

Expressions of Interest - RCPI nominee to the Advisory Group, which is being convened to advise on the development of recommendations on ICT enablement of Older Persons' services

The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) is seeking expressions of interest from Members and Fellows who are interested in becoming the RCPI representative to the Advisory Group, which is being convened by the Health Information and Quality Authority to advise on the development of recommendations on ICT enablement of Older Persons' services

The Advisory Group is expected to meet twice: in **July** and again in **October** of this year, with exact dates to be confirmed. Hereunder, you will find Draft Terms of Reference for the Advisory Group.

If you wish to submit your expression of interest, please email your current Curriculum Vitae along with a cover letter to the attention of:

Dr Terry McWade
CEO
The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
Email: corporateoffice@rcpi.ie

Expressions of interest should be submitted no later than close of business **on Friday 28th May 2021**



**Health
Information
and Quality
Authority**

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis
agus Cálíocht Sláinte

Health Information
and Standards

Recommendations on an Integrated IT System for Older Persons Services

Terms of Reference for the Advisory Group

April 2021

About the Health Information and Quality

Authority

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) is an independent statutory authority established to promote safety and quality in the provision of health and social care services for the benefit of the health and welfare of the public.

HIQA's mandate to date extends across a wide range of public, private and voluntary sector services. Reporting to the Minister for Health and engaging with the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, HIQA has responsibility for the following:

- **Setting standards for health and social care services** — Developing person-centred standards and guidance, based on evidence and international best practice, for health and social care services in Ireland.
- **Regulating social care services** — The Chief Inspector within HIQA is responsible for registering and inspecting residential services for older people and people with a disability, and children's special care units.
- **Regulating health services** — Regulating medical exposure to ionising radiation.
- **Monitoring services** — Monitoring the safety and quality of health services and children's social services, and investigating as necessary serious concerns about the health and welfare of people who use these services.
- **Health technology assessment** — Evaluating the clinical and cost-effectiveness of health programmes, policies, medicines, medical equipment, diagnostic and surgical techniques, health promotion and protection activities, and providing advice to enable the best use of resources and the best outcomes for people who use our health service.
- **Health information** — Advising on the efficient and secure collection and sharing of health information, setting standards, evaluating information

resources and publishing information on the delivery and performance of Ireland's health and social care services.

- **National Care Experience Programme** — Carrying out national service-user experience surveys across a range of health services, in conjunction with the Department of Health and the HSE.

Contents

Introduction	5
Role of the Advisory Group	7
Advisory Group Membership	8
Meeting dates and administrative details.....	9

Introduction

Since 2012, national health strategy has focused integrated care services: that is, moving from a hospital-based model to a patient-centric, community-based model, where care is delivered at the lowest level of complexity. Integrated care services are seen as an effective way to address the increasingly complex care needs of Ireland's ageing population.

Currently, older persons services are delivered by health and social care professionals in many different settings, with information held in a number of IT systems or in paper records across those settings. ICT is a key enabler of integrated care services and the Slaintecare vision is that, throughout the older person's patient journey, the National Shared Record will provide a unified view of that patient's information. This will ensure that each health or social care professional has the information they need to treat the older person safely and effectively. A number of supporting initiatives have been undertaken as a result.

However, since March 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak has had an unprecedented and continuing impact on national health and social care, particularly on older persons services. Recognizing the critical importance of having up-to-date information available to health and social care professionals, the specially-convened National COVID-19 Nursing Homes Expert Panel recommended the introduction of an integrated IT system for older persons services as an early priority.* In response, the HIQA Health Information and Standards Directorate has undertaken the development of Recommendations to the Minister for Health on ICT enablement of older persons services.

* COVID-19 Nursing Homes Expert Panel Examination of Measures to 2021 Report to the Minister for Health: Available from: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/3af5a-covid-19-nursing-homes-expert-panel-final-report/>

Under the Health Act 2007, Health Information and Quality Authority's responsibilities include providing advice and making recommendations to the Minister for Health in respect of health information:[†]

- Section 8(1)(i): to evaluate available information respecting the service and the health and welfare of the population,
- Section 8(1)(j): to provide advice and make recommendations to the Minister for Health and the HSE about deficiencies identified by HIQA in respect of the information referred to in paragraph (i).

While the Expert Panel recommended the introduction of a single integrated IT system, this Recommendation project will take a broader view. The project will examine current delivery structures for older persons services across health and care settings with a view to understanding how information flows and any gaps or pain points. It will also look at current levels of IT enablement and maturity in each area. Separately, the project will select comparable implementations in a number of countries, to understand ICT enablement of older persons services in those countries and to identify relevant learnings and best practices. Informed by this national and international evidence, the final Recommendations will outline ICT enablement and other measures that can improve the flow of information throughout the older person's patient journey, aligned with the broader, longer term Slaintecare vision.

[†] Department of Health and Children. *Health Act 2007*. 2007. Available from: <http://www.oireachtas.ie/documents/bills28/acts/2007/a2307.pdf>.

Role of the Advisory Group

The role of the Advisory Group participating in the development of these Recommendations will be:

- to agree Terms of Reference,
- to advise on the identification of key stakeholders—for example, user communities, professional bodies and domain experts who should be consulted,
- to advise on the draft Recommendations for consultation and on the revised Recommendations after the Public Consultation,
- to advise on any further steps, including implementation of the Recommendations.

The Board of HIQA will approve the Recommendations in advance of submission to the Minister for Health. While HIQA is ultimately responsible for the development of Recommendations, all comments received from Advisory Group members will be collated and carefully considered to inform the final Recommendations.

Advisory Group Membership

Chair: The Advisory Group will be chaired by Rachel Flynn, the Director of Health Information and Standards, Health Information and Quality Authority.

Nominees: The Advisory Group will include representatives from a range of key stakeholders encompassing various perspectives including:

- CORU, regulating health and social care professionals
- Department of Health
- General Practice Information Technology Group (GPIT)
- HSE Acute
- HSE Community
- HSE Office of the Chief Information Officer
- HSE Primary Care
- HSE Integrated Care Programmes
- HSE National Clinical Programmes
- HSE National Patient Forum
- HSE Office of Nursing and Midwifery
- HSE Social Care Directorate
- Health Information and Quality Authority
- Irish College of General Practitioners
- Irish Medical Organisation
- Mental Health Commission
- Nursing Homes Ireland
- National Patient Forum
- Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
- Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland
- The Irish Medical Council

Meeting dates and administrative details

Meetings will be held on the following dates:

- Inaugural: July 2021
- Second meeting: October 2021

Additional meetings may be scheduled as necessary. All meetings will be held online. The meeting agenda and any materials for review will be emailed at least one week in advance of each meeting. Meeting minutes will be circulated within three weeks of each meeting.

Note. Advisory Group members are expected to attend at least two of the meetings. If an Advisory Group member cannot attend a meeting, they may nominate an alternate



Health Information and Standards Directorate
Health Information and Quality Authority
Unit 1301, City Gate,
Mahon,
Cork
T12 Y2XT