An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Digital for Care (2024 – 2030)

Progress with implementing the Digital Health Framework for Ireland and Primary Care

National Primary Care Summit 19th November 2026

Niall Sinnott: Head of Digital Health, Dept of Health
niall_sinnott@health.gov.ie

Role of the eHealth and Health Information Systems unit

- Policy setting function /Digital Health Strategy
- Work with HSE (T&T Division) to drive delivery
- Represent Ireland internationally eg EU eHN
- Secure Funding and Resources for Digital Health
- Sanction all public Health ICT expenditure
- Legislation & Regulations
- Support Minister & Parliamentary Affairs

Sláintecare

- National Strategy for reform of the Irish Health Service
- Recognised Digital Health as essential for this reform
- Highlighted delivery of an Electronic Health Record for everyone as a core dependency



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Digital for Care

Digital Health Strategic Framework (2024 – 2030)

https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/0d21e-digital-for-care-a-digital-health-framework-for-ireland-2024-2030/

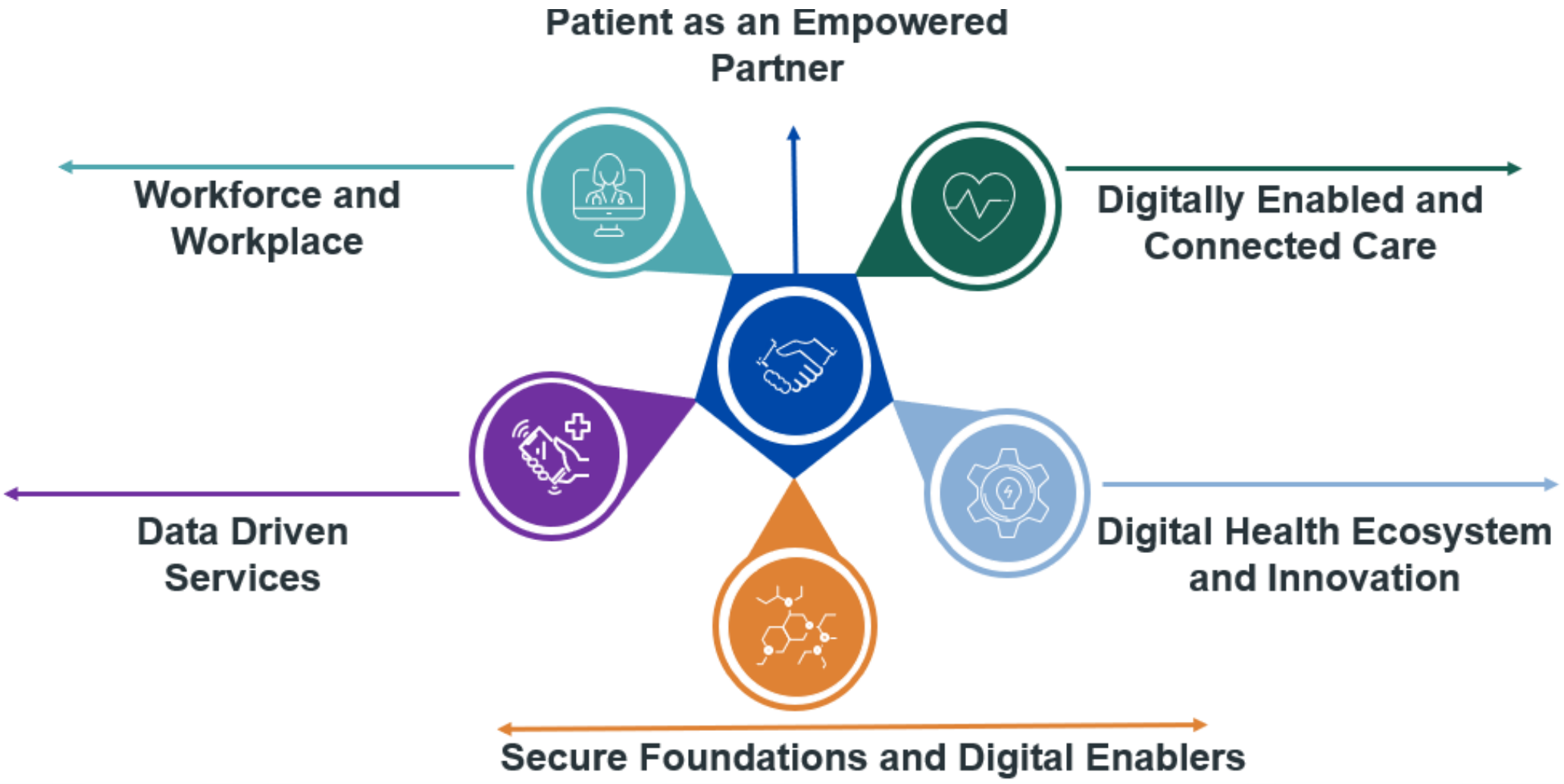
Digital for Care (2024 – 2030)

