**What is the Electronic Health and Care Record (EHCR)?**

Technology can underpin and support transformation processes throughout HSCNI. We require the deployment of the right technology, aligning and underpinning the right processes and supporting people to move to smarter, more sustainable working practices that make their jobs easier and more fulfilling while delivering the best possible, equitable outcomes for patients and clients.

The HSCNI vision is for a **digital record-in-common** for every citizen in Northern Ireland that facilitates their health and wellbeing throughout their life, built on a digital platform that streamlines services and patient/client journeys and links information across primary, secondary, community and social care.  This would:

- improve the patient/client's experience of care;
- improve the health of the population;
- achieve better value by reducing the per capita cost of health care;
- improve the work life of those who deliver care;
- enable communication between HSCNI staff and citizens with potential features such as messaging and videoconferencing supporting new ways of working including virtual clinics and remote consultations.

*Imagine*

- *a system that books appointments, supports decision making with advanced analytics and manages medicines all in one place.*;
- *a patient/client portal that allows citizens to review, update and manage their health and wellbeing from home or on the move.;*
- *a system which stores all health and social care information in one place allowing each care provider to update the patient/clients's lifelong journey once with immediate access to appropriate care providers regardless of setting.*

**…..this is an Electronic Health and Care Record (EHCR).**

**Why an EHCR?**

The Northern Ireland Electronic Care Record (NIECR) has transformed the informed delivery of healthcare throughout HSCNI.  It has achieved this by storing, retrieving and combining millions of messages daily from multiple, disparate clinical information systems to create the single best view of a patient/client's contacts, treatments and outcomes in HSCNI.  However, NIECR still relies on the existence of these multiple systems (examples opposite) to create the patient/client record, many of which require replacing:
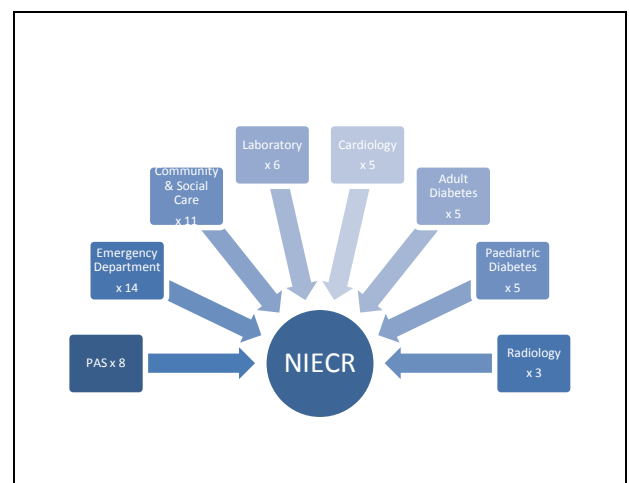
NIECR will remain an important system to complement and support the transition to an EHCR and beyond.

The core principles guiding the EHCR approach are:

- Once for Northern Ireland – proven technologies, the way they are used and their rollout happen in one way.
- Safely minimise the number of systems and processes.
- Core and additional systems should adhere to agreed interoperable standards by default.
- Primary purpose of digital technology is to improve the health of individuals and populations.
- Secondary purpose of digital technology is to improve services and population health

**Why do we need this system?**

Considerable investment in eHealth solutions is required just to stand still even without enabling additional improvements in quality, safety and efficiency. Investment in enabling technology must be valued as highly as funding for more traditional healthcare incorporating infrastructure, treatments etc.

Evidence indicates that investment in an EHCR will dramatically contribute to **improving the health and wellbeing of the community** including patient/client experience, quality, safety and ultimately, patient/client outcomes.

**What does this mean for me?**

The EHCR, and associated service changes, need to be **clinically and professionally led** with the support of the wider HSCNI. This shared goal represents a unique opportunity to make Northern Ireland's Health and Social Care fit for the 21st century, and to position HSCNI among global leaders in delivering the highest quality care to the Northern Ireland population.

The EHCR programme is currently working on the production of a business case to seek approval to proceed to procurement. There will be many opportunities for HSC staff to get involved to help shape the procurement and selection of such a large scale solution. You can get involved by contacting the EHCR Lead for your organisation listed below:

Belfast HSCT – Denise Lynd, denise.lynd@belfasttrust.hscni.net
Northern HSCT – Stephanie Tohill, stephanie.tohill@northerntrust.hscni.net
Western HSCT – Paula McGuinness, paula.mcguinness@westerntrust.hscni.net
Southern HSCT – Catherine Weaver, catherine.weaver@southerntrust.hscni.net
South Eastern HSCT – Stephen Powell, stephen.powell@setrust.hscni.net

General enquires about this programme can be sent to: eHealthevents@hscni.net

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