

Independent Prescriber Pathfinder Programme: NHS Greater Manchester

Executive summary

This presentation is an update on work completed to date on the IP Pathfinder Programme in GM, for information.

- Nationally funded pathfinder programme, no cost to ICB.
- Qualified and competent Independent Prescribers to prescribe on the NHS for patients in community pharmacy for minor illness, hypertension and respiratory conditions in preparation for changes coming in 2026.
- Prescribing in line with NICE and GMMMG guidance as for other GM prescribers.
- Medicines prescribed by pathfinder sites will be costed to GM, however these patients would have received treatment funded by NHS GM if they had been treated outside of the Pathfinder programme so ultimately cost neutral; monitoring via ePACT through existing processes.
- Project Steering Group to be set up to include key stakeholders within GM to define models and oversee delivery.
- LPC involved throughout and supporting.

Community Pharmacy Independent Prescribing Programme

Pathfinder strategic aim: establish a framework for the future commissioning of NHS community pharmacy clinical services incorporating independent prescribing for patients in primary care.

Purpose

- Recognition that harnessing the skills and workforce capabilities of pharmacist prescribers and enhanced pharmacy technician roles would enable independent prescribers to support patients with access to treatment.
- To support the Fuller Stocktake report's vision for transforming access to services, improving experience for patients with long term conditions and preventing ill health through integration with neighbourhood teams.
- To build on the investment set out in the [Delivery Plan for recovering access in primary care](#) that sets the ambition to introduce a community pharmacy Common Conditions Service and expand the BP Check and Contraception services.

Benefits include

- Improved patient access to healthcare across the system
- Ensuring community pharmacists are working to their full clinical potential
- Supporting General Practice
- Better enables ICB level service delivery planning

Pathfinder objectives

1. To establish Pathfinder sites to test the delivery of IP in community pharmacy across all NHSE regions aligning with general practice
2. To **identify the optimum processes including governance, reimbursement and IT requirements** required to enable independent prescribing in community pharmacy
3. To inform the **development of professional and clinical service standards** that support assurance of IP activities in the context of NHS community pharmacy services
4. To inform the **professional development** needs of community pharmacists and wider **workforce strategy** for pharmacy professionals in primary care
5. To inform the **post 2019- 2024 community pharmacy contractual framework strategy**
6. To inform the **ICB delegation responsibilities** necessary to support national and local commissioning of clinical services
7. To undertake appropriate local and national **quantitative and qualitative evaluation / research**, including patient experience and the experience of community pharmacy, general practice, community services and secondary care teams.

How CPIP Pathfinder Programme fits with GM Strategic Priorities

NHS GM Joint Forward Plan missions:	NHS GM Primary Care Blueprint vision:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening our communities • Helping people stay well and detecting illness earlier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling inequalities • Supporting people to live healthier lives • Upscaling secondary prevention • Living well with long-term conditions • Helping people get into, and stay in, good work • Recovering core NHS and care services • Supporting our workforce and our carers • Achieving financial sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide timely appropriate access to care delivered by a system which has sufficient capacity to meet the needs of service users, where processes are simple and straightforward • Form part of a wider neighbourhood team, where individuals and communities are supported to take more control over their own health and where providers work together with the shared aim of improving the health of the population • Help create fairer health and tackle the root causes of inequalities, working in partnership with our communities to create healthier, greener and fairer places • Help people to stay well and focus on the prevention and early detection of ill health, and the effective management of long- term conditions • Be viable for the long term, ensuring that services are available when and where needed • Play a full part in achieving a Net Zero NHS GM Carbon Footprint by 2038 • Empower citizens and providers with high quality, digitally enabled Primary Care • Be delivered from facilities which are appropriate for the provision of 21st century Primary Care • Deliver safe, effective services, with a focus on quality improvement • Be recognised as a career destination for a happy, healthy and engaged workforce, trained to a consistent standard with knowledge and expertise to meet the needs of our population and provide timely, exemplar services

GM Stakeholder engagement



NHSE Evaluation

Evaluation plan is in progress informed by an Expert Evaluation Reference Group including leading academic experts and evaluators

Stakeholders

- What will patients and the public expect and wish to understand?
- How can community pharmacist prescribing be part of clinically integrated pathways across a system?
- What are the relationships with general practice to support a sustainable service for patients?