- Following extensive stakeholder engagement
- Includes Lessons Learned from other countries
- Agreed Ambition, Principles, Goals & Objectives
- Informed Govt Policy & multi-annual Investment Plan



Digital for Care

Based on Six Principles



Government Policy - Support for Digital Health

This Government will…

- Continue to work towards the full digitisation of Irish healthcare records and information systems.
- Launch a National Patient App, giving patients easier access to their health information.
- Establish a national system for Electronic Prescribing.
- Develop an AI in Health strategy.
- Promote greater use of remote health monitoring and virtual care solutions.

Government Support for Digital Health

- Capital Funding
- ‘Revenue’ Funding (for recurring costs)
- Resources – T&T Staff, Contractors, Consultants, Industry Partners, Clinical & Operational Staff

Digital for Care: 48 Initiatives

Our Vision — **Better health outcomes enabled by seamless, safe, secure and connected digital health services and which support health and wellbeing for both our patients and providers.**

Patient as an Empowered Partner

11 Key Initiatives

- Patient Portal
- HSE app
- HSELive - Contact Centre
- Patient Feedback Platform
- Remote Care Monitoring and Digital Therapeutics
- Benefits and Schemes access
- Public Facing Engagement and Digital Literacy Development Programmes
- Public Website Content Management
- Open Health API Framework
- Contact Care Platform
- Telehealth

Workforce and Workplace

6 Key Initiatives

- Reliable Secure Connectivity
- Modern Workspace and Productivity Tools
- Improve Employee Experience
- Mobile Ecosystem for Front Line
- Employee Feedback Platform
- Digital Finance and HR

Digitally Enabled and Connected Care

11 Key Initiatives

- Shared Care Record
- Population Health Management
- Care Coordination
- Medication Management*
- Diagnostics
- Order Comms and Care Delivery*
- Patient Safety and Quality of Care*
- EHR Procurement and Delivery
- Digitisation of Health Care Records*
- National Clinical Information Systems*
- Medical Device Integration

Data Driven Services

4 Key Initiatives

- Patient Journey Analytics
- Healthcare Data Analytics
- Integrated Referral Management
- Scheduling, Rostering and Resource Management

Digital Health Ecosystem and Innovation

4 Key Initiatives

- Precision Medicine Support
- Healthcare Research
- AI in Healthcare
- Open Innovation and Ecosystem

Secure Foundations and Digital Enablers

12 Key Initiatives

- Legislation, Regulation, Standards, Governance
- Patient Identity Management
- Healthcare Worker Identity and Access Management
- Architecture, Service Design and Knowledge Management
- Culture, Change and Agile Delivery
- Talent Identification and Development
- Integration, Interoperability, Data Engineering
- Crisis-Responsive Healthcare
- ICT Cyber Programme
- Foundational Infrastructure
- Regional Strategic Implementation
- 24/7 Support Function

Digital Health Records for All - Stepwise Approach to EHRs – our ‘North Star’

Patient App	Electronic Prescribing, Labs and Rads test requests & results, eReferrals & eDischarge	National Shared Care Record	Regional Rollout of National Electronic Health Records



