

Recommended Reading



Irish College of GPs Library

Welcome to the May issue of Recommended Reading.

Every month, the library scan resources of interest to General Practice and recommends reports and research articles from reputable sources. Previously published issues are available on our website <https://www.irishcollegeofgps.ie/Home/Clinical-Hub/Publications-and-Journals/Evidence-Based-Resources>. We welcome any feedback or comments which can be emailed directly to library@icgp.ie.

Inside this issue:

College News & Publications	GPs In the News	Latest from the Department of Health	Key Health Reports
Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) Round-up	Spotlight on Irish Articles	Spotlight on Research Articles	Top Tip



College News & Publications



Forum May 2026

Tapping into Artificial Intelligence: adopting new tools in general practice.

Recent contributions to medical literature by Irish College of GP's affiliated researchers:

1. Point-of-care biomarkers or laboratory-based tests to reduce antibiotic prescribing for COPD exacerbations in primary care: a literature review and meta-analysis. *Br J Gen Pract.* 2026 May 7:BJGP.2025.0593. doi: 10.3399/BJGP.2025.0593.

College Affiliation: Prof Claire Collins

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2. Impact of guidance issued during COVID-19 to expand access to take-home dosing of opioid agonist treatment (OAT) on OAT prescribing practices in primary care in Ireland: An interrupted time series analysis. *Int J Drug Policy.* 2026 May 9;153:105321. doi: 10.1016/j.drugpo.2026.105321.

College Affiliation: Dr Des Crowley

[Read Article](#)

3. Protocol for the development of an intervention to improve the use of Point-of-care DiagnosticS in the management of respiraTOry tRact infectionS in primary care (the PREDICTORS study) [version 2; peer review: 2 approved]. *HRB Open Res* 2025, 7:73.
College Affiliation: Dr Paul Ryan
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4. Pharmacological treatments for Friedreich ataxia. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2026, Issue 5. Art. No.: CD007791. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD007791.pub5.
College Affiliation: Dr Mary Kearney; Patricia Patton
[🔗 Read Article](#)
5. Pae Ora - Healthy Futures: lessons learned from the first New Zealand Rural Health Strategy. *Rural Remote Health*. 2026 Apr;26(2):9922. doi: 10.22605/RRH9922.
College Affiliation: Prof Liam Glynn
[🔗 Read Article](#)



Guidance for GPs

Guidance for staff providing mental health services to persons with intellectual disabilities

This guidance provides practical strategies that service providers and practitioners can implement to improve outcomes for persons with MHID. It replaces the previous MHC document titled Code of Practice: guidance for persons working in mental health services with people with intellectual disabilities, which was published in 2009. This guidance is based on the most recent evidence review, current best practice and consultation with experts by experience and professionals.

The purpose of this guidance is to support staff in delivering care and treatment to individuals with co-occurring mental ill-health and intellectual disabilities (MHID) across all mental health service settings, including inpatient units, community residences and community based services.

[🔗 Read Guidelines](#)



GPs In the News: What's making headlines?

- 🔗 **RTE Radio 1, Morning Ireland, 23 April 2026**
[Majority of doctors using AI in clinical practice - survey](#)
- 🔗 **Irish Times, 25 April 2026**
[Up to 90% of adults with ADHD have diagnosis for separate condition, says GP](#)
- 🔗 **Irish Examiner, 27 April 2026**
[New doctors 'feel supported', but GP infrastructure 'lags behind' housing expansion](#)
- 🔗 **Irish Times, 28 April 2026**
[The GPs following in family footsteps: 'My grandfather and father were doctors in the same village'](#)
- 🔗 **Irish Times, 28 April 2026**
[Expanding RSV vaccination would result in 'significant reductions' in infant hospitalisation, says Hiqa](#)
- 🔗 **Laois Today, 30 April 2026**
[Laois doctor releases book on bloods tests in general practice](#)

[!\[\]\(cead67df4d82d6c83effe4f8699a7d8f_img.jpg\) The Journal.ie, 13 May 2026](#)

['I miss my old life': Doctor severely injured in hit-and-run speaks out on road safety crisis](#)

[!\[\]\(c507f772dba2b921f86777f01218e570_img.jpg\) Irish Times, 13 May 2026](#)

