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Statistical Update August 2010

No. of GPs using
HealthlinkOnline:
1916

No. of Practices:
865

No. of Practice Staff:
1491

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Welcome to the seventh edition of the Healthlink newsletter. I am happy to take this opportunity to update you on developments in the project, newly launched services and plans for the coming year. I hope it will be a useful source of information and am keen to hear your thoughts and feedback.

Gemma Garvan
Acting Healthlink Project Manager

A Truly National Project

Healthlink now has a presence in each of the HSE areas signifying the amount of growth our project as experienced in the last year and underlining our status as a national project. The newest regions are the South East and North West where GPs use HealthlinkOnline to send secure Breast cancer referrals to Waterford and Letterkenny hospitals. In total we provide messaging services to twenty five public hospitals nationwide and one private (details on Table 1 overleaf).

Cancer Referrals

Our work with the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) and the ICGP continues as we expand the oncology referrals project and increase the number of electronic forms available each year. The electronic forms are an exact replica of the agreed NCCP hardcopy referral forms and are sent directly to the relevant cancer team who respond within five working days. At present three forms - Breast, Prostate and Lung are available and in use for every day patient care. Referral responses are also electronic and depending on the GP Practice Management System, can be integrated directly to the patient record.

The second stage of this project is also progressing well. We are working with the four accredited Practice Management software vendors to build the referral forms into their systems - Helix Practice Manager, HealthOne, Socrates and Complete GP. The Breast cancer form is already functioning in HPM and Socrates, while Prostate is being piloted. In time, all referrals will originate from within these four GP systems and all responses will integrate with the patient files.

Services at a glance

The following tables show which services are available in our participating hospitals and which messages can be integrated to the practice management systems.

Table 1. Messages per Hospital

√ = Live ✘ = Planned

Hospital	Lab	Radiology	OPD Appt	Discharge Summary	Discharge Note	A&E Note	Death Note	Waiting List	Referrals	Lab Order	Co-op	Inpatient Admission	Cardiology Report
Mater	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			
Mater Private	✘	√	√		√				√				√
Beaumont	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√				
St. James's	√	√	√	✘					√	√			
St. Vincent's	√	√	√						√				
St. Michael's	√	√											
AMNCH	√	√			√		√					√	
Connolly	√	✘											
St. Colmcille's	√	✘											
Naas	√	✘									√		
Limerick	√	√									√		
Ennis	√	√									√		
St. Joseph's Nenagh	√	√									√		
UCHG	√	√		✘							√		
Merlin Park		√		✘							√		
Mayo	√										√		
Roscommon	√										√		
Portiuncula	√												
Portlaoise	√												
Mullingar	√												
Tullamore	√												
Cavan	√										√		
Our Lady's Drogheda	√								√		√		
Letterkenny									√				
Cork University Hospital									√				
Waterford									√				

An Update on Labs

We are delighted to have just completed a successful pilot of Lab results with Our Lady of Lourdes in Drogheda. These results are now available to all GPs in the area. Earlier this year we rolled out Lab results from AMNCH and we would like to thank all those involved in both projects for their efforts and support in releasing these services live. Continuing our work in the North East, we have begun testing with Our Lady's, Navan and Louth County Hospital, Dundalk and will be organising pilots in both locations shortly.

Table 2. Referrals per Hospital

√ = Live ✖ = Planned

Hospital	Breast Cancer	Lung Cancer	Prostate Cancer	Upper GI Cancer	Neurology	Chest Pain	MRI Request
Mater	√	√	✖		√		
Mater Private	√					√	√
Beaumont	√						
St. James's	√	√	√	√	√		
St. Vincent's	√	√	√		√		
Limerick	✖				√		
UCHG	√		√				
Letterkenny	√						
Cork University Hospital	√				√		
Waterford	√						

Table 3. Integrated Messages per Vendor

√ = Live ✖ = Planned

Vendor System	Lab Results	Radiology Results	Discharge Summary	Discharge Notification	A&E Attendance	Death Notification	OPD Apt	Waiting List	Co-op	Referrals
Helix Practice Manager	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Breast √ ✖
HealthOne	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	✖
Socrates	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Breast √ ✖
Complete GP	√	√	√						√	✖
Dynamic GP	√	√							√	
GP Clinical	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
GP Mac	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	

Coming Soon

Discharge Summaries will be available from UCHG from the second week in September. During September we will also begin a pilot of these messages with St. James's Hospital which shall run for approximately four weeks. Online Breast referrals shall be available to GPs in the Limerick Regional area from the beginning of October and we are planning to introduce Prostate referrals to the Mater area also. Finally, before the end of the year we are planning to implement Healthlink in SouthDoc (Cork & Kerry) which will enable all GPs receive their out-of-hours reports electronically and integrate them with their patient files.

Looking Forward

Some of our plans for the second half of 2010 and early 2011 are as follows:

- ≈ Test & pilot of Co-op messages from South-Doc.
- ≈ HSE North West migration project from their local lab & radiology messaging to Healthlink.
- ≈ Test & pilot of Oncology Referral messages

within the accredited Practice Management Systems.

- ≈ Development of further Oncology Referral forms as agreed with the NCCP.

About Healthlink

Healthlink is an electronic communications project funded by the Health Service Executive. The project was initiated in the Mater Hospital in 1995 but quickly evolved into a national project with the launch of HealthlinkOnline in 2003. Our service is available free of charge to all GPs. Some initial investment is required by Hospitals and Health Areas to become involved.

Our messages fall into two categories, in-bound and out-bound, reflecting the two-way communication capabilities of HealthlinkOnline. These messages are all specified in HL7 2.4 and formatted in XML 2.0.

Full training and support is available to all users of the application. Training is usually provided over the phone however group sessions are organised periodically to cover specific areas such as Lab Order or use of online Referrals.

Would you benefit from an electronic referral service or other messaging from your local hospital?

Would you benefit from further training?

Please contact us to discuss your requirements.



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