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Department of Health

Integrated health information for integrated care

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Health Information Policy Unit

The **Health Information Policy Unit** was established to take forward policy development on:

- The Health Information Bill;
- The establishment of a National Health Information Authority;
- The European health data Space (EHDS).

Why action is necessary



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- A **fragmented** structure where organisations make decisions that relate to *their* activities and goals.
- **Culture** of not sharing information is embedded across the health system. The Private-public divide further exacerbates this challenge.
- Legal/**data protection considerations** are often cited for lack of information sharing.
- The **Sláintecare** vision of integrated care will not be possible without integrated data.

The challenges we face – some examples

- There is **no comprehensive information on visits to GP:**
 - Nor is there data on treatment times from GP referral to date of surgery.
- It is not possible to say **how many people suffer from chronic illnesses** such as asthma.
- There is no detailed data at a national level on **what injuries and illnesses bring people to Emergency Departments.**



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Health Information Bill

The Bill will provide for:

- A **clear legal basis** for the sharing of specified health information;
- The rollout of **Summary Care Records**;
- Allow the establishment of **the National Health Information Authority (NHIA)**.



HEALTH INFORMATION
BILL



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Processing Health Information



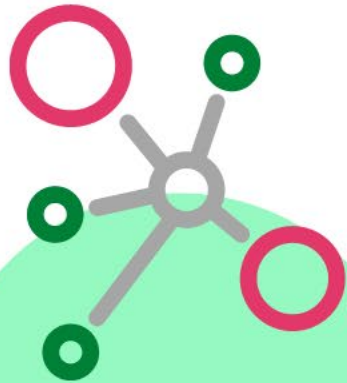
HEALTH INFORMATION
BILL

The Bill will provide that health information can be used for relevant purposes, for example:

- Promotion of **patient safety** and clinical auditing;
- Identification or prevention of a risk to **public health**;
- **Management and oversight** of national, regional and local health services;
- **Research and innovation**;
- **Education and training** of health professionals;
- **Registry** development and management.



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UNIQUE HEALTH IDENTIFIER

Unique Identification

PPSN will be provided for in legislation as a unique health identifier and will be used to link health information relating to each person every time they access healthcare in any setting, public or private

- The PPSN is a unique identifier that the **public is familiar with**.
- The health system is part of the wider **public service ecosystem** and wider health related societal services and activity.



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- **A Summary Care Record will be provided for every resident of Ireland.**
- **As a patient moves between healthcare settings, this set of key health information will be accessible to them.**
 - 24/7 Summary Care Record for everyone resident in the State;
 - Opt-out model;
 - SCR contains personal/contact information, key clinical information, allergies, vaccination history and in time, information on prescriptions.

Planning for Implementation



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- The Bill will have significant implications for the health information landscape and will provide clarity, certainty and consistency and work can commence in advance of publication.
- Implementation will be **phased rather than Big Bang** and experience gained taken together with emerging technologies will be critical in the rollout of the project.
- The **integration of PPSN** as a unique identifier into patient management systems.



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- A independent National Health Information Data Guardian (NHI-DG) will be appointed to :
 - Promote **best practice** in the handling of health information by health service providers;
 - **Champion the rights** of data subjects in relation to how their personal health information is obtained, used and disclosed - the role will be non-regulatory.
- A **National Consultative Forum** on Health Information will bring together Health Information stakeholders and be held annually.



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Alignment with EU developments

The EHDS provides for EU wide **interoperability of health data** supporting:

- Summary Care Records that **connectivity of care** across the EU;
- Ability of researchers and policy makers to access **multi-country data sets**.

We are working to position Ireland to play a **leading role** in the development of the EHDS.



Clinical Audit – ‘Audit Matters’



The new Health Information Bill has the potential to further develop and streamline processes for data collection, validation and analysis.

- Clinical audit is:
- *‘a clinically-led **quality improvement process** that seeks to improve patient care and outcomes through **systematic review** of care **against explicit criteria**, and acting to **improve care** when standards are not met’.*

Building a Culture of Patient Safety, 2008

Clinical Audit and IHI’s: Today’s INAS Critical Review Report 2013-2021 includes a recommendation to *Expand the use of the individual health identifier in order to increase follow-up for patients on discharge or transfer to another hospital.*



In Summary



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- The Health Information Bill will provide for :
 - A **clear legal basis** for the use and reuse of health information;
 - **PPSN** as a unique health identifier;
 - Establishment of a National Health Information Authority as a **strategic national entity** for health information;
 - A **Summary Care Record** created for every resident of Ireland;
 - As a patient moves **between healthcare settings**, their key data will move with them;
 - Alignment with EU level initiatives – **EHDS**.

