

Photocall — publication of investigation report



Pictured are Mary Dunnion, HIQA's Director of Regulation, and our CEO Phelim Quinn, addressing the press conference launching the Report of the investigation into the management of allegations of child sexual abuse against adults of concern by the Child and Family Agency (Tusla) upon the direction of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.

Message from our CEO

Welcome to the latest issue of *HIQA News*.

Since our last issue, HIQA has published the [Report of the investigation into the management of allegations of child sexual abuse against adults of concern by the Child and Family Agency \(Tusla\) upon the direction of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs](#).

Among its findings were deficiencies in record-keeping and the information communication technology needed to support practice. The report makes four main recommendations for the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and for Tusla, in addition to other actions which Tusla must urgently take.

These include the Department setting up an expert quality assurance and oversight group to support and advise on the implementation of these recommendations and the Department and Tusla seeking help from the higher education and training bodies to create formal career-paths for social worker students and graduates.

In 2019, HIQA will begin to develop revised National Standards for Children's Social Services and, working with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, will undertake an international review of best practice in the regulation of children's social services in order to inform the development of a regulatory framework for these services in Ireland.

Meanwhile, our limited powers in healthcare, including the non-binding nature of recommendations arising from our statutory investigation reports, continue to be a challenge for us. Having reviewed our peer organisations internationally, we believe that we are behind the curve in terms of the enforcement required here.

We raised this issue when we recently attended the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health to discuss proposed healthcare licensing, which we strongly support. Our current remit in healthcare solely extends to monitoring the safety and quality of HSE-funded hospitals against the [National Standards for Safer Better Healthcare](#).

We do not have the power to oversee or insist on the implementation of recommendations arising from investigations, which, in the past, have often gone unheeded. HIQA also currently has no role in the monitoring or regulation of private healthcare, and there is effectively no statutory oversight of private hospitals in Ireland.

We have extensive powers in the area of regulating nursing homes and centres for people with disability, and in this issue we also bring you our regular updates from those teams. We also report on our healthcare team, and our health information team, which has just updated our privacy impact assessment guidance in light of GDPR.

Until next time.

Best regards, Phelim Quinn

Investigation report into child sexual abuse referrals against adults of concern



Pictured are Mary Dunnion, HIQA's Director of Regulation; our CEO Phelim Quinn; and Paul Morgan, investigation Expert Advisory Group member, addressing the press conference launching the Report of the investigation into the management of allegations of child sexual abuse against adults of concern by the Child and Family Agency (Tusla) upon the direction of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.

We have published our investigation report into child sexual abuse referrals against adults of concern.

The Child and Family Agency (Tusla) must take urgent action to address serious shortcomings in how it manages allegations of child sexual abuse, according to the findings of the investigation.

The investigation — requested by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Katherine Zappone TD following Tusla's handling of a false allegation about a garda whistle-blower — makes four main recommendations for the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and for Tusla, in addition to other actions which Tusla must urgently take.

[Read our press release on the investigation.](#)

[Read the report, executive summary and infographic.](#)

HIQA discusses healthcare licensing at Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health



The Chief Inspector of Social Services and our Director of Regulation Mary Dunning (left); our CEO Phelim Quinn; and our Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Dr Máirín Ryan pictured attending the committee. Image: Houses of the Oireachtas

We attended the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health on 13 June to discuss the General Scheme of the Patient Safety (Licensing) Bill, where we endorsed stronger measures to protect the public using our hospitals.

Our CEO Phelim Quinn; the Chief Inspector of Social Services and Director of Regulation Mary Dunning; and our Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Dr Máirín Ryan attended the committee.

Phelim told the meeting: “Based on our research on healthcare regulation internationally and our experience of social care regulation, HIQA strongly supports the proposal to introduce a system of licensing to the healthcare sector to bring Ireland in line with our OECD peers.

“HIQA’s experience in the social care sector has shown that regulation drives improvement, and we welcome the proposals contained in this bill. Retaining the status quo is simply not a viable option. Nonetheless, a number of issues still need to be ironed out.”

