

**Additional file 1: Table 1** Reconfiguration of emergency care systems in Ireland

<b>Significant Reconfiguration</b>		
<b>Region</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Summary of Regional Change</b>
<p><b>South</b> (Cork and Kerry)</p>	<p>Population: 663,176 Area (km<sup>2</sup>): 12,161</p>	<p><b>Regional Reconfiguration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Region-specific reconfiguration plan largely implemented, beginning 2012-2013</li> <li>• Region-wide clinical governance structures established</li> <li>• Single general practice (GP) out of hours co-operative</li> </ul> <p><b>Emergency Department Services Reconfiguration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute stroke, coronary and major trauma care provided at hub in Cork [Cork University Hospital] with support of ambulance protocols and outlying centres [Kerry: University Hospital Kerry; Cork: Bantry General Hospital]</li> <li>• Two EDs reconfigured to local injury units [Cork: Mallow General Hospital (2013) and Bantry General Hospital (2013)]</li> <li>• One emergency department (ED) closed [Cork: South Infirmary Hospital (2012)]</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mid-West</b> (Limerick, Clare and Tipperary North)</p>	<p>Population: 378,210 Area (km<sup>2</sup>): 8,252</p>	<p><b>Regional Reconfiguration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Region-specific reconfiguration plan largely implemented, 2009 - 2013</li> <li>• Ambulance bypass protocols and region-wide clinical directorates established</li> <li>• Single GP out of hours co-operative</li> </ul> <p><b>Emergency Department Services Reconfiguration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All emergency care centralised to one hospital [Limerick: University Hospital Limerick]</li> <li>• Two EDs reconfigured to local injury units [Clare: Ennis Hospital (2009); Tipperary North: Nenagh Hospital (2009)]</li> </ul>
<b>Some Reconfiguration</b>		
<b>Region</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Summary of Regional Change</b>
<p><b>West</b> (Galway, Roscommon, Mayo, Leitrim, Sligo, Donegal)</p>	<p>Population: 702,966 Area (km<sup>2</sup>): 22,649</p>	<p><b>Regional Reconfiguration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical directorates established across the region</li> <li>• Several out of hours GP co-operatives</li> </ul> <p><b>Emergency Department Services Reconfiguration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single hub for acute coronary and major trauma care [Galway: University Hospital Galway] with major trauma support services provided at other centres [Mayo: Mayo University Hospital; Donegal: Letterkenny University Hospital; Sligo: Sligo University Hospital]. Acute stroke care at all centres, excluding Roscommon General Hospital</li> <li>• One ED reconfigured to local injury unit [Roscommon: Roscommon General Hospital (2011)]</li> <li>• No ED in Leitrim</li> </ul>
<p><b>North East</b> (Cavan, Meath, Louth and Monaghan)</p>	<p>Population: 440,211 Area (km<sup>2</sup>): 6,395</p>	<p><b>Regional Reconfiguration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Region-specific reconfiguration plan partly implemented from 2006 – 2010</li> <li>• Limited regional clinical governance</li> <li>• Roll-out of general practitioner (GP) out of hours care</li> </ul> <p><b>Emergency Department Services Reconfiguration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some centralisation of trauma, acute stroke and coronary care [Cavan: Cavan General Hospital; Louth: Our Lady of Lourdes Drogheda] with</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>rehab support in other hospitals</li> <li>Dublin North [Mater Hospital] is the percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) centre with supporting ambulance protocols</li> <li>Two emergency departments reconfigured to local injury units [Louth:Louth County Hospital (2010); Monaghan: Monaghan General Hospital (2009)]</li> </ul>
<p><b>South East</b></p> <p>(Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford, Waterford and Tipperary South)</p>	<p>Population: 497,305 Area (km<sup>2</sup>): 9,451</p>	<p><b>Regional Reconfiguration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informal clinical network with shared regional rota for emergency medicine consultants</li> <li>Single GP out of hours co-operative.</li> </ul> <p><b>Emergency Department Services Reconfiguration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated hub for major trauma, and acute coronary care [Waterford: Waterford Regional Hospital – PCI centre supported out of hours by Cork] with ambulance bypass protocols</li> <li>Acute stroke care available at all 4 hospitals</li> <li>No ED in Carlow</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dublin South</b></p> <p>(Dublin South City, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, Wicklow)</p>	<p>Population: 563,560 Area (km<sup>2</sup>): 2,168</p>	<p><b>Regional Reconfiguration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple out of hours GP co-operatives</li> </ul> <p><b>Emergency Department Services Reconfiguration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centralisation of acute stroke, coronary and trauma care to two hospitals (both in Dublin South City) but limited differentiation and integration between both</li> <li>One ED reconfigured to local injury unit [Dun Laoghaire Rathdown: St Columcille’s Hospital (2013)]</li> <li>One ED with reduced hours [Dun Laoghaire Rathdown: St Michaels (2003)]</li> <li>No ED in Wicklow</li> </ul>
<b>Little reconfiguration</b>		
<b>Region</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Summary of Regional Change</b>
<p><b>Dublin North East</b></p> <p>(Fingal, Dublin North City)</p>	<p>Population: 578,317 Area (km<sup>2</sup>): 532</p>	<p><b>Regional Reconfiguration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No major changes</li> <li>Out of hours GP co-operative established</li> </ul> <p><b>Emergency Department Services Reconfiguration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three large emergency departments with limited governance integration and differentiation of services. PCI Centre established [Dublin North: Mater Hospital]</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dublin Midlands</b></p> <p>(Dublin South, Longford, Westmeath, Laois, Offaly, Kildare)</p>	<p>Population: 761,324 Area (km<sup>2</sup>): 8,442</p>	<p><b>Regional Reconfiguration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited integration of clinical governance</li> <li>Several out of hours GP co-operatives operating</li> </ul> <p><b>Emergency Department Services Reconfiguration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centralisation of acute stroke [Kildare: Naas General Hospital; Westmeath: Midlands Regional Hospital Mullingar, and Dublin South: Tallaght Hospital] coronary care [Dublin South: Tallaght Hospital] and trauma [Offaly: Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore; Dublin South: Tallaght Hospital] at several hospitals, supported by ambulance bypass protocols</li> <li>No ED in Longford</li> </ul>

