

EpicCare Link Overview

Encompass is an operationally and clinically led transformation programme which is technology enabled with a region wide electronic health and care record at its heart.

For many years staff across HSCNI have accessed patient information via the Northern Ireland Electronic Care Record.

Encompass provides a new, secure single record that will ultimately replace NIECR as the method for accessing patient health information.

As encompass is rolled out across Northern Ireland it will require referring clinicians and external staff to make use of EpicCare Link to view patient records.

Please read below to find out further information about EpicCare Link.

What is EpicCare Link?

EpicCare Link is a web-based portal that provides read-only access to encompass – the new electronic health and care record being implemented at HSCNI. EpicCare Link grants access to clinical information documented in encompass and some limited functionality such as requesting imaging tests.

Who will have access?

If you have an active NIECR account, you will be automatically provisioned access to EpicCare Link starting in November when the first Trust (SEHSCT) goes live. There are some additional users who do not currently have NIECR accounts that will also receive Link access as well such as GP Out of Hours call handlers and Social Care assistants.

Why do I need to use EpicCare Link?

As each Trust goes live with encompass, you will need access to both encompass data and NIECR to complete the full health picture for your patients and service users. When all Trusts are live, NIECR will be phased out and EpicCare Link will be the primary source for up-to-date clinical information from HSCNI.

Do I need to be trained on how to use EpicCare Link?

Because of its read-only nature and limited functionality, EpicCare Link does not require robust training and is intuitive to use. User Guides and some demo video recordings will be available to explain all interactive features, but training is not a requirement to access the portal.

When will I be able to access EpicCare Link?

Once you receive your login credentials via secure email, you can test your log in and gain access to the system. Note that available clinical data will be minimal until SEHSCT has been live for a few weeks and it will be limited to patients seen at SEHSCT (more data will be available as each subsequent trust goes live).

Ok – so what's next?

Further details about Link will be sent over the coming days and weeks ahead of SET's encompass go-live (9th November). This initial communication is to ensure awareness of EpicCare Link amongst active NIECR users (Non-Live Trust staff, GPs, optometrists, etc.).

If you have any queries please contact epiccarelinkhelpdesk@hscni.net

With thanks,

Dr Dermot Hughes (SRO encompass)