Phelim told the Committee that HIQA's current powers are limited. While HIQA is known as the State's health and social care regulator, he outlined that as of yet we do not have the power to regulate public or private hospitals.

In May, the Government approved a new patient safety bill, based on the previous Health Information and Patient Safety Bill, which will extend HIQA's current remit to private hospitals, and provide for mandatory notification of serious patient safety incidents to either HIQA or the Mental Health Commission, as appropriate.

However, Phelim emphasised to the meeting that even under the provisions of this new patient safety bill, announced by the Minister for Health in May, HIQA would still not have enforcement powers in public or private healthcare — making Ireland uniquely detached in terms of healthcare regulation internationally.

This new patient safety bill will simply extend our current powers — to set standards, monitor compliance with standards and undertake investigations with non-binding recommendations — to the private sector, he said. HIQA endorses the proposed licensing legislation, but some elements of the bill still needed to be refined, he emphasised.

- Read Phelim's [opening statement to the Oireachtas Committee here](#).
- Read the transcript of the Health Committee meeting [here](#).

HTA on HPV vaccination of boys: public consultation is starting in July



Dr Máirín Ryan, HIQA's Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Health Technology Assessment

HIQA's health technology assessment (HTA) on extending the current HPV immunisation programme to include boys is now nearing completion, and a public and targeted consultation will commence in July.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the virus that causes cervical cancer in women. It is also known that there are other cancers associated with this virus that affect both men and women: there is a proven link between HPV infection and anal, genital and oropharyngeal (throat) cancer.

In men, it is associated with penile cancer. HPV is also the cause of genital warts in men and women. Since 2010, Ireland has a nationally funded, school-based, girls-only HPV immunisation programme.

Our Director of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Dr Máirín Ryan said: "The aim of this HTA is to assess the clinical effectiveness, safety, cost effectiveness and other important aspects of HPV vaccination to best inform the decision of the Minister and the Department of Health on whether or not to vaccinate boys in their first year of second-level school against the HPV virus.

"We will publish the draft report on our website in July, and we will welcome comments from the public and all interested parties. Feedback forms will be provided and all comments and suggestions will be considered."

Update from our HRB-CICER team



Pictured at the launch by the Minister for Health, Simon Harris, on 25 June of a new guideline from the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee aimed at improving the quality and safety of treating Type 1 diabetes, were: Dr Kevin Moore, Chair of the Guideline Development Group; Paul Carty from our HRB-CICER team; Professor Sean Dinneen, National Clinical Lead for Diabetes; and Niamh Smyth, Programme Manager for National Clinical Programme for Diabetes.

In 2017, the Health Research Board (HRB) commenced funding of the Collaboration in Ireland for Clinical Effectiveness Reviews (HRB-CICER) to support the work of the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee.

Based in HIQA, the role of the HRB-CICER team is to independently review evidence and provide scientific support for the development of national clinical guidelines and national clinical audits by guideline development groups and audit governance committees, respectively.

Type 1 diabetes

A National Clinical Guideline on adult type 1 diabetes mellitus was launched by the Minister for Health on Monday 25 June 2018.

The National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC) requires inclusion of evidence on both the clinical- and cost-effectiveness of health technologies and the estimation of a budget impact analysis in the development of all National Clinical Guidelines in Ireland.

To support the development of the national clinical guideline, HRB-CICER conducted a review of economic evidence (to ensure that the guideline was informed by evidence of cost-effectiveness) and a budget impact analysis (to estimate the financial implications of the guideline). It was identified that three key changes to service delivery will occur as a result of implementation of the guideline recommendations. These are:

- the national provision of a high-quality structured patient education programme to empower people with Type 1 diabetes to effectively manage their diabetes and the external factors that can influence their blood glucose levels such as exercise and stress
- the standardisation of patient follow-up in diabetes clinics where patients are recalled at least every six months
- short courses for all staff who deliver care to people with Type 1 diabetes in Ireland.