[National strategy could reduce risk of heart attacks and strokes by 80%, medics say](#)

Latest from the Department of Health

Press Release, 24 April

[Minister for Health launches four new Postnatal Hubs and the Postnatal Hub pilot evaluation](#)



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Press Release, 6 May 2026

[Minister for Health and Chief Medical Officer urge public to “Be Tick Aware” during peak Lyme disease season](#)

Press Release, 6 May 2026

[Minister Murnane O'Connor publishes research emphasising links between social deprivation and addiction](#)

Key Health Reports

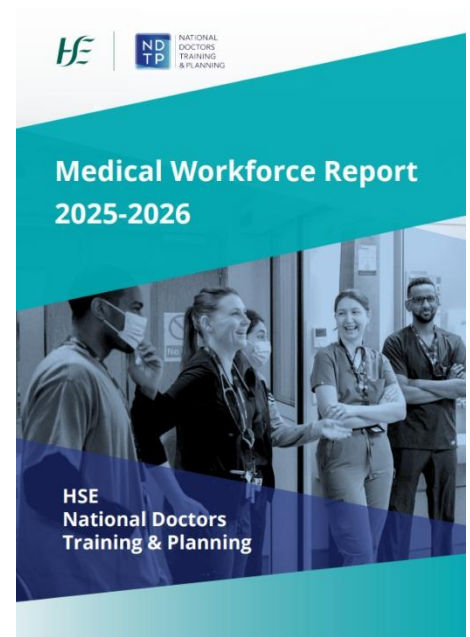
HSE NTDP Medical Workforce Report 2025-2026

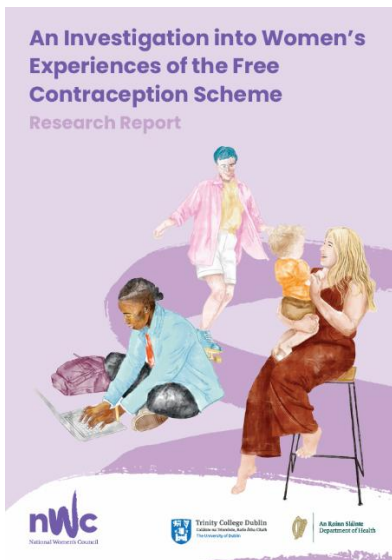
NDTP launched their most recent Medical Workforce Analysis Report for 2025-2026. This report gives an overview of the publicly funded medical workforce in Ireland for 2025 as well as highlighting changes in the workforce over recent years.

Key Findings:

- 7% growth in the number of doctors in Basic Specialist Training (BST) between 2024 and 2025.
- 9% growth in the number of doctors in Higher Specialist Training (HST) between 2024 and 2025.
- 2% increase in the number of doctors in non-training posts between 2024 and 2025.

[!\[\]\(28f72b996fc97883dfd9d4e8b1b16b4e_img.jpg\) Read Report](#)





An Investigation into Women's Experiences of the Free Contraception Scheme

A National Women's Council report, commissioned by the Department of Health and carried out in partnership with Trinity College Dublin, highlights that nearly one in three women experience barriers when trying to access the scheme.

This research sought to understand marginalised groups' awareness and knowledge of the Free Contraception Scheme (FCS) and their experiences of accessing contraception more broadly. This included disabled women, those from the Traveller community, migrant women and LGBTIQ+ people who require contraception.

The research highlights key challenges, incorporates testimonies from women, based on their lived experience, and provides targeted recommendations to ensure equitable access to contraception for all women in the Republic of Ireland.

[!\[\]\(23d9fc146e83b5c3013cfa32c784f8d5_img.jpg\) Read Report](#)

Traveller Substance Use in Ireland: A National Study

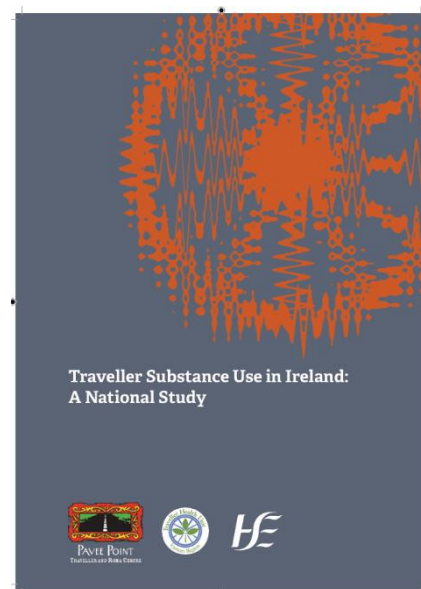
This is the most comprehensive study of Traveller substance use in over 15 years. The study was commissioned by the Eastern Region Traveller Health Unit, the Health Service Executive, and Pavee Point, and was carried out by researchers from Trinity College Dublin, drawing on mixed-methods research.

