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21st November, 2022,

Deputy Róisín Shortall,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Róisín Shortall,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ Ref: 55110/22:

To ask the Minister for Health the status of plans to replace the paper-based system used to collate homecare applicants' details called the Common Summary Assessment Report (CSAR) with an electronic Single Assessment Tool (SAT); the timeline that he is working towards; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Róisín Shortall

interRAI Ireland (formerly known as the Single Assessment Tool pilot) is a comprehensive IT based standardised assessment used to assess the health and social care needs of people who may be looking for support from the HSE for community based/home care services or long- term residential care.

interRAI is a not-for-profit organisation consisting of a network of clinicians and researchers in over 35 countries. In 2017 the HSE selected interRAI as the assessment tool of choice across the care continuum. It's implementation is a priority for the HSE but also at a Ministerial / governmental level with interRAI being a key enabler of eHealth reform within a) The National Service Plan (NSP) 2023; b) Sláintecare; and c) eHealth Programme.

interRAI is being introduced by the HSE to ensure that every person being assessed for support services, either for home care or long-term care, has access to a standard and thorough assessment, regardless of where they live or who is doing the assessment. All information on a person's care needs are gathered, with the person's consent, so that care and support can be provided in the appropriate setting to the person's needs, i.e. with extra support at home/community, or in a residential setting (e.g. nursing home).

Using interRAI, the information is collected in the same way for everyone, ensuring fairness and equity. As the system is IT based this helps facilitate access to, and exchange of, information between appropriate health care professionals involved in the person's care so that the overall process is more streamlined.

In 2021 the HSE commenced a National Home Support Pilot across four Community Healthcare Network sites, the objectives of the Home Support Pilot include implementing interRAI for standardising assessment of need across Home Support Service and developing a standardised population based process for Home Support service allocation. The pilot will also assist in identifying levels of dependency using InterRAI data to develop appropriate care-bands/case-mix classification, to be used as a basis for a resource allocation model. The data collection phase of the pilot is completed and an independent evaluation is ongoing.

The outcomes and findings from the pilot will support the Department of Health with the financing regulation and legislation required for the Statutory Home Support Scheme which is planned under the Programme for Government. In addition the InterRAI system is now live for home care assessments and in 2023 the initial focus will centre on roll out across services for older people & Enhanced Community Care (ECC Programme) starting with ICPOP, Home Support and Long stay Care in 2023 and working towards all clinical staff from 2024 and beyond. The development and implementation of a national integrated ICT system for Home Support services will support the effective rollout of interRAI across Home Support services. The progression and procurement of this ICT system is currently awaiting DGOU approval.

Regards,



Janette Dwyer
Assistant National Director,
Services for Older People, Change & Innovation