[Both HRB-CICER reports](#) supporting the National Clinical Guideline on adult type 1 diabetes mellitus have been published on the NCEC website.

Latest on new maternity services monitoring programme



Sean Egan, HIQA's Head of Healthcare Regulation



Our Healthcare team has begun a new monitoring programme against the [National Standards for Safer Better Maternity Services](#).

The programme will measure hospital compliance with the National Standards, with a particular focus on how prepared are hospitals for dealing with obstetric emergencies.

Sean Egan, HIQA's Head of Healthcare Regulation, commented: "The input of a specially convened expert advisory group, which has met on two occasions to date, has greatly assisted us to prepare for the programme."

The first phase of this programme will require hospitals to complete a self-assessment questionnaire which HIQA has designed for the purpose of this programme.

The questionnaire has now been issued to all 19 maternity units in the State. It is intended that all maternity units will be inspected under the programme, with inspections due to start in the coming months.

HIQA continues planning for ionising radiation remit

We are continuing to prepare for the transfer of regulatory powers to HIQA in relation to exposure to medical ionising radiation.

The Healthcare team continues to await transposition and enactment of the relevant European legislation into Irish law.

The programme of work is being driven by [Council Directive 2013/59/EURATOM](#).

The proposed legislation will designate HIQA as a competent authority for medical exposures.

Once introduced, HIQA will have enforcement capabilities for the first time in healthcare in both public and private service providers of medical exposures.

Qualifications of people working in disability centres



Finbarr Colfer, our Deputy Chief Inspector of Social Services

We are often asked about the qualifications required to be a person in charge of a designated centre for people with disabilities and about qualifications of staff working in these centres.

Such questions have come up during provider-forum meetings where HIQA meets with disability service providers, and providers and members of the public have asked us about this directly.

The [relevant regulations](#) say that the post of person in charge shall be full-time and that the person shall have the qualifications, skills and experience necessary to

manage the designated centre, taking into consideration the size of the designated centre, the statement of purpose, and the number and needs of the residents.

As and from 1 November 2016, any person in charge appointed to the role of person in charge (as opposed to those already in the role when the regulations were enacted) must have “a minimum of three years’ experience in a management or supervisory role in the area of health or social care and an appropriate qualification in health or social care management at an appropriate level”.

However, the regulations do not specify a specific qualification type. HIQA inspectors ask the provider to demonstrate how they have met the requirements of the regulations and to demonstrate that the person in charge has a management qualification at an appropriate level, relevant to the service. Inspectors may ask to see evidence of that qualification.

Finbarr Colfer, our Deputy Chief Inspector of Social Services, comments: “Providers are responsible for ensuring that the person they are appointing to the role of person in charge has the qualifications, skills and experience required to properly manage the centre and to ensure the optimal outcome for residents.

“Similarly, the regulations are not prescriptive in relation to the qualification that other staff, such as care assistants, should have when working in designated residential centres for people with a disability — the provider is responsible for ensuring that they have the required qualifications and skill-mix appropriate to meet the support and care needs of residents.”

When inspectors visit a centre, they look for evidence that staff have the required knowledge, skills and experience to enable them to meet the assessed needs of the residents. However, while it is usual to see staff working in a designated centre for people with disabilities having a qualification such as QQI/FETAC level 5 award, this is not a requirement of the regulations.

To assist providers and people interested in working as a person in charge of a designated centres, HIQA has produced a [guidance document on the regulation around the role of the person in charge](#). Meanwhile, the work of our disabilities team in 2017 is included our new Overview of HIQA regulation of social care and healthcare services 2017, which [can be accessed here](#).

News from our older people's team

Our Older Persons' Team has completed 254 inspections of nursing homes across Ireland so far this year, meaning we have inspected almost half of nursing homes (44%) in the country.

Of these, 109 inspections were in response to a new-registration application, or an application to vary an existing condition or to renew registration. In addition, 91 inspections focused on monitoring compliance.

The team is maintaining its focus on dementia care in nursing homes due to the increased vulnerability of people who have dementia. So far in 2018, the team has completed 54 dementia-themed inspections.

