

PPSN collection – streamlining identity management

Collecting Personal Public Service Numbers (PPSNs) in healthcare is an important step in accurately identifying patients and connecting their healthcare records. PPSN collection supports government policy and the HSE's Digital for Care goals. Many HSE services, including screening programmes, medical cards and vaccinations, already collect PPSNs during registration.

From Monday, 3 March 2025, all healthcare services can ask patients for their PPSN during registration. Patients and service users support this change, recognising the role of the PPSN in improving healthcare service connectivity. Importantly, those without a PPSN or who choose not to provide it will continue to have full access to HSE services.

"Collecting PPSNs across our health services helps with identity verification, supports Individual Health Identifier matching, and establishes a strong foundation for Ireland's

Electronic Health Record system," says Damien McCallion, Chief Technology and Transformation Officer and Deputy CEO. "For patients, this means their health information can be safely connected and shared between healthcare providers, improving care coordination."

What happens next?

In preparation for PPSN collection changes, services should:

- Update systems to record PPSNs, where possible.
- Remind patients to bring their PPSN in appointment letters.
- Educate staff to ask for and record PPSNs correctly.

Recognising that not all services will be ready by 3 March, local adjustments to processes, systems and forms may be needed.



The National Health Identifiers Team (HIDS) has been leading the PPSN project. HIDS have developed dedicated HSE webpages, easy-to-follow FAQs, and a short explainer video to help staff prepare for PPSN collection. HIDS will work closely with regional PPSN leads to provide guidance, answer questions and support the rollout of this new process. For more information, visit hse.ie/staffppsn or email PPSNID@hse.ie

Paving the way for an improved digital health service

The HSE and HealthTech Ireland have put in place a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to build and formalise their ongoing collaborations, with the shared aim of enhancing the health and wellbeing of the people of Ireland. HealthTech Ireland represents a variety of companies in Ireland, including those in the areas of medical device, diagnostic, information technology and digital mental health. These companies provide products, solutions and services to the HSE. Through this new collaboration, the HSE together with HealthTech experts will examine how best to use existing and emerging products and solutions such as AI and other innovative pathways, to improve patient outcomes, increase efficiencies, and meet the challenges faced across the health service.

"The HSE, HealthTech Ireland and its members are building on years of collaboration and a joint purpose on how to best deliver these technologies and innovations for the benefit of patients," says Damien McCallion, HSE Chief Technology and Transformation Officer and Deputy CEO. "Work is already underway, with discussions taking place examining how to tackle the challenges facing our health service, and this



Damien McCallion, Chief Technology and Transformation Officer and Deputy CEO, and Susan Treacy, CEO, HealthTech Ireland.

formalised relationship will help drive our Digital for Care strategy even further."

"By sharing the international and national experience of our member companies with Ireland's health service, and aligning our objectives with the goals of the Department of Health digital healthcare framework Digital for Care, and Sláintecare, we believe it will make a real difference for patients and staff across Ireland," adds Susan Treacy, CEO, HealthTech Ireland.