



Digital Roadmap

for Nursing & Midwifery

2019 - 2024



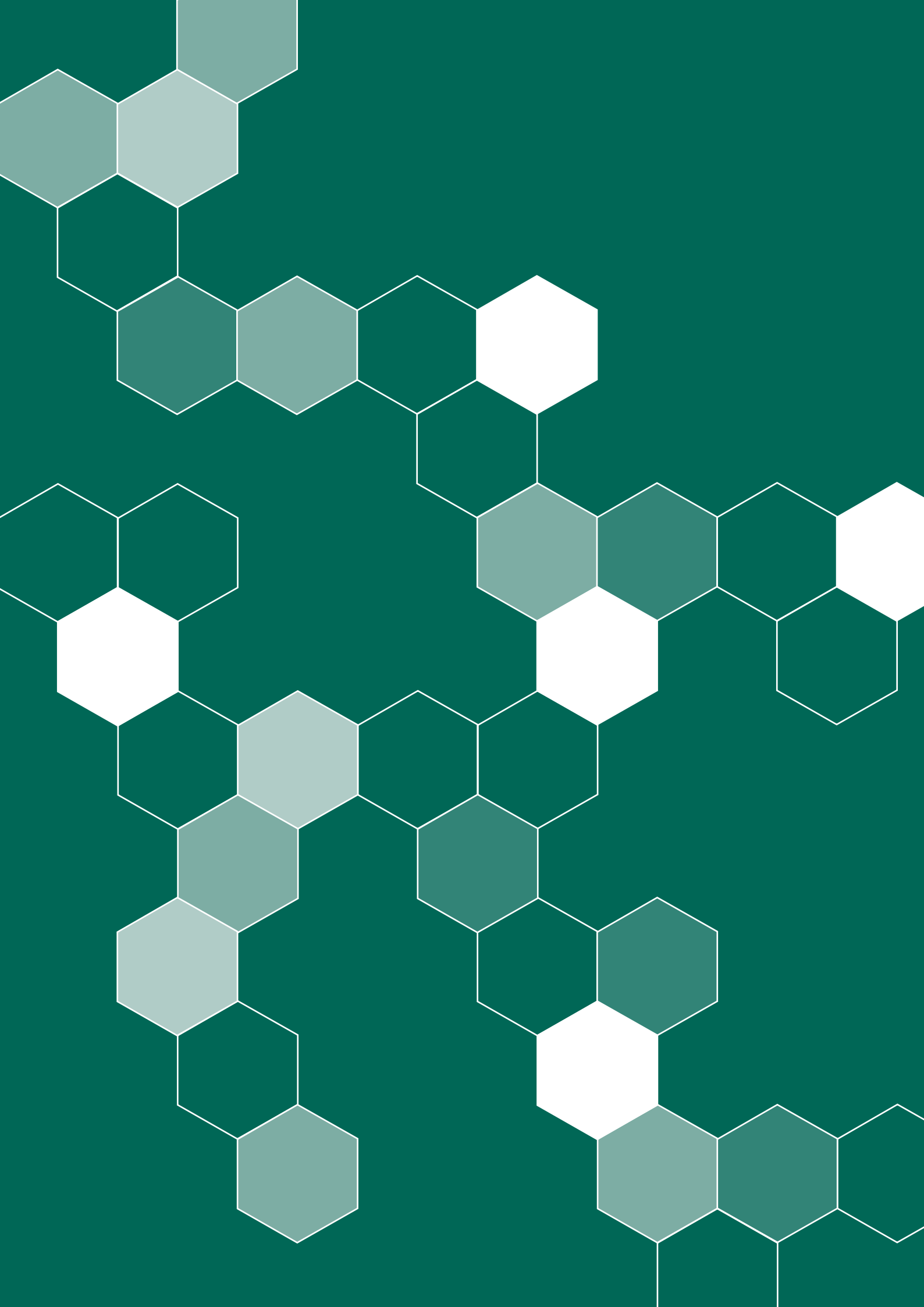


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Foreword

Welcome to this Digital Roadmap for Nursing and Midwifery which has been progressed as a starting point to facilitate national engagement on what actions need to happen for nursing and midwifery. It has also been developed to initiate and progress strategic and policy decisions about information and digital technology in nursing and midwifery.

