

Pádraig O'Sullivan T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

22nd January 2025

PQ ref. 46266/24

To ask the Minister for Health the status of the HSE's recent EU tender for a platform to develop a national medicinal product catalogue; when it is expected to be delivered; if its implementation will disrupt current practices, given there is already a national file being used by community pharmacies and in other healthcare settings across the country; if so, the supports that will be in place to assist with the transition; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Standardised medicines information is a key component for integrated care delivery to our patients and citizens. In order for this to occur the HSE is developing the National Medicinal Product Catalogue (NMPC).

Currently, as a patient engages health services across various primary and secondary care settings they encounter a variety of paper-based and digital processes. Where electronic systems are in place, multiple drug files are in use. In order for a patients medicines information to move with them we require a nationally common underlying catalogue of information including descriptions and identifiers to be available for all drug files and electronic systems.

The NMPC is a key enabler for ePharmacy, electronic prescribing, digital health records and shared care records for patients. It will also support improved information sharing across the healthcare, regulatory and medicines supply chain environments.

A public tendering process was undertaken across 2024 to procure the core technology required to operate the National Medicinal Product Catalogue. This process is now complete and work has commenced with the successful tenderer.

Project activities are progressing to support the delivery of service outputs to an initial cohort of implementations across primary and secondary care from 2026. This is in advance of availability to the wider healthcare ecosystem.

In order to deliver the benefits of Sláintecare, change management forms a critical component of national healthcare delivery projects. To date, learnings from other



health-systems and stakeholder feedback have helped inform change requirements in this area.

The NMPC will work with Community Pharmacists on implementation of the required interoperability to their clinical practices. We also plan for ongoing, increased engagement with pharmacy drug file vendors and pharmacy software providers as we approach this implementation.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane Byrnes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shane Byrnes
Clinical Lead National Medicinal Product Catalogue