNOMED International.
- Rachel Dunscombe, CEO, OpenEHR.
- Dr. Kai Heitmann, CEO, HL7 Germany.
- Kevin Kelly, Head of AI and Automation CoE, HSE.
- Prof. Patricia Maguire, Director, UCD Institute for Discovery.
- Dr. Kevin O'Carroll, Standards and Technology Officer, HIQA.
- Dr. Barbara Foley, Deputy Director, HIQA.



Photographed above LtoR: Lily Walsh, John Farrelly, Noel Carberry and Taragh Loughrey-Grant.



Photographed above LtoR: Theresa Barry and Yvonne Coughlan.



Photographed above LtoR: Prof. Richard Green, Loretto Grogan, Niall Halliday and Theresa Barry.



Photographed above LtoR: John Crossan, David Cagney, Denise Dawe, Theresa Barry and Yvonne Coughlan all from HSE Technology Transformation.



Photographed above who compared the day is Taragh Loughrey-Grant.



### Tribute to Hans Zimmer and Film Favourites Illuminated: Cork



Immerse yourself in some of cinema's most iconic music performed by the Illuminated Orchestra, enhanced by a stunning light show! Taking place in Cork City Hall on 15th February and tickets can be found at [allevents.in/cork/all](https://allevents.in/cork/all)



### Alice in Wonderland-Inspired Afternoon Tea

Step into a world of whimsy and wonder with our Alice in Wonderland-inspired Afternoon Tea at Langtons Hotel, Kilkenny. Indulge in a truly magical experience where classic afternoon tea is given a playful twist.

Taking place on 18th February, tickets can be found at [langtons.ie](https://langtons.ie).

From the 20th February to 2nd March, Dublin will transform into a vibrant hub of cinematic excellence.

The Dublin International Film Festival brings the best of Irish and international cinema to the capital for a celebration of storytelling.

To book passes for this event, check out [diff.ie](https://diff.ie)



### Ireland's Largest Native Species Aquarium

A visit to Atlantaquaria, Salthill, Galway - Ireland's largest native species aquarium, is a great day out for visitors of all ages and guarantees a great day out for all the family.

Learn about the wonderful and varied species and their habitats.

Be inspired to play your part in protecting our shared planet.

To book tickets, please visit [Galway Atlantaquaria for information](https://galwayatlantaquaria.com).



Explore the beautiful Wicklow Mountains National Park on a full-day tour from Dublin and enjoy fun outdoor activities such as a guided walk.

Hear fascinating stories about the historic region from expert guides.

See film locations such as 'Brave Heart', 'P.S. I Love You', and 'Vikings'. Breathe in the fresh mountain air as you stand in some wonder Irish Countryside.

For tickets, check out [Day Tour of Wicklow Mountains National Park](https://www.wicklowmountainpark.com)