

Meet Amir



Hi, I'm Amir. I'm a researcher who looks at the differences in outcomes for patients who are treated for cardiac conditions across services and locations in Ireland. I undertake this research to find out the types of conditions patients have and what treatment they have received when they make a good recovery. This helps to inform guidelines for health and social care professionals which they can use to make sure that people get the best possible care.

The main challenge to my work is trying to access the information that I need for my research. At the moment, I have to search through hospital medical records for individual patients, which are mostly paper-based, to find information on conditions and outcomes. This is really time consuming and sometimes it can be hard to find the information that I need as medical notes can be recorded in different ways. In Ireland, there is no national electronic health record system which would provide a digital record of a patient's journey throughout their life and across all health and social care settings.

For example, in Finland information can be gathered automatically from a patient's electronic health record. They also have a system where researchers can apply to get access to anonymised health information for research or for planning services. I wish we had a similar system in Ireland - it would make our work so much more beneficial as it would be more timely and accurate and would help to drive improvements in the quality and outcomes of care in Ireland.