

ARMING DEFENCE FORCES WITH NEW E-HEALTH SOLUTION

The Defence Forces has devised a new healthcare system to electronically track and protect the health and wellbeing of all Irish soldiers, sailors and aircrew at home, at sea and on overseas operations.

This e-health technological solution, which aims to revolutionise how healthcare is delivered directly to Irish troops, has been designed by Clanwilliam in collaboration with the Defence Forces' Communications and Information Services Corps to meet the specific needs of the Defence Forces.

It involves the roll out of Clanwilliam's Socrates practice management software, which will keep a comprehensive electronic clinical record of care provided to members of the Defence Forces.

The solution works seamlessly with the Defence Forces' existing Personnel Management System, enabling it to capture and display medical data from multidisciplinary team members, and to generate organisational level reports.

"Protecting the health and wellbeing of all our soldiers, sailors and aircrew is a priority, and this system will allow us to electronically track all care that we provide at home, at sea and on overseas operations.

"The Defence Forces is required to maintain a medical capability that can be deployed with flexibility," noted Major General Kevin Cotter, Deputy Chief of Staff (Support), Irish Defence Forces.

"Through the flexible, innovative and strategic use of this eHealth solution, the Defence Forces will manage the delivery of high quality, efficient and effective healthcare for all its members," he added.

PRIMARY CARE

Clanwilliam and the Defence Forces partnered together over the course of a year, with a dedicated development and project



Colonel Maureen O'Brien of the Defence Forces and John van den Maagdenberg, Head of Practice Management at Clanwilliam Health, pictured at the partnership announcement.

management team evolving the solution and ensuring its smooth rollout.

"Excitingly, this solution sees the extension of primary care technology outside of traditional community settings. Our Socrates practice management software, which is used by thousands of healthcare professionals every day, lies at its heart.

"In addition to providing the technology, we also delivered on the ground training to members of the Defence Forces, so that it is used to its full potential from day one," said Eileen Byrne, Managing Director, Clanwilliam Health.

"Practice management technology will be familiar to GPs around the country, entering into a whole new domain – in this case, the military. This bespoke solution has been designed to meet the needs of a forward-looking organisation," said Richard Corbridge, CIO of the HSE and CEO of eHealth Ireland.

"The way in which this solution has evolved and the relationship with the clinicians involved in taking it to this point is a great example of clinical engagement; eHealth Ireland will learn from this type of engagement and will strive to replicate some of what has been delivered here in 2017," he added.