Briefing Document (September 2024)

What is encompass?

- encompass is an HSCNI wide programme which will introduce a new nationwide digital care record for every person in Northern Ireland.

- Western & Southern Health and Social Care Trusts will both Go-Live with the encompass system on 8 May 2025

- encompass will allow Health and Social Care Northern Ireland (HSCNI) to provide patients and service users with the safest, highest quality of care that is possible.

- An electronic health care record (EHCR), electronic patient record (EPR) or electronic health record (EHR) is a single, digital record for each person which records all their health and social care needs from the date encompass is implemented.

- General Practice (GP) and Primary Care are currently not within the scope of the encompass programme. GPs will have access to encompass via EpicCare Link. EpicCare Link is an online read-only view of a person's electronic health record. Primary Care and Non-Trust clinicians can view patient records, place referrals and radiology orders.

- encompass is the programme. Epic is the system. The electronic record system is provided by Epic, a proven technology used globally.

- The encompass team comprises staff from across many HSCNI disciplines. The regional team is working closely with Trust colleagues to implement encompass on a Trust by Trust basis. HSCNI staff have partnered with Epic's expertise to build encompass as a new system unique to NI.

When is encompass being rolled out?

- Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) along with Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT) have announced they will both Go-Live with encompass on 8 May 2025, following in the footsteps of South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) who implemented the system on 9 November 2023, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) who implemented the system on 6 June 2024 and Northern Health and Social Care Trust due to implement on 7 November 2024.

Why are we doing this?

- Northern Ireland currently uses lots of different systems which cannot easily communicate with each other. Many of these systems are old and require replacement. encompass will improve patient care by seamlessly communicating via one system.

- Rather than continuing to rely on paper records and replacing technology on a system-by-system basis, we are implementing encompass, to provide one single health and care record and enhance the way we deliver care.

- Click this link to see how encompass has benefited the pharmacy profession in SEHSCT - This clinical transformation for care providers, patients and service users will improve the sustainability of Health & Social Care in Northern Ireland.

- Click this link to see how encompass has benefited community nursing in SEHSCT - South Eastern Trust community nursing - encompass

- Click this link to see how encompass is working for different professions in SEHSCT - encompass 6 months on in SET

- Click this link to see how encompass has benefited community nursing in BHSCT - BHSCT community nursing - encompass

What progress is being made on implementation?

- Two trusts currently live: SEHSCT and BHSCT have both successfully implemented encompass within the past year.
- NHSCT are set to implement encompass on Thursday 7 November 2024.

- Followed by the remaining two trusts: SHSCT and WHSCT both set to implement encompass on 8 May 2025.

- The new devices required to support this change have been deployed and testing has begun to ensure everything is ready and in place for Go-Live.

- When encompass is being implemented, patients arriving in SHSCT and WHSCT hospitals will see more staff onsite supporting the move to encompass. Patients may also see staff using devices which look like mobile phones. They are using these devices to access patient records and input information.

- During the implementation period, there may be some disruption to services as staff adjust to the new ways of working. SHSCT and WHSCT will communicate with the public during the Go-Live phase and communications are put in place to ask everyone to be patient as they implement this new way of working.

- Patients and service users will be able to securely access their health and care records via a patient portal called ['My Care'](). It is important to note this digital record will not contain historical records. Please note, SEHSCT and BHSCT service users and patients will have access to My Care.

- Once each Trust(s) 'goes live' with encompass, patients and service users accessing services within that Trust will be able to access some healthcare information via the My Care app.

- In due course encompass will Go-Live across all of Children's Social Services and Healthcare in Prison.

What will this new system mean for people who use our services?

A single health record for patients means:

- Less repetition – you will spend less time telling your story over and over again to different health providers and less time undergoing repeat tests.
- Improved quality and consistency of care with NICE (The National Institute for Health and Care excellence) standards being used to design one system for all of Northern Ireland.
- The patient portal, My Care, will provide access to some of your health and social care records helping you to become more empowered in your health journey.
- Digital safety checks will be built into the system for allergies, infection risks and dose checking providing patients with improved safety.

Where can I find out more information?

- Please visit the programme website - encompass
- Please also watch this short animation
- FAQs are available here – [encompass information](encompass%20information)
- Easy read information is available here - [Easy Read information](Easy%20Read%20information)