

The Development of a National Electronic Cancer Referral System in the Republic of Ireland

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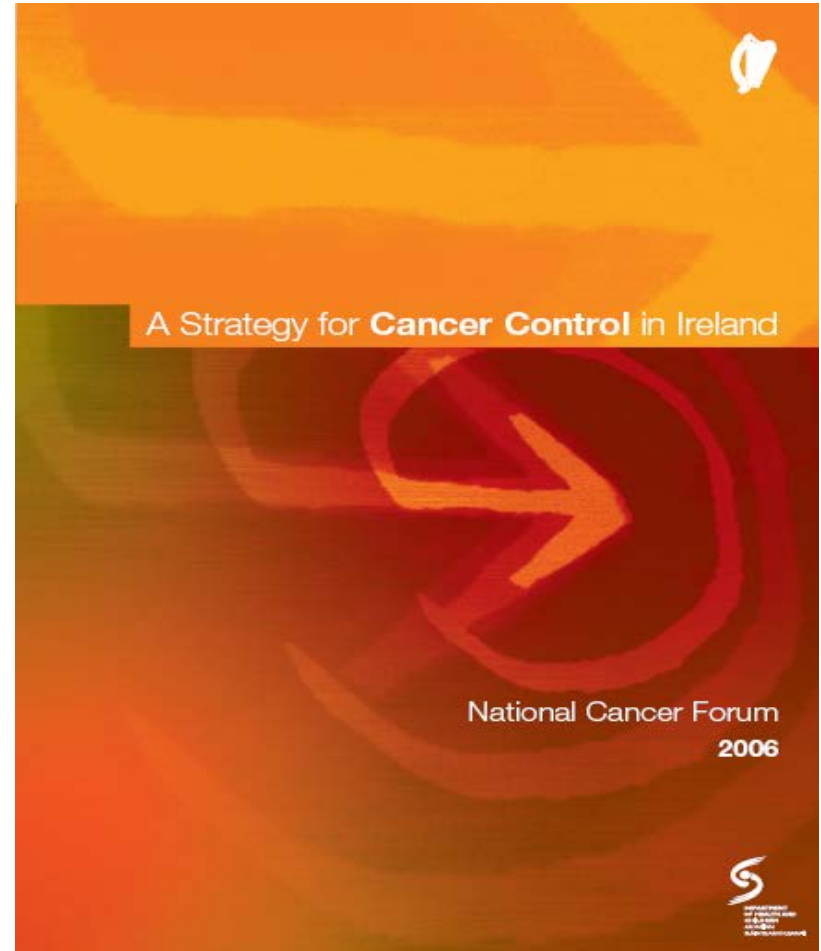


Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

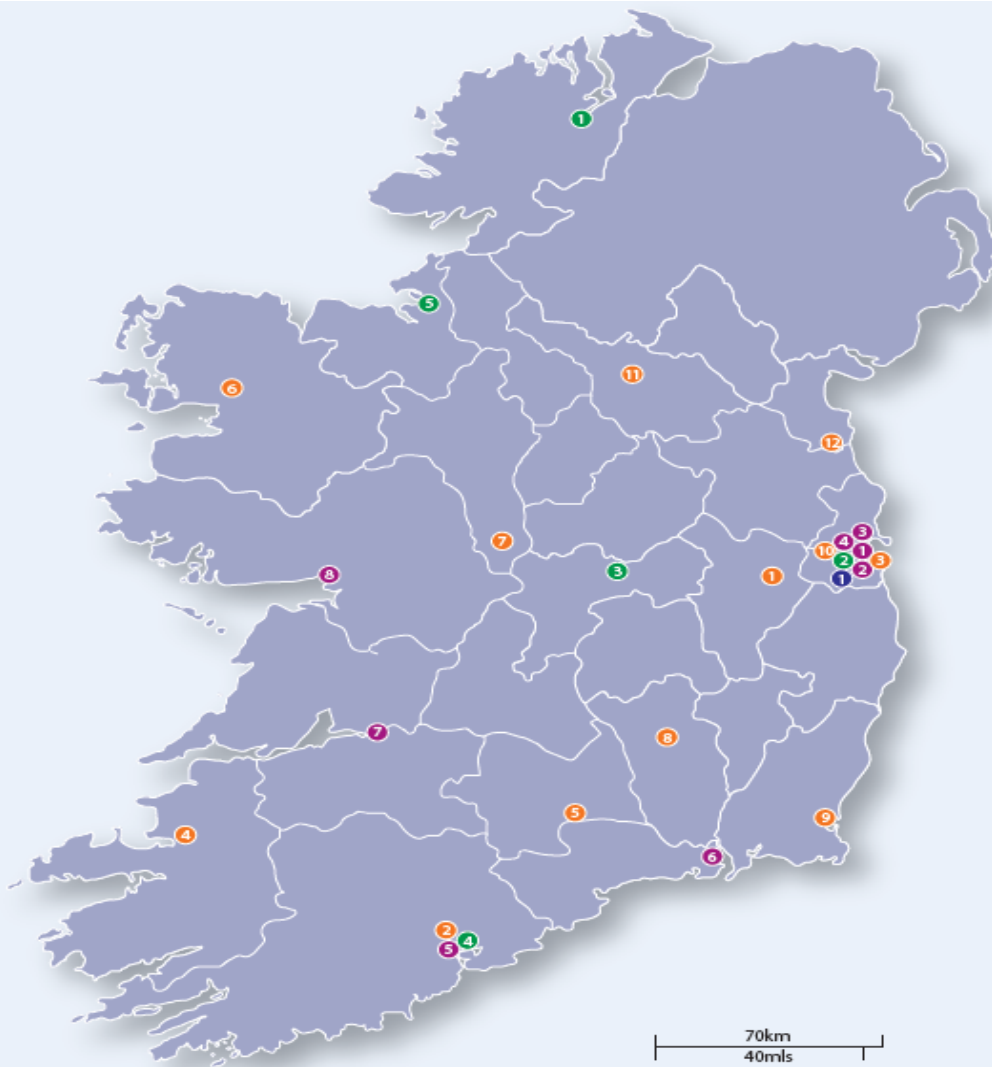


National Cancer Control Programme

- The National Cancer Control Programme was established in 2007 to implement the National Cancer Strategy.



Managed Cancer Control Networks and Cancer Centres



Designated Cancer Centres

- 1 Mater Misericordiae Hospital
- 2 St. Vincent's University Hospital
- 3 Beaumont Hospital
- 4 St. James's Hospital
- 5 Cork University Hospital
- 6 Waterford Regional Hospital
- 7 Mid-Western Regional Hospital Limerick
- 8 University College Hospital Galway

Centres with Medical Oncology/Haematology Consultants

- 1 Letterkenny General Hospital
- 2 Adelaide and Meath Hospital, Tallaght
- 3 Midlands Regional Hospital, Tullamore
- 4 Mercy University Hospital, Cork
- 5 Sligo General Hospital

Centres with visiting or part time Medical Oncologist

- 1 Naas General Hospital
- 2 South Infirmary/Victoria University Hospital
- 3 St. Luke's Hospital, Dublin
- 4 Kerry General Hospital
- 5 South Tipperary General, Clonmel
- 6 Mayo General Hospital
- 7 Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe
- 8 St. Luke's Kilkenny
- 9 Wexford General Hospital
- 10 Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown
- 11 Cavan General Hospital
- 12 Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda

Paediatric hospital

- 1 Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin

Actual Case Numbers of Invasive Cancers for 2005 and Projected Case Numbers for 2010 - 2035

	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	% increase 2010 - 2020	% increase 2010 - 2030
Head and Neck	277	352	452	573	709	882	1078	55	129
Oesophagus	334	389	453	530	620	718	815	32	73
Stomach	453	468	491	516	545	569	581	10	21
Colorectal	2111	2422	2863	3402	4065	4805	5537	40	97
Pancreas	384	459	540	637	751	878	1016	39	91
Lung	1831	2084	2457	2906	3460	4086	4746	30	70
Melanoma skin	606	767	985	1247	1556	1918	2323	64	154
Female breast	2196	2720	3294	3976	4752	5670	6724	46	108
Gynaecological	1002	1146	1350	1587	1850	2154	2464	38	88
Kidney	375	501	542	625	731	870	1023	34	91
Bladder	474	497	543	594	650	705	745	19	42
Brain and CNS	306	382	448	530	634	757	896	39	97
Lymphoma	601	804	996	1231	1514	1852	2233	53	129
Prostate	2415	2871	3437	4093	4828	5668	6559	43	97
All excl NMSC	15678	19060	23187	28110	33831	40399	47296	47	111
All cancers	21973	26283	31798	38379	46049	54780	63845	46	108

Source: NCRI, 2008

Electronic Cancer Referral Background

- The National Cancer Control Programme (NCCCP) and Healthlink (National Messaging Broker) commenced a project in late 2008 to deploy online GP cancer referral forms.
- The original project used a suite of web based referral forms, available online through Healthlink Online.
- Over 90% of GPs are computerised and use a GP practice management system

The National Healthlink Project

Healthlink provides a free national electronic messaging

- 82 Live Hospitals
- 1484 GP Practices
- 3805 GPs



Home Services Apply Training Resources News Remote Support

Statistics 25th April 2016

- › 82 Live Sites
- › 1484 Practices
- › 3805 GPs

Supporting Healthcare in Ireland

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.