Digital Health Records for All – Progress

- National Health App – Live Q1 2025
- National Shared Care Record (NSCR) – Live Q1 2026
- National EHR – Shortlisting Complete – Q2 2026
- National Electronic Prescribing Service – in procurement
- National medicinal product catalogue - (already live)
- National Imaging System (NIMIS) – Live
- National Lab System – In Deployment
- Electronic Referrals and Hospital Discharge Messages – being incorporated into National Shared Care Record

National Shared Care Record Update – 2026 – 4 Production Releases

Release #1 – Q1 2026

- Demographics
- Individual Health Identifier
- Hospital Appointments (statutory hospitals)
- HIPE Procedures
- Reimbursed Medications (PCRS)
- HL Diagnostics Results
- HL Discharge Summaries
- Chronic Disease Management Data

Release #2 – Q2 2026

- Inpatient & Day Care Waiting Lists
- General eReferrals
- Immunisation Data (Flu & Vaccine data from NIIS)

Release #3 – Q3 2026

- Patient Appointments (Voluntary & Community appts – limited)
- OPD Waiting Lists
- Specialist eReferrals

Release #4 – Q4 2026

- T-Pro Documentation
- ADT Inpatient Events & Emergency Events
- MedLIS Results (Part 1)
- Specialist Referrals (Gynae)

EU Digital Decade 2030

- Metrics set for different sectors eg %Govt services online
- Only one metric for Health: *% of EU citizens with access to their Digital Health Record !*
- Average score currently >75%
- Ireland: (last, but fastest improver?)

2022 = 0%; 2023 = 11%; 2024 = 24%; 2025 = 44%

Regulatory Landscape

Health Information Act (2026), Health Identifiers Act (2014)

- **Health Information Act (2026)** The Health Information Act 2026 establishes rules for sharing, accessing, and managing personal health data in Ireland, including the creation of Electronic Health Records for all patients.
- **The Health Identifiers Act 2014 (**Act No. 15 of 2014) establishes unique health identifiers for individuals and health service providers in Ireland and creates national registers to manage and regulate their use. It sets out rules for assignment, access, processing of related personal data, offences, and links to data protection law.

Regulatory Landscape

European Health Data Space (EHDS)

- The European Health Data Space (EHDS) Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2025/327) creates a common EU-wide legal and technical framework for electronic health data.
- It entered into force on March 26, 2025, and governs both the everyday care of patients and the safe reuse of data for research.

Meeting our obligations under EHDS

EHDS requires the designation of the following by March 2027:

- **A Digital Health Agency (this will be the Health Service Executive)**
- **A Health Data Access Body – TBA**
- **A Market Surveillance Authority (for EHRs) – TBA**

Meeting our obligations under EHDS

Categories of data that must be shared with patients

- **by March 2029:**
  - Electronic Prescriptions
  - Summary Care Records

- **by March 2031:**
  - Electronic Discharge Summary
  - Lab results
  - Imaging diagnostics results

An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

AI for Care

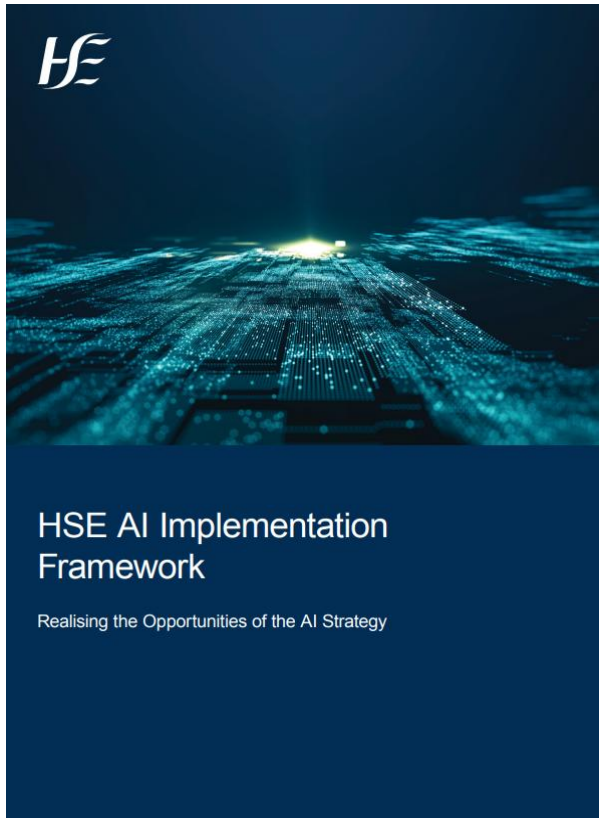
AI Strategy and AI Implementation Framework

