Towards all-Island sharing of Irish lymphoid blood cancers data: landscape and gap analysis

Kluivert Boakye Duah¹, Michael Quinn², Eva Szegedi³,⁹, Lisa Crawford¹, Aedin C. Culhane⁴,⁹, Mark Lawler¹,⁹, Siobhan Glavey⁵,⁶,⁹, Ruth Clifford⁴,⁷,⁹, and Ian M. Overton¹,⁸,⁹,*
¹Patrick G. Johnson Centre for Cancer Research, Queen’s University Belfast, UK, ²Belfast Trust, Health and Social Care Northern Ireland, UK, ³School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, University of Galway, Ireland, ⁴Limerick Digital Cancer Research Centre, Health Research Institute, School of Medicine, University of Limerick, Ireland, ⁵Department of Haematology, Beaumont Hospital, Ireland, ⁶Department of Pathology, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Ireland, ⁷Department of Haematology, University Hospital Limerick, Ireland, ⁸Health Data Research Wales and Northern Ireland, Queen’s University Belfast, UK, ⁹eHealth-Hub for Cancer.
*Correspondence address: E-mail: i.overton@qub.ac.uk

Background: Sharing health data significantly improves public health, clinical care, personal care and associated research. However, privacy laws, limited data standardisation and interoperability, and insufficient data integration have made it difficult for health data to be shared across health institutions and borders. We examine the health data landscape in Northern Ireland (NI) and Ireland (IE). Also, a federated approach with multiparty homomorphic encryption is proposed to analyse and share Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia (CLL) and Multiple Myeloma (MM) data on the Island.

Future work

1. Mapping of Irish lymphoid blood cancers data workflow.

2. Proposed data federation and analysis workflow.

Method: Data managers and haematologists of selected health institutions were interviewed in a semi-structured manner. The interviews were done to assess the current state of Irish cancer data including CLL and MM. The nine key areas covered were a) Tools/systems/software for collecting data, b) Data sources, c) Data quality, d) Variables collected, e) FAIR principle, f) Data sharing, g) Conditions inhibiting data sharing, h) Data ownership, and i) Data governance.