Latest News

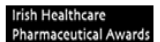
Healthlink have been shortlisted for a 2016 Tech Excellence Award in the IT Professional Team of the Year category.

The national Tech Excellence Awards are Ireland's principal badge of honour in the IT industry. The programme recognises excellence not only in implementing tech solutions but also in the business of marketing and implementing technology for business.

Healthlink are delighted to have been shortlisted and for the recognition of our efforts and achievements.

Winners will be announced on 12th May 2016.

Visit our [news page](#) for further updates.



Project Goals

Phase One

- An online referral form (Healthlink Online)

Phase Two

- An integrated referral form the accredited GP practice management systems

Phase Three

- Integrated Web Engine

Phase Four

- TeleDermatology/Attachment Project

Patient Name: Joan Rivers **Hospital:** St. Vincent's University Hosp

Date of Birth: 01/01/1945 (Age: 65 years)

Gender: Female

Pregnancy Status: Not pregnant

Referral Priority:* Urgent - to be seen within 2 weeks [Breast Referral Guidelines](#)

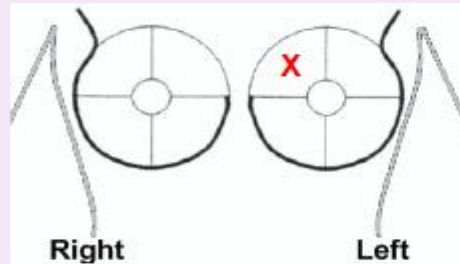
Symptom / Reason for Referral:*

- Ulceration
- Skin distortion
- Nipple eczema
- Blood-stained nipple discharge
- Recent nipple retraction or distortion (< 3 months)
- Discrete breast or axillary lump (unilateral, distinct, separate mass in patients over 35 years)
- Patients with an acute abscess should be referred immediately to the next available breast clinic

Other Symptom:

Symptom Duration:* 4 Weeks

Breast Examination:



Other Examination:

Prev Attendance at Breast Clinic: No

Prev Breast Disease: No

Lab Investigation:

Prev Mammogram:* No

Other Rad Investigation:

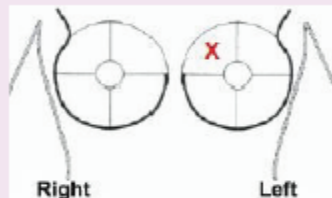
Patient Summary: Joan Rivers (01/01/1945 - F), 123 test, D 4

Referral Priority: Urgent - to be seen within 2 weeks

Symptoms: Ulceration

Symptom Duration: 4 Weeks

Breast Examination:



Previous Attendance at Specialist Clinic: No

Previous Breast Disease: No

Previous Mammogram: No

Social History:

- Physical mobility impairment: Yes
- Smoker: Yes
- Number of Cigarettes per day: 20
- Years Smoking: 40
- Drinker: Yes
- Units of Alcohol per week: 14

Current Medication: Anticoagulant Use: No

Comments / Reason for Referral: Please see patient urgently

Patient Demographics

Patient Name: Joan Rivers
Date of Birth: 01/01/1945 (Age: 65 years)
Gender: Female
Pregnancy Status: Not pregnant
Address: 123 test
 D 4
Phone: 0101010101
First Language: English
Interpreter Required: No
Public/Private Patient: Unknown
HIS Patient ID: Unknown

General Practitioner Details

Hospital: St. Vincent's University Hosp
GP: Test, PMS
Medical Council No.: 12121
Address: PMS Test Practice
 58 Eccles St
 Dublin 7
Phone: (01) 8825606
Phone (Emergency): 234234
Referral Sent: 15/11/2010 16:46
Message ID: REF2010111516465312121

Welcome: Arnie Hill



SYMPTOMATIC BREAST CLINIC RESPONSE FORM



Patient Name: Joleen Bloggs
Date of Birth: 01/01/1976 (Age: 34 years)
Gender: Female
Pregnancy Status: Not pregnant

Arrange OPD*: Yes

Clinic*: Urgent Referral (To be seen within 2 weeks)

Date: 24/11/2010 (DD/MM/YYYY)

Time: 09:00 (HH:MM)

Other comments: Patient will be seen urgently.

Next >>

Resources

- The NCCP have spent approximately €250,000. This covered the cost of the electronic general referral message, which is a national priority.
- The NCCP have invested a large amount of time and resources into making this project a success.

