

## Foreword

**A**ll countries share common goals to improve the health of their populations and to improve quality in health care. Rising levels of chronic disease and multi-morbidity; concerns about the quality and safety of patient care; the need to measure and assure value for money for investments in health; and the need to allocate health system resources wisely are all too important to leave without good information for decision making.

*What information infrastructure is needed to support decision making? To be useful for the assessment of progress in population health and the quality of care, health and health care data collections need to be organised in a systematic and efficient way, to be structured to support linkage across data sources, and to be accessible. At the same time, confidentiality of the data needs to be protected and privacy rights addressed.*

*This report is about the progress that has been made in OECD countries to develop national health information infrastructure. It focuses on two key dimensions: the development and linkage of health and health care data and the development and use of electronic health record systems. It signals important differences among countries in both the data that is available and its accessibility and use; and the opportunities that exist in all countries to continue to strengthen health information infrastructure in the future.*

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