We have aligned our Roadmap to the eight strategic goals of the Office of the Chief Information Officer 5-Year Strategic Plan. We considered this both timely and important to align what nursing and midwifery will do with the OoCIO National Strategic Plan.

Technology has the potential to change practice in the same way as it has changed how we live, do our business and interact with each other. Digital capabilities and health technologies will be fundamental to ensure a sustainable, quality and safe healthcare service. They can help to tackle some of healthcare's greatest challenges and to change 'how we do things'.

The health service is planning, prioritising and investing in digital capabilities that support Sláintecare and Health Service Executive (HSE) imperatives and ambitions for improving services. There is much potential to digitally innovate in health and social care. As the largest professional group of registered health practitioners in Ireland nurses and midwives play a vital role in digital health and in planning for future implementation of connected digital health.

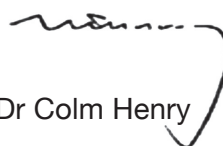
Nurses and midwives want to engage with and influence this work to ensure it delivers for the people who use our services, the nursing and midwifery workforce and the broader health service. We want to be in a strong position to advocate on behalf of people who use our services to ensure optimum access to and use of digital technology to improve the health and wellbeing of our citizens.



Dr Geraldine Shaw
Nursing & Midwifery
Services Director



Ms Loretto Grogan
National Clinical
Information Officer
for Nursing and
Midwifery



Dr Colm Henry
Chief Clinical Officer



Mr Fran Thompson
Interim Chief
Information Officer

Background and context

What is eHealth?

eHealth or digital health refers to the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in health products, services and processes, combined with organisational change in healthcare systems and new skills to improve health, efficiency and productivity in healthcare delivery.

Ultimately it is about the digitalisation of health services and processes so that the right data about the right patient is in the right place and at the right time to ensure safe and efficient provision of care services. It's about helping health care professionals save time and save lives. It's also enabling people who use our services to experience better care.





Our e-Health policy journey

eHealth Strategy

The eHealth Ireland Strategy (DOH 2013) was established to focus on the promotion and implementation of an eHealth agenda. It involves the integration of all information and knowledge sources involved in the delivery of healthcare via information technology systems. An Electronic Healthcare Record (EHR) is the cornerstone of Ireland's eHealth Strategy.

A number of key aspects the eHealth strategy aims to deliver include:

- Facilitate a greater focus on the care process from diagnosis and treatment to prevention and the maintenance of a healthy lifestyle
- Provide higher quality, more efficient and safer systems that are easier to access and allow greater transparency in their operation
- Ensure patients can receive safe, secure healthcare within a high quality service environment
- Care professionals are allowed more face-time with patients and can adapt care provision to individual needs
- Provides strategic management tools at all levels to ensure health care resources as a whole can be utilised more efficiently and effectively
- A critical enabler to deliver the change and transformation required to introduce new models of care, such as those articulated in the Irish Government publication Healthy Ireland covering among others chronic diseases, ageing and mental health



Sláintecare

Sláintecare (2017) is the ten year vision of the Oireachtas Committee on the Future of Healthcare. Sláintecare has a broad application with a focus on needing the right infrastructure – people, buildings and e-health – to deliver the right services. The need to deliver health and social care services in a way that is efficient, effective and sustainable, meeting the needs of all patients and citizens, including families with disabilities, people with mental health needs and carers are identified. This will require a whole-society approach with new ways of thinking and working together.

Sláintecare and eHealth

Sláintecare outlines clear goals for the eHealth agenda to both digitally connect the health service and digitally connect the citizen (to health). The eHealth programme is a component of the Service Redesign and Supporting Infrastructure Workstream (Sláintecare Action Plan, 2019). It is focussed on ensuring that the requisite ICT infrastructure will be put in place to support service delivery.

The aim is to develop a coherent suite of eHealth solutions for the Irish healthcare system which will support the overall vision for integrated, patient-centred care. This will require data to support population health planning, as well as systems to drive more efficient, effective and collaborative care. A focus on providing clinicians and managers with the tools and information needed to support decision-making is also central to this programme.