We also continue to monitor nursing homes through the receipt of information. This is an important part of the monitoring process. Information comes in to us in two ways:

- ♣ Receipt of information via the statutory notifications submitted by nursing homes to HIQA throughout the year.
- ♣ Unsolicited information sent in to us by the public, including from residents and staff of nursing homes.

All information submitted is processed and reviewed by our staff. Such information will inform our regulatory activity throughout the remainder of the year.

For more information on the work of our Older Person's Team in 2017, see our recently published [Overview of HIQA regulation of social care and healthcare services 2017](#).

Children's Team news update



Our Children's Team has completed its final inspection focusing on foster care, which it has been carrying out across the Child and Family Agency's (Tusla's) 17 service areas.

The final inspection in this current foster care inspection programme took place in Tusla's Donegal Service Area. A report of the inspection will be published on our website in due course.

Our Children's Team has also inspected six private foster care services, in which children are placed by Tusla (Care Visions, Oak Lodge, Foster Care Ireland, the Orchard Children Fostering Services, Five Rivers Ireland and Fostering First Ireland).

A number of inspection reports on these services are now available to view on our website. This programme of inspection focuses on the assessment, approval, training, and support and supervision of foster carers.

As outlined in the last *HIQA News* update, a follow-up foster care programme is also underway in each of the four Tusla regional areas: West, South, Dublin North East, and Dublin Mid-Leinster.

Inspections have also taken place in three of the country's four special care units. These inspections are, for the first time, to inform a registration decision of these services by HIQA.

In line with the Child Care (Amendment) Act 2011, HIQA has 12 months from commencement of this legislation to register the four special care units — meaning that all of the special care units must be registered by 31 December 2018.

So far this year, we have also completed 12 monitoring inspections of children's residential centres, and an inspection of Oberstown Children's Detention Campus. All published inspection reports are available on our website, www.hiqa.ie.

For more on the work of the Children's Team during 2017, see our new [Overview of HIQA regulation of social care and healthcare services 2017](#).

New review of HIQA regulation of health and social care services



Overview of HIQA regulation of social care and healthcare services 2017



May 2018

We have published a review of our regulation of health and social care services, identifying areas of good practice and improvement, as well as the key challenges in providing care to some of Ireland's most at-risk population.

[Read the press release.](#)

[Read the report.](#)

[View our infographic of findings](#)

Photocall — EUnetHTA meeting in HIQA



We recently hosted a meeting of the Executive Board of EUnetHTA (European Network of HTA). Pictured in our Dublin office on the day are representatives of the various HTA agencies, including our Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Dr Máirín Ryan, who are members of EUnetHTA from across the EU. Máirín recently stepped down as Chairperson of the EUnetHTA Assembly at the end of her two-year term and was elected as a member of the Executive Board.

Photocall — HIQA @ HTAi Annual Meeting



Our Deputy Chief Executive and Director of HTA Dr Máirín Ryan pictured at the recent Health Technology Assessment international (HTAi) 2018 Annual Meeting, held in Vancouver, Canada. Máirín was speaking in a panel discussion entitled: 'Connecting the Dots: Essential Elements of an Efficient HTA Ecosystem'. She also delivered a presentation on 'Organisational HTA: HIQA's HTA of Mechanical Thrombectomy in Stroke'. Also pictured is Dr Stirling Bryan, Vancouver Coastal Health and University of British Columbia. Dr Conor Teljeur from HIQA also attended, and he delivered presentations on 'Comparing Approaches to Univariate Sensitivity Analysis' and on 'Hasty HTA: HTAs under severe time constraints'.

Review of how we develop national standards and guidance for health and social care services

HIQA's Standards Team is currently reviewing its methodology for developing national standards and guidance for health and social care services in Ireland.

To inform this work, the team is carrying out an international review with key experts in the area, looking at the approaches taken by similar organisations internationally when developing standards and guidance.

