

DIG_IT: THE ASTHMA AND COPD PATIENT DIGITAL JOURNEY IN EUROPE



IRELAND FACTSHEET

The EFA DIG_IT project

In 2021, EFA conducted a survey with 970 asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients in five European countries to study how patients use digital health tools, their attitudes towards digital health, barriers to uptake, and needs in using new technologies. This country fact sheet highlights the survey results in Ireland, based on a national sample of 200 respondents (n=100 asthma + 100 COPD; 35% male, 65% female).

“

I've had three video calls with my consultant in the past year: check-ups, follow-up on blood test results, and tweaking medication

—
COPD patient from Ireland

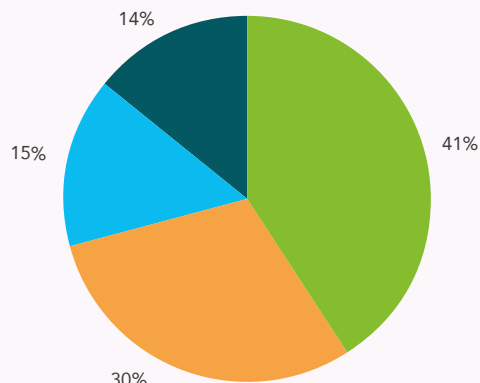
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Summary of the DIG_IT questionnaire results in Ireland

Digital technologies promise to make healthcare more efficient, data-driven and patient-centred. Ireland is neither a leader nor a laggard in adopting digital health tools, despite a broadly positive view of digital technologies. Irish asthma and COPD patients developed a more positive attitude to digital tools after the COVID-19 pandemic. While access to eHealth and mHealth tools is lower than the European average, and digital GP and hospital services remain low, the range of services on offer has increased.

Awareness of digital tools, and the use of online support groups also suggests potentially greater openness to health technologies. However, there is some catching up to do in the use of treatment apps and digital diagnostics. Ireland has potential to avail of future innovations but, like their peers across Europe, patients have concerns about data privacy and security. As the European Commission develops the European Health Data Space (EHDS), it is vital that the patient voice is heard.

Asthma and COPD patients' in Czech Republic openness towards digital services and tools



Very open Somewhat open Somewhat sceptical Very sceptical

Question 19: In general, how open are you to using digital services and tools in the context of your asthma/COPD?
Basis: Total n=200, asthma=100, COPD=100

EFA DIGITAL PATIENTS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IRELAND

- Healthcare providers should increase accessibility of digital tools used in patient care
- Patient advocates should build on patients' positive experiences with online tools to raise awareness and uptake of advanced digital technologies
- Healthcare professionals should be incentivised for using high quality apps and devices and must be trained to support patients in self-management



The one thing that would concern me would be privacy issues and hacking'

Asthma patient from Ireland



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info@efanet.org / www.efanet.org
EU Transparency Register
Identification Number:
28473847513-94



Asthma Society of Ireland
42-43 Amiens Street
Dublin, Ireland
www.asthma.ie

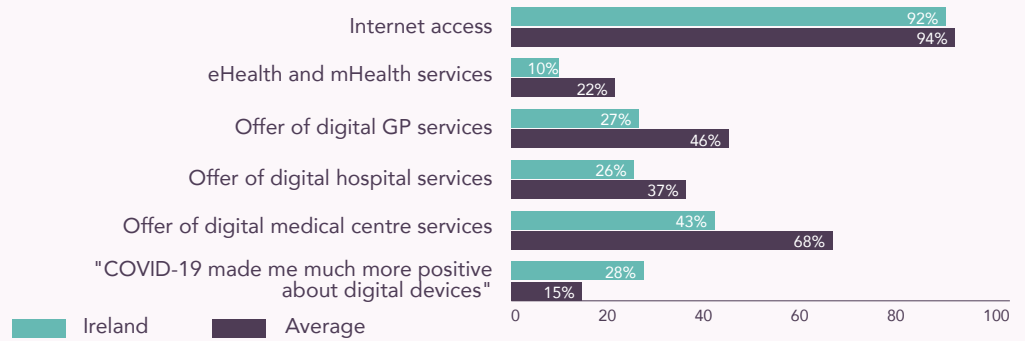


COPD Support Ireland
C/O Creidim Centre
Central Park, Leopardstown Road
Dublin, Ireland
www.copd.ie

