

4th European Hospital Conference (EHC)

Welcome - Céad Míle Fáilte

Chances & Challenges of eHealth

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Welcome

- It is a great pleasure to be here with you as President of the European Association of Hospital Managers. I really like what this event represents.
- You are about bringing together the most experienced, talented and knowledgeable health care professionals under one roof from all over Europe and beyond.
- I want to thank MEDICA and our core partners for the support they give our association on an annual basis. We all work together to improve the quality of health care for our community, understanding the importance of integrated working in order to achieve optimal benefits of integrated care.



South/South West Hospital Group Summary 2016 - 2017

- 9 hospitals
- Serves a population of 1.2million
- Annual Gross Budget of €940million
- WTE 9,799 (13,500 staff)
- Total Beds
 - Inpatient Beds 2,139
 - Day Beds 382
- Emergency Department Attendances 256,640
- Inpatient Discharges 118,154
- Day Cases 210,891
- Outpatient Attendances 580,621
- 2 Main Trauma Centres



- eHealth is one of the most significant areas of opportunity and challenge in the healthcare sector. My country Ireland is now positioning itself to benefit from this change as we embark on our journey into the eHealth sphere.
- This coupled with the development of a comprehensive eHealth strategy covering areas such as: Individual Health Identifiers (IHI's), Electronic Health Record (EHR), eReferrals and ePrescribing has produced a roadmap for the delivery of creative healthcare solutions.
- This presentation sets out my experience in outlining the challenges and opportunities that eHealth encounters as organisations across Europe transition from a traditional healthcare environment to a more integrated ecosystem of technology and data flow supporting the delivery of care to patients.



eHealth Definition

eHealth is often referred to as supporting the delivery of healthcare and a healthier life through the use and deployment digital technology.

It can include the following:

- Clinical information Systems used by health professionals for clinical care within a healthcare setting but also connecting outside care providers such as primary and community care.
- Systems for personalised telemedicine and homecare services such as disease management services, remote patient monitoring for example.
- Systems for integrated Regional / National Health Information
- Systems used for health-related aspects that are not directly linked to patient treatment commonly referred to as secondary use of non-clinical data

This broad scope for use also leads to an equally broad range of potential challenges and opportunities.



eHealth Drivers (1 of 2)

Current growth in eHealth is largely driven by:

Consumer Preferences

- Growing number of consumers using health related information available online.
- Need for greater participation and involvement in managing personal health status.
- Need for equitable access, customized care and differentiated services.
- Need for timely access to specialist knowledge and expertise.
- Convenience in reporting health measurements.

Technical Advances

- Connectivity and improved access through electronic communications
- Ability of electronic communications to transcend geographical constraints
- Advantages of using electronic communications in information/communication intensive field of health care.
- Availability of portable, network enabled health monitoring and diagnostic equipment to support remote care.



eHealth Drivers (2 of 2)

Health System Policy

- To enhance existing capabilities, extend reach and optimize use of scarce resources.
- To provide comprehensive health services through integrated care delivery networks.
- To improve monitoring, control quality and costs and enhance organizational decision-making through electronic sharing of data.
- Emphasis to shift nature of care from episodic towards continuity of care environment

Economic Considerations

- Need to shift patient care from hospital as appropriate to community/home settings.
- Declining costs of hardware and telecommunications.
- Need for comprehensive yet cost effective means of achieving national health policy



eHealth Benefits (1 of 2)

eHealth can enable the following benefits;

Health Delivery

- Improves quality and safety of care.
- Potential for increased clinician face time and enhances clinical information.
- Efficiency to both legacy healthcare systems new investments within existing systems.
- Increased transparency of service outcomes and puts a greater focus on community/home care.

Economic

- Makes health delivery more cost effective and sustainable.
- Opens up new markets and opportunities.
- Fuels entrepreneurships and start-ups.
- Increases overall health of the community.



eHealth Benefits (2 of 2)

Population

- Enables increased population wellbeing.
- Empowers patients by allowing them to proactively manage their own health, improving participation in self-monitoring and chronic disease management with a focus on personal wellbeing.
- Enables transparency for the patient.
- Allows better access to services
- Improves Epidemiology
- Better outcomes.



eHealth Opportunities

Opportunities

- Electronic Medical Records (EMR) / Computer Based Patient Records (CPR)
- Electronic Health Record
- Electronic Appointment Booking
- Computerised Physician Order Entry (CPOE)
- Electronic Transfer of Prescription (ETP)
- Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS)
- Personal Health Record (PHR)
- Patient Portals
- Telemedicine
- Business Intelligence (BI)
- Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) and Barcoding



Summary / Conclusion

- Ensuring that the eHealth becomes a suitable medium for delivering health care services in Europe is a challenging task. Data protection concerns must be overcome.
- eHealth must not only provide connectivity among the participants in clinical care transactions, but it must also ensure that such transactions do occur predictably, efficiently, and without endangering patient safety.
- The ability of eHealth to empower consumers, support dynamic information exchanges among organizations, and "flatten" organisational hierarchies will result in the need for new operational strategies, business models, service delivery modes, and management mechanisms.
- Healthcare agencies need to continually evaluate the potential and implications of eHealth, anticipate health care needs and be prepared to adapt to local conditions, while minimising the risks associated with eHealth service delivery.





Danke

Merci

Go raibh maith agat!