February 2026

IAI for Care and Implementation Framework Published March 2026



The development of an AI Strategy that sets the vision for AI and strategic priorities, the strategic roadmap of opportunities for AI deployment across the health service over the next five years, and critical success factors to activate and achieve our vision.



The development of a supporting AI Implementation Framework to outline how to execute the AI Strategy and provide a framework for implementing AI projects with robust governance and regulatory adherence specifically to the EU AI Act.

AI for Care Strategic Pillars and Focus Areas

AI for Clinical Care

We will use AI to enhance the quality of clinical care, empowering clinicians so that patients receive faster treatment and care that meets their needs. Focus areas include:

- ✓ Imaging
- ✓ Clinical Decision Support
- ✓ Clinical Documentation Development & Summarisation
- ✓ Patient Navigation & Assistance
- ✓ Robotics for Surgery

AI for Operations

We will use AI to improve system efficiencies and boost productivity; helping to shorten wait times, streamline patient pathways, and ensure coordinated and responsive care. Focus areas include:

- ✓ Demand & Capacity Mgmt.
- ✓ Contact Centre Automation
- ✓ Support Function Automation
- ✓ EHR Acceleration
- ✓ Supply Chain & Logistics
- ✓ Clinical Coding
- ✓ Patient Flow Mgmt.
- ✓ Quality Improvement

AI for Research & Innovation

We will use AI to advance research and innovation and develop targeted insights; supporting the development of new treatments, diagnostics, and therapies that lead to better health outcomes. We will also leverage AI to provide insights to drive service improvements. Focus areas include:

- ✓ Research, Strategy, Governance, Management and Support
- ✓ Clinical Trials
- ✓ Clinical Audit & Other Evidence Generating Activities
- ✓ Data Analysis & Interpretation

AI for Public Health

We will use AI to strengthen public health initiatives; helping to detect health risks earlier, support healthier lifestyles, and deliver more targeted prevention efforts that improve wellbeing across communities. Focus areas include:

- ✓ Population Health Mgmt.
- ✓ Population Health Surveillance
- ✓ Knowledge Mgmt.
- ✓ Screening

AI for Care Roadmap: Underway and Planned Year 1 Initiatives

	AI for Clinical Care	AI for Operations	AI for Research & Innovation	AI for Public Health
Underway Initiatives	AI-Guided Echocardiogram	Appointment Scheduling	Governance	
	Referral Form Standardisation	National HR Automation		
	Clinical Scribing	National Finance Automation		
	Language Translation	Emergency Department Re-Admission Prediction		
	Clinical Decision Support for Radiology Ordering			
Planned Initiatives	Radiology	PCRS	Data Analysis	BreastCheck AI and Data Ecosystem Implementation
	National Stroke Imagery Analysis and Decision Support	Contact Centre Automation		

An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Data for Care

Draft complete – awaiting publication

Q4 2026

Health Data Strategy for Ireland

- Outlines **how data will be used as a strategic asset** to support safer, more connected, efficient, and patient-centred care

- Recognises that high-quality, trusted, interoperable and well managed **data is essential to improving patient experience,** supporting our workforce, enabling effective planning, **and delivering integrated care at scale.**



Health Data Strategy for Ireland

- Will be supported by a **suite of enabling frameworks, standards, policies and roadmaps** that will translate strategic intent into practical delivery.

- Their phased implementation will provide the **foundation for delivery** of Digital for Care

- **Supports compliance** with national legislation and standards as well as the European Health Data Space (EHDS) Regulation



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Q&A

Niall Sinnott: Head of Digital Health, Dept of Health

niall_sinnott@health.gov.ie Tel: +353 87 6883565