Operational

- Type of pharmacy: Chains, independents, Distance selling pharmacies
- Workforce implications
- Scalability: National, local
- Sustainability
- Clinical model

Safety

- Governance
- Assurance
- Risk assessment
- Scope of practice

Digital

- Access to records
- Interoperability
- Appointment booking
- EPS system
- Reimbursement
- Payment structures

Phase 1 review January 2024

Phase 2 review March 2024

Strategic advice and governance oversight provided through the Independent Prescribing Oversight Group chaired by David Webb, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer with Professor Tony Avery, National Clinical Director, Prescribing.

GM Clinical Models

Minor Illness

- Enable prescribing for minor illnesses as an outcome of CPCS referral, reducing escalations to GP
- Enable access to POMs for patients attending a pharmacy for a minor illness
- First to go live, all 10 pharmacies to deliver

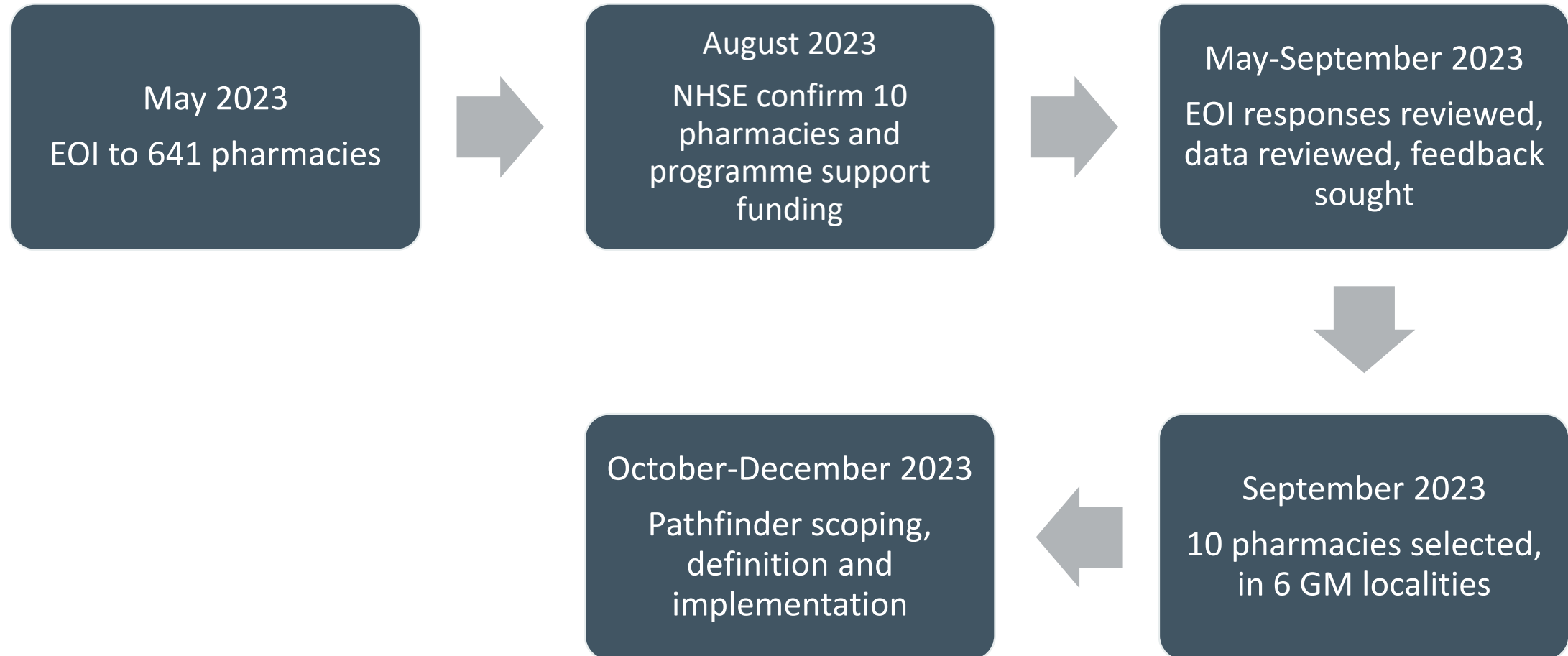
Hypertension

- Initiate treatment for patients identified through NHS BP Check Service
- Manage treatment for patients already diagnosed following GP referral through NHS BP Check Service
- Still in development