The research reveals that Travellers are overrepresented in addiction treatment, start drug use at an early age, and experience lower treatment completion rates, high polydrug use rates, and rising cocaine and prescription drug use, driven by racism, discrimination, and poor social determinants of health. It also highlights unique challenges for women including stigma and fear, rooted in historical experiences in the community, of losing custody of their children if they seek support.

[!\[\]\(aa53ad6fea213b8b2226d3077e30533a_img.jpg\) Read Report](#)

RCPI and EY Physician Survey on AI in Healthcare. April 2026

In late 2025, EY Ireland, in collaboration with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) undertook a survey of over 500 physicians working across a broad range of specialties and career stages. It aimed to assess the behaviours, perceptions and attitudes of physicians regarding the use of AI in healthcare. The findings offer new insight into how AI is being used in clinical practice, where clinicians see the greatest opportunities, and the concerns that remain. It highlights the rapid uptake of generative AI, the growing influence of AI on patient behaviour, and the emerging impact on clinical decision making and the doctor-patient relationship.



Key Findings:

- 58% of physicians reporting use within the past year.
- Engagement is frequent with 60% using these tools at least weekly and more than one in five using them daily.
- Clinicians recognise clear potential benefits in efficiency, documentation, and decision-making.
- 93% of clinicians report a need for additional training.

[Read Report](#)



Artificial intelligence is reshaping health systems: state of readiness across the European Union

WHO/Europe has released a new report assessing the rapidly evolving use of artificial intelligence (AI) in health care across the 27 European Union (EU) Member States. The first comprehensive review of its kind, the report reveals strong and consistent momentum across EU Member States, with all 27 countries recognizing improved patient care as a driver of AI development and the majority already deploying AI tools in clinical settings.

This report provides a focused assessment of AI readiness within EU health systems, drawing on insights from the 2024–2025 survey on AI for health care in the WHO European Region. It examines national AI strategies, legal and ethical frameworks, data governance, stakeholder engagement, workforce preparedness and the integration of AI applications across health services. The report explores how EU Member States are approaching both the opportunities and the challenges of AI, highlighting emerging directions in strategic planning, regulatory alignment, capacity-building and the responsible deployment of AI in health care.

[Read Report](#)

Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) Round-up

May 2026 Therapeutics Today

This monthly newsletter is produced by the National Medicines Information Centre (NMIC) who are based in St James's Hospital. Evidence-based information is provided to prescribers to promote the safe, effective and efficient use of medicines.



TRIP Database: Evidence for Primary Care – Vol 19 April

A monthly summary of some of the most important new documents for primary care that have recently been added to the Trip Database.

Cancer, Cardio and Common Sense: Primary Care Evidence Without the Drama

Spotlight on Irish Articles

1. **Protocol for the development of an intervention to improve the use of Point-of-care DiagnostiCs in the management of respiraTOry tRact infectionS in primary care (the PREDICTORS study).**

O'Shea et al., *HRB Open Res.* 2025 Mar 7;7:73. doi: 10.12688/hrbopenres.13962.2.

 [Read Full Text](#)

2. **Estimating Eligibility for Lung Cancer Screening in Ireland: A Dynamic Modelling Study of Smoking Trends**

Bezdenzhnykh et al., *Pharmacoecon Open.* 2026 May 4. doi: 10.1007/s41669-026-00653-y. Epub ahead of print.

 [Read Full Text](#)

3. **Should Love be Explicitly Stated as a Core Enabling Concept in the Medical Curriculum?**

Doherty & Donohoe, *J Med Educ Curric Dev.* 2026 Mar 27;13:23821205251408337. doi: 10.1177/23821205251408337.

