

ELECTRONIC PATIENT RECORD IMPROVES EPILEPSY CARE

A new electronic patient record (EPR) developed at Beaumont Hospital is improving the care of patients with epilepsy. Compared to traditional paper-based records, the EPR means fewer delays for patients in receiving the clinical services they need, and it also helps to monitor, improve and streamline how the epilepsy service is provided.

“The switch to electronic hasn’t just been about transferring the paper records into a computer system,” explains Mary Fitzsimons, Principal Physicist at Beaumont’s Epilepsy Programme.

She led a five-year study to design the record based on patients’ needs as they move through their healthcare journey. Part of the project assessed how the database of information - which now covers more than 1,700 patients in Beaumont and is to be rolled out nationally - can be used securely and with no breach of patient confidentiality.

“Having the data at their fingertips will now allow researchers to carry out broader studies on epilepsy management in a way they never could before,” she adds.

“We need to have the information to be able to measure the performance of our services, and going electronic is the way to do that.”

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