To date, the team has engaged directly with organisations including:

- ♣ Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
- ♣ National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)
- ♣ Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)
- ♣ Department of Health, Northern Ireland
- ♣ Health Quality Ontario
- ♣ Healthcare Improvement Scotland
- ♣ Welsh Government
- ♣ Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare
- ♣ Defactum (developers of the Danish Standard Programme for Social Services)
- ♣ Danish Institute for Quality and Accreditation in Healthcare.

This review will also be informed by a number of discussions with key interested parties who have played an important role in shaping several HIQA national standards and guidance development projects in the past.

The team has contacted over 120 past advisory group members who have been a part of previous national standards and guidance development projects.

The aim of this survey was to gather these members' views on how standards and guidance are developed in HIQA, looking at what works well and where changes are needed, including how the impact of national standards and guidance can be increased across the system.

It is anticipated that the findings from the international review and engagement with internal and external stakeholders will provide a solid platform to inform improvements made to HIQA's current methodology for developing national standards and guidance for health and social care services in Ireland.

Photocall — MHC and HIQA safeguarding seminar



Pictured at the National Safeguarding Seminar in May were, left to right: Rosemary Smyth, Interim Chief Executive of the Mental Health Commission, our CEO Phelim Quinn and Patricia Rickard-Clarke, Chairperson of the National Safeguarding Committee

National Standards for Adult Safeguarding



Pictured at the Safeguarding Seminar were conference speakers with the Chairpersons and CEOs of HIQA and the MHC, along with our Director of Health Information and Standards Rachel Flynn and Patricia Rickard-Clarke, Chairperson of the National Safeguarding Committee.

HIQA and the Mental Health Commission held a seminar in May on 'Adult Safeguarding: Promoting Rights, Health and Wellbeing'.

The seminar was held to raise awareness among practitioners, policy makers and people using services about what safeguarding is and why it is important.

HIQA CEO Phelim Quinn said while both HIQA and the Mental Health Commission have come across many services that provide excellent, person-centred care, unfortunately they have also encountered many services where a number of people using services, by virtue of their condition, circumstance or the prevailing culture of the service, may have been vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Speakers at the seminar included Dr Margaret Flynn, Chair of the National Safeguarding Board in Wales and Paul McFall, a peer advocate for people using mental health services.

Over 200 delegates attended the seminar, including people with experience of health and social care services and advocates, front-line staff and designated officers,

managers and registered providers as well as policy makers from the Department of Health, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, and members of An Garda Síochána.

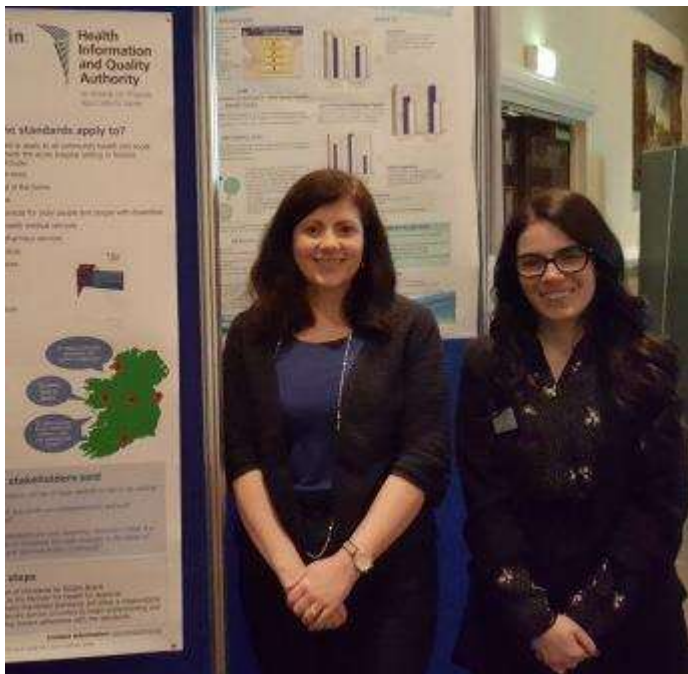
On the same day of the seminar, HIQA and the MHC invited over 70 health and social care practitioners, community service providers, advocates and people using services to participate in focus groups in order to contribute to the development of national standards for adult safeguarding.