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Spotlight on Research Articles

1. **The BJGP Open Top 10 Most Read Research Articles of 2025.**

Burrell et al., *BJGP Open.* 2026 Apr 27;10(1):BJGPO.2026.0047. doi: 10.3399/BJGPO.2026.0047.

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2. **Digitally shared medication lists - A scoping review.**

Josendal et al., *Int J Med Inform.* 2026 Jul 15;215:106443. doi: 10.1016/j.ijmedinf.2026.106443. Epub 2026 Apr 18.

 [Read Full Text](#)

3. **Wellbeing at work among GPs working in multidisciplinary primary care teams.**

Cohidon et al., *BJGP Open.* 2026 Apr 27;10(1):BJGPO.2024.0201. doi: 10.3399/BJGPO.2024.0201.

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4. **Exploring entrepreneurship among general practitioners.**

Pirouzi et al., *BMC Prim Care.* 2026 Mar 6;27(1):134. doi: 10.1186/s12875-026-03241-5.

 [Read Full-Text](#)

5. **Interventions to prevent and treat multiple long-term conditions and their consequences across the life course.**

Witham et al., *BMC Med.* 2026 Apr 10;24(1):228. doi: 10.1186/s12916-026-04838-4.

 [Read Full-Text](#)

6. Shared decision-making in general practice.

Butterworth et al., *BMC Med.* 2026 Apr 10;24(1):228. doi: 10.1186/s12916-026-04838-4.

 [Read Full-Text](#)

7. Climate Change and Cardiovascular Risk Factors Management.

Marketou et al., *Eur J Prev Cardiol.* 2026 Apr 27;zwag229. doi: 10.1093/eurjpc/zwag229. Epub ahead of print.

 [Read Full-Text](#)

8. Risk prediction models for incident heart failure.

Navarro et al., *Heart.* 2026 Apr 20;heartjnl-2025-327118. doi: 10.1136/heartjnl-2025-327118. Epub ahead of print.

 [Read Full-Text](#)

9. ChatGPT Health performance in a structured test of triage recommendations.

Ramaswamy et al., *Nat Med.* 2026 Feb 23. doi: 10.1038/s41591-026-04297-7. Epub ahead of print.

 [Read Full-Text](#)

10. Artificial intelligence-enhanced continuing professional development: Building digital capability in general practice.

Tran et al., *Aust J Gen Pract.* 2026 May;55(5):273-277. doi: 10.31128/AJGP-09-25-7823.

 [Read Full-Text](#)

 **Top Tip from the Library – World Family Doctor Day**

World Family Doctor Day is celebrated on 19 May, and this year's theme "*Compassionate Care in a Digital World*" asks what it means to be a family doctor in an age of AI. Digital tools and AI are now part of everyday practice in many settings, from electronic records and telemedicine to decision support systems and patient-facing apps. They have real potential to improve access, continuity and coordination of care. Yet poorly designed systems can add administrative and cognitive burden, deepen inequities, and strain the time and attention that compassionate care requires.

Key Messages:

1. Digital innovation must be driven by the real needs of patients, communities, and family doctors — not by technology alone.
2. Digital tools and AI in primary care must be safe, ethical, transparent, and truly worthy of patients' and doctors' trust.
3. Good technology clears the path for compassionate care.

Resources for Family Doctors:

❖ [Digital Health Lexicon](#)

