



EUROPEAN SAFETY WEEK

NATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY FUNCTION (NHSF) • 2023

"SAFE & HEALTHY WORK IN THE DIGITAL AGE" CAMPAIGN 2023 - 2025

Digitalisation is impacting our everyday lives, society, and the way we work.

For employees and employers digital technology offers increased opportunities but can also present challenges and risks in terms of safety and health such as musculoskeletal disorders, lone working and the potential increase in work-related stress. Therefore, it is important to raise awareness of strategies that promote and protect worker's health and safety.

This campaign aims to raise awareness of occupational safety and health (OSH) related challenges and risks associated with digital technologies and the need to manage these risks in a safe and healthy way while promoting a culture of risk prevention. The campaign aims to:



- increase knowledge on the safe use of digital technologies
- raise awareness of digitalisation and its occupational safety and health implications
- provide information on new and emerging risks related to the digital transformation of work
- promote risk assessment and the healthy and safe management of digital transformation of work by providing access to relevant resources

As part of the campaign the National Health & Safety Function has developed a suite of resources on the supports available to mitigate risk factors associated with digitalisation at work. This will include information on [setting up your Display Screen Equipment](#), Managing Risks for [Blended Working](#), Managing [Psychosocial Risks](#), and an overview of [Blended Working in practice](#).

WHAT DOES DIGITALISATION MEAN FOR THE HSE?



HSE Digital Transformation

Digital health provides an alternative healthcare option in line with Sláintecare and national service plans. Digital health transformation is about driving digital competence, capability, capacity and change to support the rapid adoption of "disruptive digital health technologies" to enable better service user outcomes.

Digitalisation has already commenced in the HSE, a wide range of technologies and information systems were developed and deployed as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Such technologies included the COVID-19 contact tracing app, dashboards for status updates, virtual collaboration, telehealth and remote patient monitoring.

Digitalisation within the healthcare setting can mean the use of various digital technologies, depending on the service that you provide. You may already be familiar with these technologies in your workplace but some examples already in use are:



- VSA-Vital Signs Automation
- MN-CMS - Maternal & Newborn Clinical Management System



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- NIMIS - National Integrated Medical Imaging System
- ePharmacy - ePrescribing and the National Medical Product Catalogue
- M Power App - used to monitor patients with pulmonary fibrosis remotely
- HSE Live: a multi-channel hub offering health and social services information by phone, email, live chat and social media
- Helpdesks: HR Helpdesk, ICT National Service Desk and National Health & Safety Function helpdesk

As you can see from the examples digitalisation is actively in use in the HSE, for further information please see HSeLanD programme Introduction to [Digital Health Transformation](#) or the [digitalisation transformation webpages](#).

RISK ASSESSMENT ON DIGITALISATION OF WORK PRACTICES

Digitalisation of work practices including digital platform work and remote/blended work requires the use of computer-based systems and phone applications. As with the introduction of any new system or technology, the risks associated with these need to be reviewed to ensure that our staff can work with these systems safely. The risk assessment process is used for this purpose and it is important to note that there may be several risks associated with such technologies. These risk assessments must reflect our employees' work practices and work environments and may include hazards such as workplace equipment, manual handling, work-related stress and lone working. For support and guidance on the development of these risk assessments, [the National Health & Safety Function website](#) provides information on these occupational safety and health topics.

To assist managers/assessors in completion of risk assessments the following training programmes require completion on [HSeLanD](#):

1. Managing Health & Safety in the Healthcare Setting
2. The NHSF Occupational Safety & Health Risk Assessment Webinar



BENEFITS OF DIGITALISATION IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY FUNCTION

In 2017, the National Health & Safety Function (NHSF) launched the HSE's National Health & Safety Helpdesk. This application has many benefits for you as a user and for the organisation, it enables you to:

- access health & safety expertise
- book occupational safety & health training
- track the process of your health and safety queries
- have a repository and full history of your queries and responses for future learning

For the HSE it:

- facilitates data collection and analysis to identify health and safety trends across the HSE
- ensures our policies, procedures and guidance reflect current workplace issues
- facilitates the development of the NHSF Work Plan



The NHSF helpdesk provides timely and accessible support and information reflecting current health and safety legislation, best practice and HSE requirements. The helpdesk is accessible 24hrs regardless of geographical location and work pattern. We also provide telephone support (details below) and you can access further information on the Helpdesk by clicking on the link below.



1800 420 420

Monday to Friday 10:30am - 12pm & 2pm - 3.30pm



Further information on the
NHSF Helpdesk available [here](#).