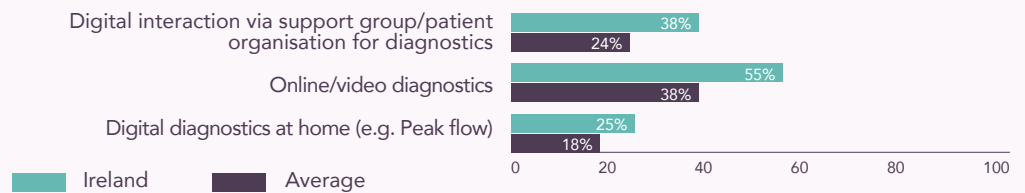


MORE INFORMATION ON THE DIG_IT PROJECT

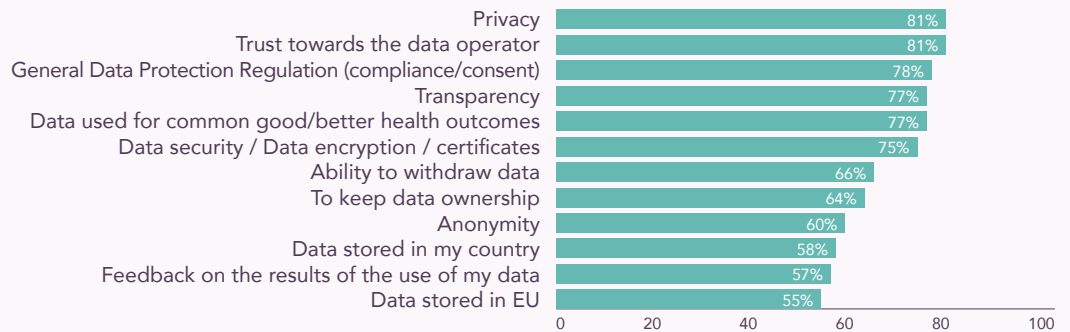
Low use of digital apps and diagnostics – but patients are open to new tools



Awareness of digital diagnostics

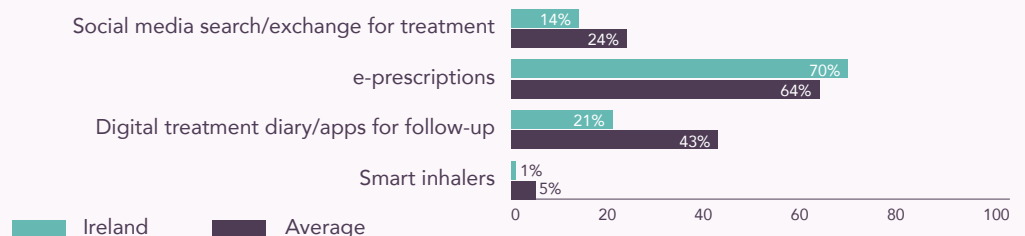


Asthma and COPD patients' in Ireland priorities when sharing data digitally

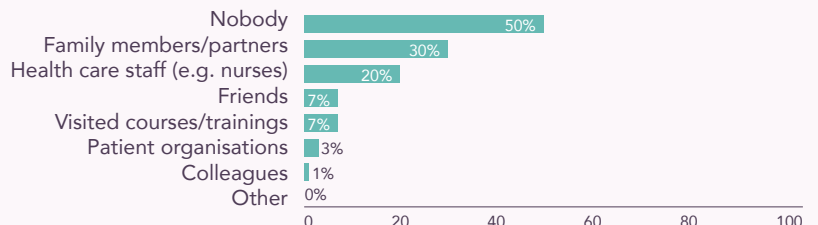


Question 35: How important are the following aspects to you when it comes to sharing data digitally?
Basis: Total n=200, asthma=100, COPD=100

Use of digital tools for asthma and COPD treatment



Asthma and COPD patients' in Ireland received support to use digital tools



Question 42: In case someone supports/supported your use of digital tools, who did/does?
Basis: Total n=200, asthma=100, COPD=100