Office of the Chief Information Officer (OoCIO)

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OoCIO) is the HSE office responsible for the delivery of technology to support and improve healthcare in Ireland. The OoCIO delivers ICT services and support throughout the HSE to a current user base of over 50,000 staff, using approximately 1,400 applications in 1,000 networked sites. In addition it provides a range of national applications to the acute voluntary sector.

There are over 300 ICT projects currently being progressed or in development. This technology and systems facilitate integration within and across community-based hospital care, hospitals and other specialised care providers, acting as a key enabler to create a modern health service that empowers patients.

An example of a number of eHealth projects include:

- National Integrated Medical Imaging System (NIMIS)
- Lighthouse Projects
- Maternal and Newborn Clinical Management System (MN-CMS)
- Individual Health Identifiers (IHI) Act 2014
- National HealthLink Project
- National Medical Laboratory Information System (MedLIS)
- Cancer Care eHealth Programme (previously MOCIS)
- ePharmacy Programme
- National Electronic Health Record (EHR) Programme
- Office 365

OoCIO 5-Year Strategic Plan

The OoCIO developed a 5-Year Strategic Plan (2019) which details how OoCIO goals and objectives will be achieved and progress measured. The eight strategic goals detailed in the Strategic Plan holistically address HSE imperatives and Sláintecare plan.

Digital Nursing and Midwifery Roadmap aligned to the OoCIO Strategic Plan

Nurses and midwives want to work closely with the OoCIO to understand how they can use digital capabilities and health technologies available to achieve the ambitions of the HSE and Sláintecare. To this end we have developed our Digital Roadmap for Nursing and Midwifery aligned to the eight strategic goals of the OoCIO 5-Year Strategic Plan.

Eight strategic goals of the OoCIO 5-Year Strategic Plan

Goal 1

Empower citizen-centric health care
Provide rapid innovations and create digital experiences to engage with citizens

Goal 3

Stabilise & protect the operational backbone
Stabilise the operational backbone: core platforms, applications, cyber security, services, workforce

Goal 2

Develop the IT organisation
Refocus the Operating Model and modernise the organisation for Sláintecare

Goal 4

Accelerate digitisation of the health service

Provide digital tools and solutions to enable staff to deliver effective health care

Goal 5

Unleash data & enable insights
Enable decision making through provision of standardised data, meaningful information, and advanced analytics

Goal 6

Integrate across health systems
Establish secure integration of application and information environments, enabling the interoperable exchange of data across the health care system

Goal 7

Build a digital workplace
Establish the foundation to enable delivery of a digital workplace environment across the HSE, equipping employees for communication, efficiency, & collaboration

Goal 8

Lead with architecture
Advance enterprise architecture practice to improve customer focus and to extend architecture into programme delivery



What we will do

- Initiate a national conversation with people who use our services and their families to understand how they use and how they want to use technology to support and manage their health and well-being
- Develop systems of engagement to incorporate the people who use our services input into and ongoing experience of digital services
- Identify new and emerging technologies shaping the future of healthcare delivery
- Utilise digital solutions and products to enable improved and more efficient person-centered care
- Advocate in partnership with people who use our services to find the most appropriate digital solutions
- Establish methods/systems to manage patient generated data



What we will do

- Strengthen our engagement and working relationship with the OoCIO and other relevant digital engagement forums to enable delivery of HSE and Sláintecare agendas
- Clearly define the points of engagement with OoCIO at all levels including vision & strategy, governance, design, delivery and operations
- Ensure nursing and midwifery representation on key advisory and decision-making bodies
- Ensure nurses and midwives are involved in all stages of decision making from initial planning and procurement through to implementation and continuing management of clinical systems and digital solutions and products
- Fully engage nurses and midwives from ward to board to utilise technology to improve care
- Develop a professional clinician-focused engagement forum with the OoCIO that is trusted at all levels of the health service



What we will do

- Work in partnership with the OoCIO and other relevant digital delivery teams/services to identify clinical digital infrastructure priorities e.g. WiFi, devices etc.
- Work in partnership with the OoCIO and other relevant digital delivery teams/services to identify current clinical systems that require enhancements or replacement
- Work in partnership with the OoCIO and other relevant digital delivery teams/services to identify levels of technical support required in clinical services and feedback on the responsiveness of service delivery
- Ensure compliance with all data protection, privacy and security legislation
- Promote cyber security awareness among nurses and midwives and ensure adherence to security policies