Phelim Quinn stated: “We hope that these standards will be one way in which abuse and neglect can be actively minimised and prevented, which surely must be our aim every bit as much as reporting and investigating abuse when it takes place.”

A [background document to inform the development of the national standards for adult safeguarding](#) was also published on the day of the seminar. This comprehensive document summarises international, national and academic evidence for adult safeguarding.

A short video created by HIQA and the Mental Health Commission was also launched at the seminar. The video promotes awareness about what safeguarding is and how it is connected to people’s rights, health and wellbeing. The [video can be viewed by clicking here](#).

Update on draft national standards for infection prevention and control in community services



Pictured are Linda Weir and Catriona Keane from our Standards Team at the Infection Prevention and Control Ireland Annual Conference, where they presented a poster on our draft standards for infection prevention and control in community services.

The draft national standards for infection prevention and control in community services have been completed.

The standards were approved by the HIQA Board in May and subsequently submitted to the Minister for Health for approval.

The standards aim to protect people using health and social care services in the community from the risk of acquiring a healthcare-associated infection.

The standards were informed by extensive research and engagement with a range of interested and informed parties such as people using services, staff working in community health and social care services, patient and service-user advocacy groups, Health Service Executive (HSE), Department of Health, regulatory bodies, and professional representative organisations.

The Standards Team in HIQA carried out a national public consultation on a draft version of the standards over a six-week period from January to March this year. A summary of the feedback received and the main amendments will be published in a Statement of Outcomes, along with the final standards.

On 27 April 2018, the draft standards were presented through a poster display at the Infection Prevention and Control Ireland Annual Conference. Catriona Keane from the Standards Team also gave an oral presentation at the conference entitled: 'Development of draft national infection prevention and controls standards for community services.'

Focus on the work of our Health Information Quality Team



Pictured are members of our Health Information Quality Team, from left to right: Caroline Hurley, Tina Boland, Maria Ryan, Barbara Foley and Aoife Healy

Within our Health Information and Standards Directorate, we have a Health Information Quality Team.

Its aim is to improve patient safety and quality of care by providing leadership in defining the health information landscape in Ireland.

Among its significant projects to date is the [Catalogue of national health and social care data collections](#), now in its third revision.

Dr Barbara Foley, who manages the Health Information Quality Team, says the catalogue is an important resource detailing the information currently being gathered by national health and social care data collections.

Barbara comments: "It enables all interested and informed parties, including the general public, people using services, clinicians, researchers, and healthcare providers, to readily access information about health and social care data collections in Ireland."

Both the [updated Catalogue and an online version of the Catalogue](#) are available on the HIQA website. Our Health Information Quality Team has a number of other key responsibilities, including:

- setting standards and developing guidance for health information, and assessing compliance with those standards
- making recommendations about health information to the Minister for Health
- influencing relevant policy and legislation.

And in light of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which was enacted on 25 May 2018, the team revised the [Guidance on Privacy Impact Assessment in health and social care](#) to reflect the legislative changes.

In the past year, the team also published [Information management standards for national health and social care data collections](#) and started a structured review programme to assess compliance with these standards.

To complement these standards, it also developed a set of guidance to aid national data collections to comply with them. The first of these was published in 2017, called [Five quality improvement tools for national data collections](#).

Barbara Foley adds: “In the past year, we have also hosted the ‘*Better data, better decisions*’ national health information seminars, and the team is currently developing guidance on a data quality framework for health and social care organisations in Ireland. The finalised guidance and a background paper are due to be published in September 2018.”

The 2018 National Patient Experience Survey Programme



Tracy O’Carroll, Project Manager of the National Patient Experience Survey, pictured with staff members in Connolly Hospital, Dublin, to promote the 2018 National Patient Experience Survey



HIQA CEO Phelim Quinn visiting St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin, to promote the 2018 National Patient Experience Survey

We are urging all patients who have been asked to take part in the 2018 National Patient Experience Survey to tell about their recent experience in hospital.

