

The Northern Ireland Electronic Care Record (NIECR)

Information for Better Care in Northern Ireland



Better, safer, faster care

Health and Social Care (HSC) information about you is needed to make sure you get the best care possible. Information is recorded on paper records and increasingly on secure computer systems in Health and Social Care organisations such as GP surgeries and hospitals.

Information from your electronic records is important to the staff looking after you, such as doctors and nurses, to ensure they can give you the best care. Health and Social Care Northern Ireland is introducing a new computer system to make it easier for staff to get the information they need to look after you, even if your treatment has been in a different hospital or other part of the service. The new system is called NIECR – the Northern Ireland Electronic Care Record.

The NIECR will contain information from existing electronic record systems from hospitals and clinics throughout Northern Ireland. This will include: lab tests, x-rays, appointments and discharge letters. If you have chosen to allow details of your drugs and any allergies to be shared by your GP through the Emergency Care Summary, these will also be in your record on the NIECR.

Only the staff caring for you will be able to look at your information on the NIECR and you will be asked for your permission first. An audit trail will check this.

NIECR is part of a programme of improvement called **eHealth and Social Care**.

For more information on the NIECR and other projects:
www.ehealthandcare@hscni.net



What does NIECR mean for me?

- Doctors can check your x-rays and test results on computer. This means they can look at the results as soon as they are available, and your treatment can start sooner.
- If your GP refers you to a hospital, information about your health can be sent to your hospital doctor in electronic form rather than through the post.
- If you have a long term condition, such as diabetes, you will be able to choose to include this information in the NIECR so that the different people looking after you will be able to see it.
- The Emergency Care Summary (ECS) is already in use for urgent care and includes details of your drugs and allergies from your GP. This will now be in the NIECR and available to staff involved in your care, such as at outpatient clinics.
- Letters about you sent to your GP from hospital will be included in the NIECR. This will help inform staff looking after you about your care.





What is Changing?

- More information about your health and care is recorded on computers instead of paper.
- This will mean information about you can be made available to staff wherever it is needed for your care.

How your information is kept safe

Staff working in health and social care services in Northern Ireland have both a legal and an ethical duty to protect the confidentiality of personal information on patients and service users. Regular checks are made on who has looked at personal information held electronically.

The NIECR is held in the HSC data centres and only accessible over the secure HSC network. Patient data can be accessed only by the HSC staff who need to see it to support your care.

How do I find out more?

If you would like more information or want copies of this leaflet in different formats or languages please visit:

Web: www.ehealthandcare.hscni.net
Email: ehealthandcare@hscni.net
Tel: 0300 555 0205