

FOI/1977

05/12/2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**Question 1:****Do you monitor and log potential patient harms as a result of problems with your Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system?****Response:**

Currently no EPR is used within Southern Health & Social Care Trust (SHSCT). For information, an Electronic Patient Record system (Epic) has been procured for implementation throughout all HSC Trusts within Northern Ireland, the roll-out of which was due to get underway from November 2023. It is expected that SHSCT will implement the Epic EPR in Spring 2025.

Business Services Organisation (BSO) manage the contract regionally for the provision of Epic (under the Encompass Programme) for all HSC Trusts within Northern Ireland. Further details on the encompass programme can be found on the DHCNI website [encompass – DHCNI \(hscni.net\)](https://www.dhcni.net/encompass)

Question 2.**Overall, how many letters to GPs, or documents, have not been sent out as a result of EPR problems?****Response:**

Currently no EPR is used within Southern Health & Social Care Trust (SHSCT). Although no EPR is currently used within the SHSCT, the SHSCT has a number of stand-alone clinical systems covering a range of clinical areas and issues have been identified regarding the electronic transfer of documents which are being reviewed currently.

Note: Some of the SHSCT systems are interfaced with the Northern Ireland Electronic Care Record (NIECR). NIECR is a portal that stores clinical information from the separate Trust systems to provide Clinicians with an overview of the patient's history. All GPs in Northern Ireland have real-time access to the NIECR, however NIECR does not currently link directly into information systems in Primary Care. Therefore in addition to uploading Letters/Documents to the NIECR, the Trust utilises Electronic Document Transfer (EDT) functionality to also send the information to GPs electronically.

There are a number of documents that have been identified within our systems which have not been transferred to the GP electronically via EDT (note, only specific documents are identified for transfer via EDT). For those documents that were identified for transfer via EDT, it is expected that the majority have been uploaded to the NIECR (which the GPs in Northern Ireland have access to). There is currently a review process underway to identify the extent of this situation.

Question 3:

Please give the date/s when you discovered these letters were not sent?

Response:

It was discovered in September 2023 that not all correspondence due to be transferred to GPs via Electronic Document Transfer (EDT) had been transferred.

Question 4:

Overall, how many incidents of potential patient harm have been connected to your EPR system?

Response:

None. As above, no EPR is used within Southern Health & Social Care Trust (SHSCT) and none have been identified as part of review of documents to date.

Question 5:

Overall, how many incidents involving EPR at your trust have been declared as “serious harm” or a “serious incident”?

Response:

None. As above, no EPR is used within Southern Health & Social Care Trust (SHSCT) and none have been identified as part of review of documents to date.

Question 6:

Overall, how many patient deaths have been connected to EPR?

Response:

None. As above, no EPR is used within Southern Health & Social Care Trust (SHSCT) and none have been identified as part of review of documents to date.

Question 7:

How much have you spent on your EPR system overall?

Response:

Response:

Nil. Currently no EPR is used within Southern Health & Social Care Trust (SHSCT).

Question 8:

How much do you anticipate spending on EPR in the next five years?

Response:

Encompass is a regional programme managed by the Business Services Organisation (BSO). Further details on the encompass programme can be found on the DHCNI website [encompass – DHCNI \(hscni.net\)](https://www.hscni.net/encompass)

Question 9:

What is the anticipated cost of running the EPR system at your trust annually?

Response:

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Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net