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5th May 2021

Ms. Neasa Hourigan TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 20304/21

"To ask the Minister for Health the progress on the implementation of an electronic health record system for community-based care to connect records across the system and support integrated models of care; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

Under the governance of the Community Digital Oversight Group, the HSE have commenced an ambitious programme of work to deliver on the ICT systems goals highlighted in our Winter Plan 20/21, our Service Plan 2021, Slaintecare deliverables, the Enhanced Community Care Reform Programme, the Nursing Home Expert Panel Report and our ICT eHealth Strategy.

Work has commenced through appropriate governance structures, to specifying our complex service requirements in relation to:
- A backbone Community Care Patient Management System with additional clinical functionality to address the requirements the Community Health Networks, Community Hubs and associated specialist's teams including GPs.
- A residential care management system to support the needs of all residential care and respite facilities across the HSE, including patient care management, assessments, care plans, links to GPs etc.
- A Home Support Management System to assist with the co-ordination and care planning for individuals receiving care at home.
- Work is also starting to address new requirements resulting from the extension of the current Nursing Home Support Scheme to care in the home.

The required functionality for these systems will be measured against current in house solutions to determine if service requirements can be met and if our current systems are not able to meet the need to support our new models of care, it may be necessary to procure relevant systems from the

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market. Our current systems and any new systems will be able to accommodate the Individual Health Identifier (IHI) which allows us link individual patient activity across different ICT systems thus supporting an integrated model of care and ultimately a shared care record. The requirement to meet defined interoperability standards and to link with relevant information sources, e.g. GP lists, eircodes, etc., will ensure the smooth and safe flow of relevant patient data between systems.

Analysis of current functionality required to support our new integrated models of care should be complete by June at which time we can determine if we can further utilise our current systems or for specific service areas if it may be necessary to go to the market to procure new solutions. Any system procurement and selection will take between 9 to 12 months with an intended implementation in mid-2022.

If you feel that the question has not been fully answered or you require any further clarity, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Fran Thompson,
Interim Chief Information Officer, OoCIO, HSE.