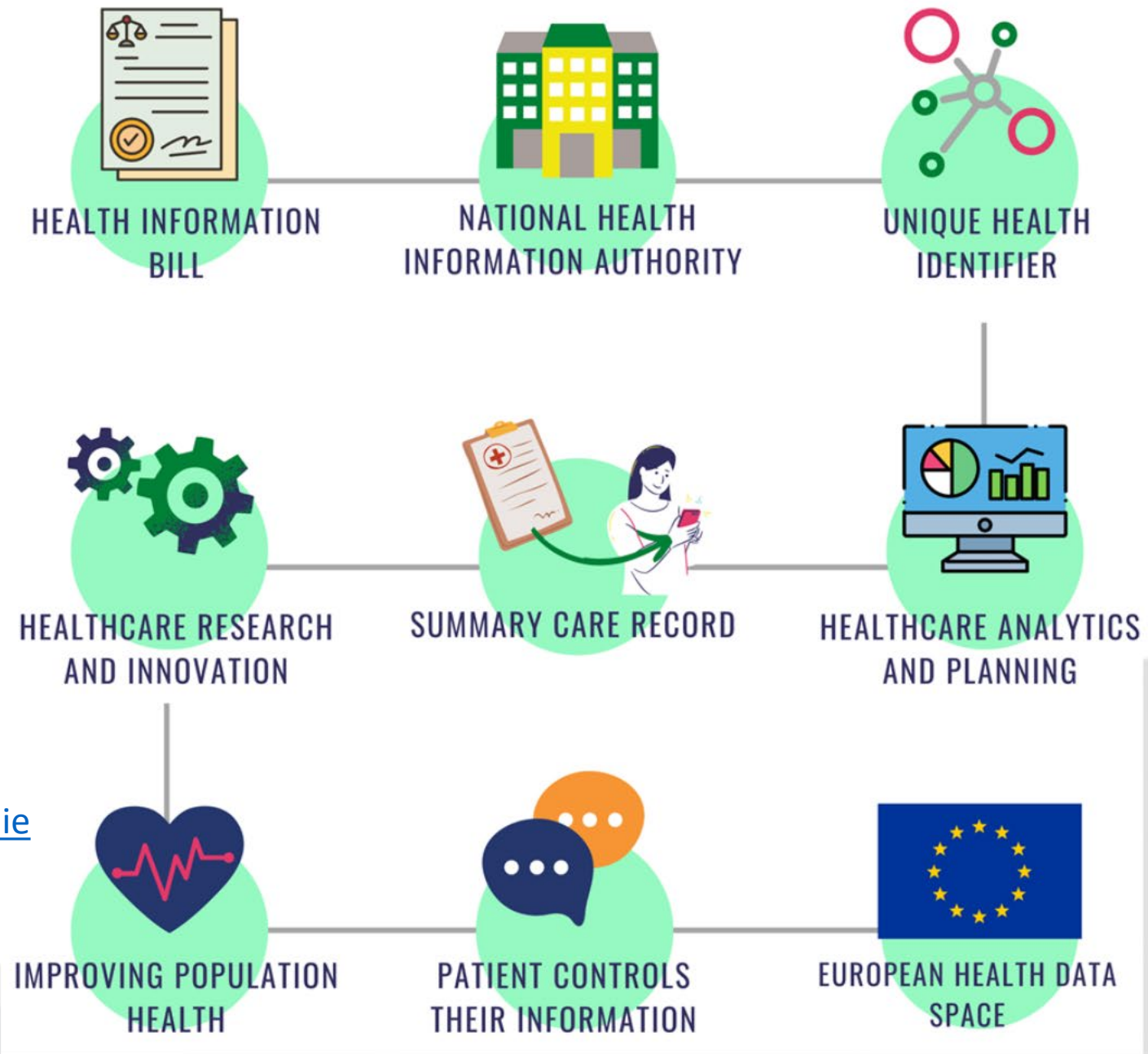




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INTEGRATED HEALTH INFORMATION FOR INTEGRATED CARE

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Go raibh míle maith agaibh
Míle buíochas