Respiratory

- Medicines optimisation for patients with asthma or COPD
- Supports sustainability with 'Greener' inhaler switches
- Build on PQS and support patients requiring a PAAP, spacer use in patients aged 5-15 and overuse of SABA
- Still in development

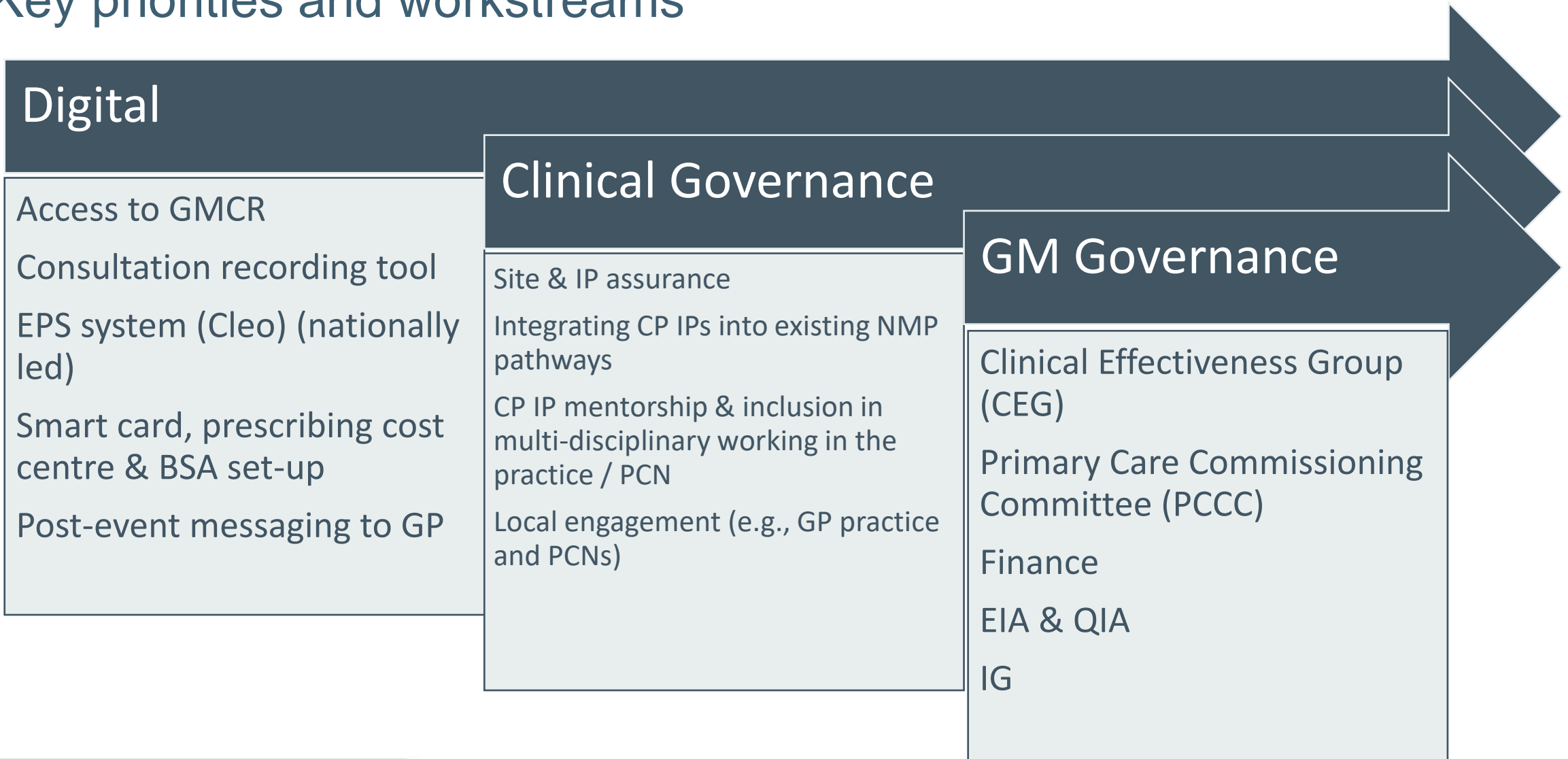
Community Pharmacy Independent Prescriber Pathfinder Programme in GM



