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Statistical Update November 2011

No. Live Hospitals:
29

No. of GPs using
HealthlinkOnline:
2491

No. of Practices:
1072

No. of Practice Staff:
1797

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Welcome to the eleventh edition of the Healthlink newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners and colleagues for their support this year and I look forward to our continued collaboration in 2012. I hope this newsletter will be a useful source of information and I am keen to hear your thoughts and feed-back.

Marie Lalor

Healthlink Project Manager

General Referrals Development

Healthlink is participating in the National Electronic General Referral project being piloted by the HSE South, Cork and Kerry. The pilot will also include AMNCH as a single site hospital. A reconfiguration team from the South, has been appointed in the lead role to develop and manage a national pilot programme which will implement the system. This group is working on the processes required to enable the receipt of electronic referrals within the hospital setting. This new electronic form is based on the agreed ICGP/HIQA standard general referral form and we plan to have it available for use within HealthlinkOnline for the pilot regions early next year, with the accredited practice management systems also incorporating it into their software. This is an exciting project which should enable GPs to send all referrals into hospitals electronically over the coming years. GPs and patients will further benefit from a confirmed receipt of the referral from the hospital. The hospital will then return a response to the GPs electronically outlining the follow-up.

NIMIS Project

The National Integrated Medical Imaging System (NIMIS) project is implementing radiology information systems and digital imaging in all acute hospitals in the Irish health service. So far four hospitals are up and running. Three of these, Sligo General, Beaumont and the Mater are sending radiology reports to GPs via Healthlink with Waterford Regional to follow suit. The North East area is the next to come on board with Navan, Drogheda, Dundalk, Cavan and Monaghan going live at the end of November. GPs in the area who are registered with Healthlink will have access to patient test reports as soon as the system is live plus the reports are fully compatible with the accredited Practice Management Systems. In total 35 hospital sites will connect to NIMIS over the next three years.

Services at a glance

The following tables show which services are available to GPs and Agencies from our participating hospitals.

Table 1. Outbound Messages per Hospital

√ = Live ✕ = Planned

Hospital	Lab	Radiology	OPD Appt	Dis-charge Summary	Discharge Note	A&E Note	Death Note	Waiting List	Co-op	Inpatient Admission	Cardiology Report	Outpatient Clinic Letter
Mater	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√				
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	√	✕							√			
Monaghan		✕										
Our Lady's Drogheda	√	✕							√			
Our Lady's Navan		✕										
Louth County, Dundalk		✕										
Waterford Regional		✕										
Sligo General		√										

Co-Op Out-of-Hours Messaging

At the beginning of this year we ran a pilot of co-op reports with SouthDoc. The pilot was deemed a success so we went live with this service in March. SouthDoc covers the Cork and Kerry regions and has a membership of approximately 500 doctors at 26 local treatment centres. We are delighted to further establish Healthlink in this large area and provide GPs with the many benefits of these electronic messages. Other Co-Op services sent through Healthlink are NorthEastDoc, KDoc, WestDoc and ShannonDoc. Since these services have been running we have sent over 450,000 Doctor on Call messages to GPs, which can then be downloaded into the GP Practice Software systems. NorthWest Doc will be the next out-of-hours service to use Healthlink to send messages to GPs.

Table 2. Referrals per Hospital

√ = Live ✘ = Planned

Hospital	Breast Cancer	Lung Cancer	Prostate Cancer	Upper GI Cancer	Neurology
Mater	√	√	√		√
Beaumont	√	√	✘		
St. James's	√	√	√	√	√
St. Vincent's	√	√	√		√
Limerick	√	√	√		√
UCHG	√	√	√		
Letterkenny	√				
Cork University	√	√			√
St. Luke's, Kilkenny					√
Waterford	√	√			√

Cancer Referrals

The first phase of our NCCP referrals project has been completed. Breast referrals have been signed off and are currently operating in each of the 9 national cancer centres. Prostate is live in 5 of the hospitals and will be live in Beaumont by the 21st of November, while Lung is available at 8 of the centres. These referrals have also been integrated into the accredited practice management systems: HealthOne, Helix Practice Manager, Socrates and CompleteGP, which will greatly improve the ease and speed of form completion for GPs. Acknowledgements are automatically received providing reassurance that the referral has been received by Healthlink. Furthermore, responses from Consultants can also be integrated with patient files in these systems, giving a full record of communication with the hospital cancer team. Since this service has been introduced in late 2008 there have been over 5500 referrals submitted through Healthlink, with 2153 of these coming from within the accredited practice systems. For the month of October over 65% of referrals submitted through Healthlink came from within the Practice systems highlighting the benefit the integration has brought to GPs.

New Services

A number of new messages have been introduced this year from existing hospital sites. St. Colmcille's Lab are now sending Microbiology results. St. James's and AMNCH hospital have completed their pilots of Discharge Summaries and these messages are now available to all GPs.

We are also currently running radiology pilots with The Beacon and Euromedic Charlemont, Cork, Dundrum, Kilkenny and Northwood with these services available to all GPs before the end of the year.

User Survey

Earlier this year we carried out a user survey to gauge satisfaction with Healthlink services and seek feedback on usage of HealthlinkOnline. We also examined support & training and asked about services you would like to see developed in the future. Overall the results show that satisfaction is high among our users and HealthlinkOnline is a beneficial and effective service in General Practice. The survey highlighted areas where improvements can be made and a number of follow-ups have been attended to based on comments given. A copy of the report is available on our website at www.healthlink.ie under the News section.

Plans for 2012

- ≈ General Referral message creation and pilot in Cork/Kerry and AMNCH.
- ≈ Migration of regional messaging projects, such as the NorthWest, South and SouthEast to Healthlink.
- ≈ Development of inter-disciplinary primary care referrals.
- ≈ Provision of cervical smear results to GPs from labs.
- ≈ Roll out of Co-Op messages nationally – Now-Doc.
- ≈ Implementation of acknowledgement messages and development of business rules around same.
- ≈ Transmission of histology results to the National Cancer Registry of Ireland (NCRI) and Cervical Check.
- ≈ Continued roll-out of new services from existing sites, e.g. implementation of NIMIS interface and migration of phase 1 & 2 hospitals.
- ≈ Completion of NCCP electronic cancer referrals.

About Healthlink

The National Healthlink Project provides a web-based messaging service which allows the secure transmission of clinical patient information between Hospitals, Health Care Agencies and General Practitioners. The project has been in operation since 1995 and has developed considerably since that time to its current status as national messaging broker. The National Healthlink Project is funded by the HSE and all our services are free of charge to GPs.

Healthlink are members of the National Messaging Board and all projects are evaluated by Healthlink and the messaging board. Any projects wishing to apply are assessed under the following criteria: 1. Support a national messaging infrastructure and national messaging service. 2. Support the HSE Transformation and Reconfiguration Processes as is consistent with the Service and Corporate plans. 3. Provide value for money and be capable of driving costs out of the system. 4. Enhance patient safety and quality of care. 5. Have in place appropriate governance and be included in the service plan. 6. Be capable of demonstrating measurable outcomes and benefits. 7. Have National applicability to provision of healthcare.

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. If you have any queries please contact us on the number below.



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