



## DMF Systems Deliver Electronic Discharge Summaries with Clinical Coding for Galway University Hospitals.

HSE Hospitals and General Practitioners (GPs) recognise that quality and timely communication on patient discharge from hospital is vital to continuity of care ensuring improved health outcomes, reduced re-admission rates and ultimately better use of scarce resources. Most hospitals issue Discharge Summaries on patient discharge, to inform the relevant GP of the status of the patient. Discharge summaries, can be of variable standard and even difficult to source in busy hospitals. Poor quality summaries, or even no summary, have led to numerous examples of patients receiving inappropriate care on returning to the community. Studies have also shown that most summaries given to patients to deliver to the GPs, never reach their intended destination.

Galway University Hospitals (GUH) comprising University Hospital Galway, Merlin Park University Hospital and Roscommon County Hospital, with separate Medical Records decided that they needed to address the problem head-on. DMF Systems was selected to provide eDischarge to integrate with the existing PAS system and allow all the essential information on medical care, including coding, to be recorded at ward level and then to be communicated internally and electronically to GP's. Galway University Hospitals also used eDischarge to address other challenges. Diagnosis and procedure Coding (required for reimbursement), for example, is a huge challenge. Following the education of Medical Staff on clinical coding requirements, eDischarge is now used to capture the key data, making the whole process more efficient. Electronic Summaries are now available throughout the hospital by clinicians.

The delivery of Electronic Discharge summaries improves and speeds-up the communication between hospital clinical teams and the GP, with the quality of the summaries being improved all the time. The eDischarge system allows the clinical staff to accurately describe the Diagnosis and Procedures in line with ICD 10 coding at ward level. Once the clinical summary has been created in the system it is available to be authenticated hospital staff, even accessible by multiple users simultaneously, from any workstation in the hospital. User security within the system supports multiple access levels for different system users e.g. for viewing, editing or approving summaries and even tracking patients who have not had summaries.

The system ensures the approval of summaries by senior registrars and/or consultants. This function is streamlined by flagging a queue of summaries to be approved. Using colour coding, the approver can see the status of the queue at a glance and the system allows auditing of the approval process. Another benefit is that eDischarge can now supply most of the detail required for insurance claims for private patients. Discharge summaries are automatically electronically delivered to the GP's once the summary is validated. This process is done securely, and is logged within the system. As coding is performed at ward level it ensures that accurate results are sent to the GP and to other hospital staff. DMF System's eDischarge solution can be added on to an existing legacy PAS system, via HL7, hence its recent selection by another major Hospital Group.

*"eDischarge has been a great success. It's acceptance by medical staff and admin has been excellent simply because it makes their job easier and also offers clear benefits to our patients whether discharged or re-admitted. The project had the full support of the Records Committee, Clinical*

*Directors, Consultants and Management team."*

**Martin Molloy - IS Manager - HSE West**