We invited up to 28,000 people who are 16 years old and over and who were discharged from one of the country's 40 public acute hospitals in May to give us their views.

You can find out more about [the National Patient Experience Survey for 2018 here](#).

Plans are progressing to publish all of the findings from the National Patient Experience Survey 2018 online. This will mean that the results will be easily and quickly accessible to everyone.

An online tool to allow hospitals to see their results by stage of care and survey question is currently being tested by volunteers from around the country. You can follow our progress on www.patientexperience.ie or on [twitter](#) and [facebook](#).

The survey team has been visiting each of the 40 participating hospitals, where we are providing a summary of last year's findings and thanking them for their assistance in the project.

Hospitals are showing us the improvements that they are working on as a result of patient feedback during the 2017 survey. We are publishing those improvements: [click here for more details](#).

Photocall — HIQA attends Annual Health Promotion Conference



Members of our Standards Team attended the recent 22nd Annual Health Promotion Conference held in Galway. Pictured is Conor Foley from our National Patient Experience Survey team who also attended the conference and who gave a presentation on the survey at the event.

Public consultation on recommendations for a national community-based electronic prescribing programme

We have started a [six-week public consultation on community-based electronic prescribing in Ireland](#). The closing date for receipt of comments is 5pm on Friday, 3 August 2018.

Electronic prescribing (or ePrescribing) means that when a prescriber creates a prescription for a patient using their clinical information system, the prescription information can be transmitted electronically to a pharmacist. When the patient presents the script at any pharmacy, the pharmacist can download the prescription information electronically.

ePrescribing can really improve patient safety by reducing the likelihood of a patient being given an incorrect dose or incorrect medication, or of being mistaken for someone else. It can also help to highlight any potential adverse interactions with other medications.

ePrescribing can also save money and time compared to processing the same prescriptions manually. In fact, international evidence shows that ePrescribing can make a huge difference to patients, prescribers, and pharmacists.

In June, HIQA published a [comprehensive review of evidence from international ePrescribing programmes](#), which examines the benefits that international ePrescribing programmes have actually realised and identifies some of the best practices that help ePrescribing to succeed.

HIQA's review also covered the Irish national ePrescribing in Community Care initiative, which was launched by eHealth Ireland in 2015 with the goal of improving patient safety, and highlighted how the best practices could be relevant to the Irish national ePrescribing initiative. HIQA used the findings to develop [draft recommendations about ePrescribing](#).

Following the public consultation, HIQA, in conjunction with an Advisory Group we have convened to advise us on this project, will develop final recommendations which will be submitted to the Minister for Health.

[Read the press release.](#)

[Read the companion document to this: ePrescribing: an International Review.](#)

PHOTOCALL — Annual meeting of the Council of Clinical Information Officers



Pictured are Aoife Healy and Tina Boland from our Health Information Quality Team at the Annual Meeting of the Council of Clinical Information Officers, held in Dublin on 15 May 2018.

Update on electronic patient summary standard

We are developing a health information standard to specify information requirements for a national electronic patient summary.

Healthcare is under increasing pressure to harness the benefits of information. Patients expect their health information to be recorded, processed and used appropriately for their benefit.

Healthcare professionals require access to complete, valid and up-to-date health information in order to make informed choices and decisions.

In order to meet these demands, a number of countries have focused on developing electronic patient summaries.

The standard that HIQA will begin to develop will specify information requirements for a national electronic patient summary.

HIQA has previously published a suite of standards which include clinical datasets that can inform the development of a national electronic patient summary document, including in 2016 and 2017:

- ♣ [Standard for Diagnosis](#)
- ♣ [Standard for Adverse Reaction](#)
- ♣ [Standard for Procedures.](#)

We will be undertaking a public consultation on standards in the near future and look forward to receiving your feedback.

Latest HIQA Annual Report published



We have published our Annual Report for 2017.

[Read the Annual Report here.](#)

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