Benefits

- Streamline the cancer referral process
- Rapid access for patients who are being referred with a suspected cancer
- Provide automatic confirmation of receipt of GP referral
- The GP often completes the electronic cancer referral with the help of the patient
- Reduces stress for patients as it provides reassurance that the referral has been received by the cancer teams
- Provision of direct access for GPs to the cancer centres
- Introduces a greater degree of safety into the referral process
- Reduced costs for GP and HSE
- Reduced DNA (Do Not Attend) Rate with electronic referrals of approximately 3% versus posted/faxed referrals of 11%

Overcoming Obstacles

- Pre go live project meeting takes place with representatives from the following:
 - Hospital CEO/Corporate Function
 - Lead Clinician
 - Administration Function
 - Nurse Specialist
 - Healthlink Representative
 - NCCP Project Manager and Project Sponsor
- Service Level Agreements are signed
- Responsibility for opening and responding to the electronic referrals are agreed.

Risk / Issue Management

- Resources – Testing & Clinical Audit
- Lack of centralised cancer referral offices
- Difficulty in providing communication updates
- GP Vendor Engagement
- GP Issues
 - Behavioral change
 - Non computerised GP's
 - Non accredited systems

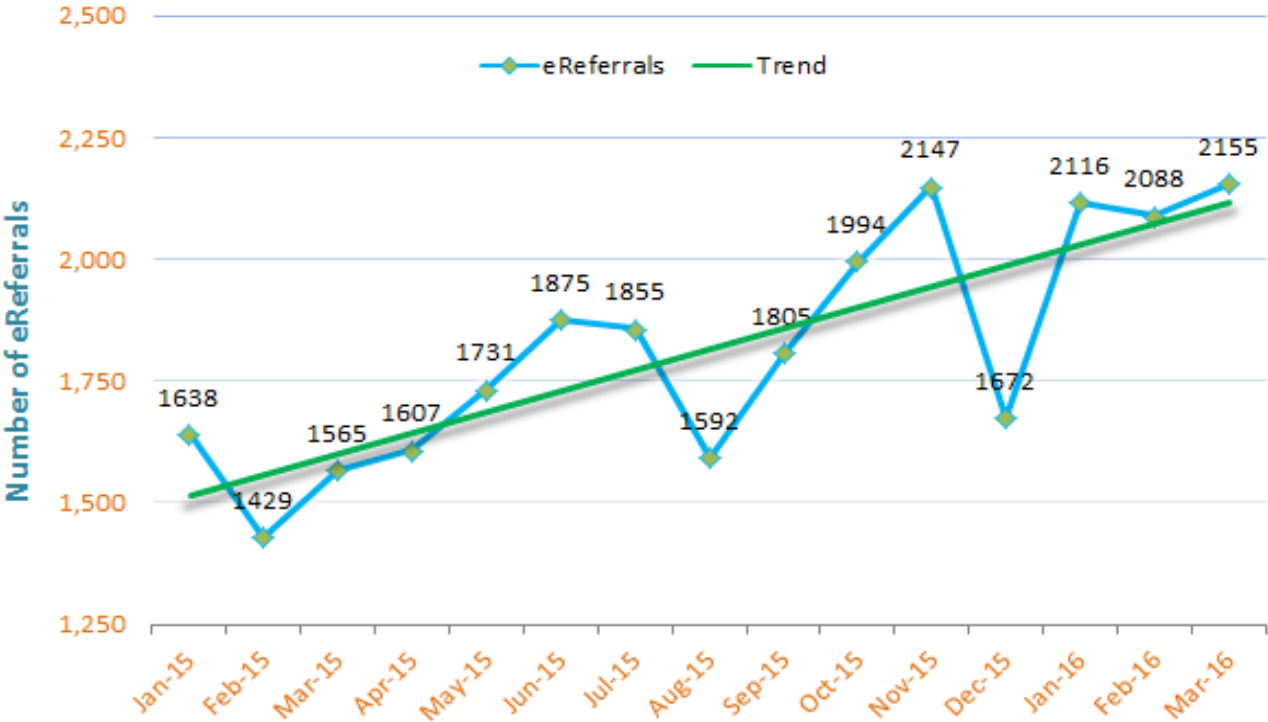
Key Success Factors

- Corporate, Medical Records, Risk and Legal & IT Department Support essential
- Identify key personnel to receive electronic GP referrals
- Agree and Sign a Service Level Agreement (SLA),
- Ongoing audit of internal process to ensure prompt response and communication with GP's
- Agreement from local GPs to use the system
- Approval and agreement from the Irish College of General Practitioners

eReferrals for Cancer Services Statistics



Electronic Referrals for Cancer Services



Acknowledgements

- Dr. M Laffoy, NCCP
- Dr. Regina Codd, NCCP
- M. Lalor, G Garvan, The National Healthlink Project
- Dr. B O'Mahony, GPIT Group
- V. Jordan, Office of the Chief Information Officer, HSE



I would like to dedicate this presentation to the late
Mrs. Orla Doogue Watters, Systems Analyst, The National
Healthlink Project
RIP aged 37 2015



Experience in Primary and Tertiary Care

http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/cancer/profinfo/resources/gpelectronic/Electronic_Cancer_Referral.html