What we will do

- Be a key stakeholder in influencing national digital healthcare delivery strategy
- Define what digital future readiness for nurses and midwives will look like in terms of organisational structures, culture, staff and work environment
- Identify nursing and midwifery processes, transactions and services that can be digitalised and add value in the immediate future
- Identify the challenges and opportunities for nursing and midwifery presented by digitalisation
- Encourage and support new thinking and a willingness to embrace new ways of working
- Senior nurses and midwives lead the digital transformation change process
- Ensure all nurses and midwives are part of the digital transformation process and manage change
- Be active participants in the digital health ecosystem
- Evaluate and continually learn from large or small scale digital initiatives and implementations



Goal 5

Unleash data & enable insights
Enable decision making through
provision of standardised data,
meaningful information, and
advanced analytics

What we will do

- Enable right access to the right information at the right time to support clinical decisions
- Develop the ability to integrate disparate data and analyse them to better understand and optimize outcomes, improve quality, improve service planning and reduce cost
- Establish appropriate and clear standards for nursing and midwifery documentation standardisation
- Develop national nursing and midwifery data standards, data quality standards and interoperability that facilitates the exchange of clinical information meaningfully across healthcare services and systems for improved data integration, information sharing, data analytics, performance monitoring, patient safety and quality and service improvement
- Establish how nursing and midwifery standards and terminologies need to be applied and the context in which they are applied
- Establish a data governance framework to support data definitions and data quality for nursing and midwifery
- Establish consensus on the minimum data (including how, where and when it is collected) necessary to inform practice, as well as for other data uses
- Ensure professional standards and scope of nursing and midwifery practice requirements are incorporated within clinical systems and other digital solutions and products
- Champion a data culture in health and social care services



Goal 6

Integrate across health systems
Establish secure integration
of application and information
environments, enabling the
interoperable exchange of data
across the health care system

What we will do

- Support and develop emerging ‘virtual’ teams to support new ways of working, ensuring they are developed around people who use our service
- Ensure nurses and midwives from all services are involved in all stages of the design, planning and delivery of the Summary Care Record and Shared Care Record
- Advocate for the widespread implementation of the Individual Health Identifier to uniquely identify individuals/patients and health care providers
- Promote interoperability and data sharing to facilitate working across organisational and national boundaries and inter-professional working



Goal 7

Build a digital workplace
Establish the foundation to
enable delivery of a digital
workplace environment across
the HSE, equipping employees
for communication, efficiency, &
collaboration

What we will do

- Advance and grow the role and function of the ONMSD National Digital Advisory Group
- Work in partnership with the OoCIO to establish short- and long-term workplace strategies that leverage standardised apps & platforms, collaboration tools, automation, mobility and analytics
- Advocate for the establishment of nursing and midwifery digital leadership roles as part of the executive function of an organisation to lead the transformation required in the nursing and midwifery workforce
- Ensure strong nursing and midwifery presence in digital/IT teams
- Grow the capability of nurses and midwives through initiatives such as:
 - Develop digital capabilities for nurses and midwives
 - Develop a career pathway for digital nursing and midwifery
 - Develop future digital leaders in nursing and midwifery
 - Develop and enhance provision of workplace digital learning opportunities to all nursing and midwifery staff as part of continuous learning
 - Establish a Digital Network for nurses and midwives
- Establish nursing and midwifery digital research priorities
- Develop a suite of successful case studies that demonstrate the positive impact of digital tools and solutions for nursing and midwifery
- Continue to participate in and collaborate with the Five Country Digital Nursing and Midwifery Leadership Group



What we will do

- Work in partnership with OoCIO and other relevant digital delivery teams/services to ensure architectures developed drive clear outcomes for nurses and midwives and people who use our services
- Work in partnership with OoCIO and other relevant digital delivery teams/services to progress interoperability
- Ensure architects are incorporated into any new clinical information systems or digital solutions and tools
- Ensure the adoption of nationally agreed technical and clinical standards and guidance

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Office of the Chief Clinical Officer
HSE
Room 250 Dr Steevens' Hospital
Dublin DO8 W2A8
Ireland

Tel: 01 635 2471
Email: nursing.services@hse.ie
Web: <https://healthservice.hse.ie/about-us/onmsd/>

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