eHealth, Legal, Ethical and Governance Challenges

Information Governance & eHealth

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Governance Phases:

• Clinical & Social Care Governance
• Corporate Governance
• Research Governance
• Information Governance
Health Records Data
Clinical Care Activity Data
Telehealth, Telemedicine, Telecare
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IG sits alongside the other governance initiatives to ensure that personal information is handled legally, securely, efficiently and effectively supporting the overarching aim of delivering the best possible care.

In England there is working model known as the NHS IG Toolkit. So far there are 24 versions of this toolkit designed for different organisations.
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Acute Trust
Ambulance Trust
Any Qualified Provider - Clinical Services
Any Qualified Provider - Non Clinical Services
Clinical Commissioning Group
Commercial Third Party
Commissioning Organisation
Community Health Provider
Community Pharmacy/DAC
Dental Practice
Eye Care Service
General Practice
Hosted Secondary Use Team/Project
Local Authority
Mental Health Trust
NHS Business Partner/ITC/ALB
NHS Business Services Authority
NHS Direct
PCT Cluster
Prison Health
Secondary Use Organisation
Social Care Delivery
Strategic Health Authority/Cluster
Voluntary Sector Organisation
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The IG requirements for NHS Acute Trusts are given as an example.
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Information Governance Toolkit
Requirements for Acute Hospitals:
1. Information Governance Management
2. Confidentiality and Data Protection Assurance
3. Information Security Assurance
4. Clinical Information Assurance
5. Secondary Use Assurance
6. Corporate Information Assurance
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Pros:
• Comprehensive
• Adaptable
• Annual Exercise
• Raises Awareness
• Promotes Good Practice

Cons:
• Needs considerable resources
• Has to catch up with new organisations and technologies
• Centrally driven, top down
• Tick box approach
• Relies on self assessment
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Possible research questions:

• What are the main drivers for information governance? Patients or wider influences?

• What approach to IG is appropriate for certain countries or different types of healthcare system?

• Is a top down, centrally driven approach the best way?

• What type of governance structures in various organisations are most effective?
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Thank you for your attention.

What do you think?