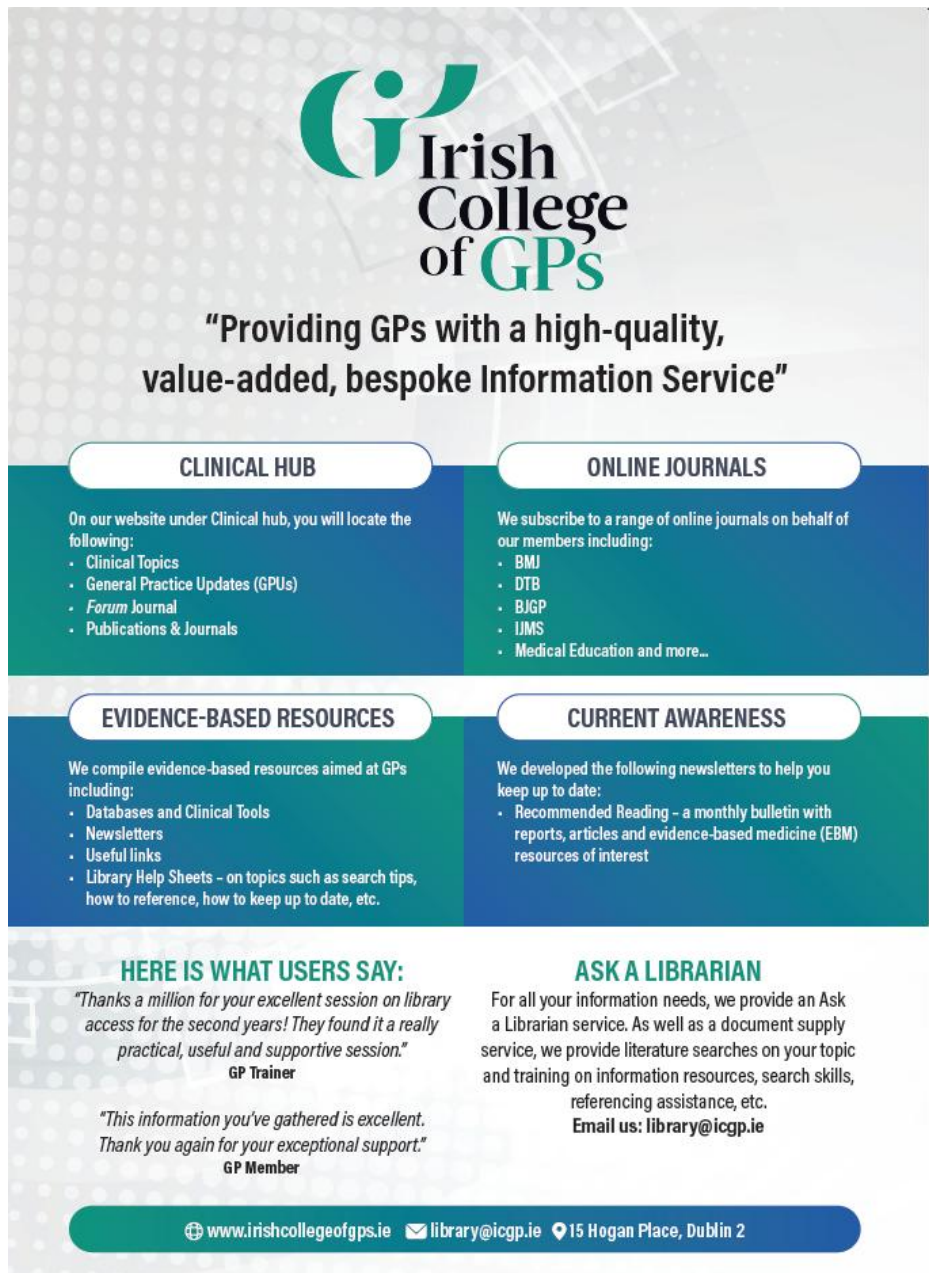
The updated WONCA Digital Health Lexicon (July 2025) reflects contributions from across

the global family medicine community, ensuring clear and consistent definitions in a rapidly evolving digital health landscape.

❖ **International Classification of Primary Care - Third Revision (ICPC-3)**

ICPC-3 is a clinical classification system designed for use in primary care. It is used daily by general practitioners and family doctors to record patients' reasons for encounter, symptoms, diagnoses, and care processes, supporting patient-centred and continuous care. WONCA has now decided to make ICPC-3 openly available under a Creative Commons licence, representing a historic change in licensing policy and arguably the most important decision regarding ICPC in recent decades.

 **Click here to access:** [WFDD 2026 website](#)



Irish College of GPs

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EVIDENCE-BASED RESOURCES <p>We compile evidence-based resources aimed at GPs including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Databases and Clinical Tools• Newsletters• Useful links• Library Help Sheets - on topics such as search tips, how to reference, how to keep up to date, etc.	CURRENT AWARENESS <p>We developed the following newsletters to help you keep up to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommended Reading - a monthly bulletin with reports, articles and evidence-based medicine (EBM) resources of interest

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"Thanks a million for your excellent session on library access for the second years! They found it a really practical, useful and supportive session."
GP Trainer

"This information you've gathered is excellent. Thank you again for your exceptional support."
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