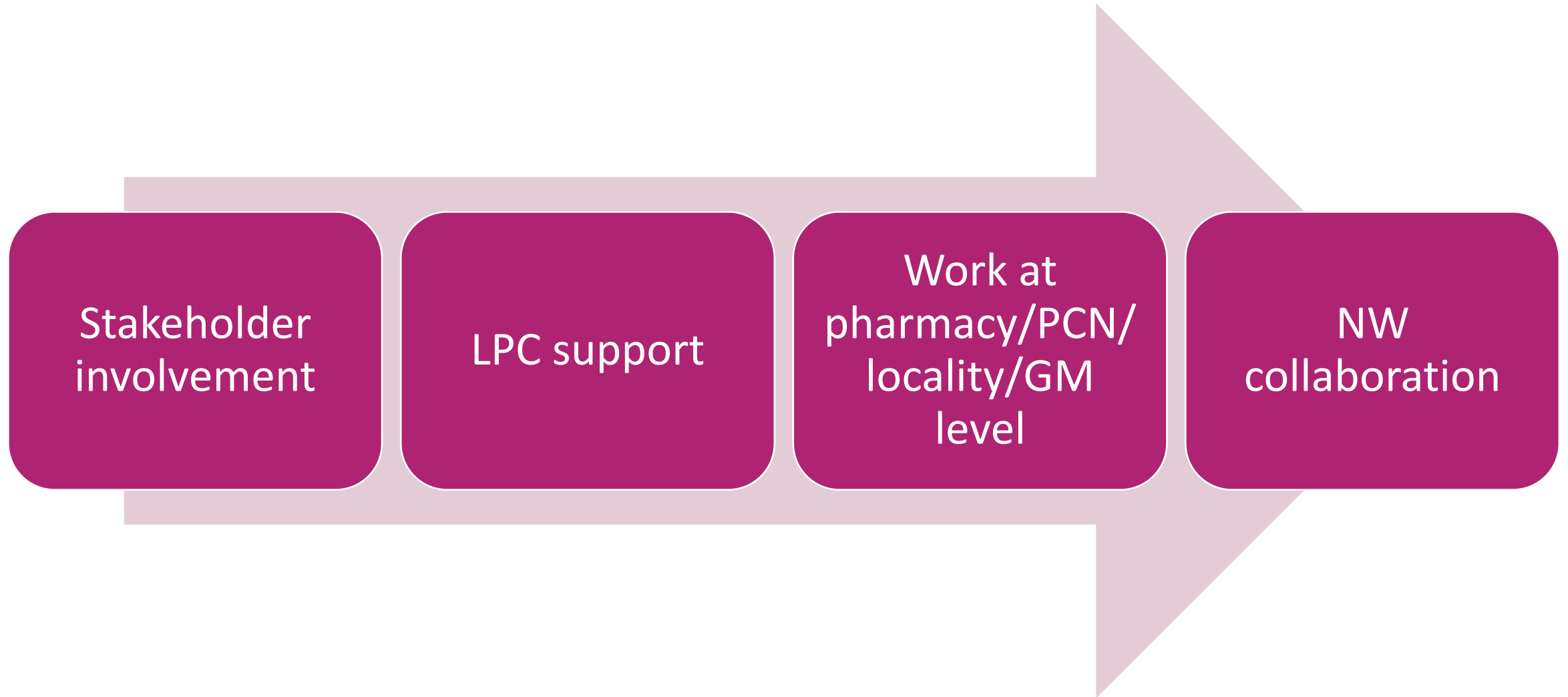
Pathfinder sites

- 10 pharmacies selected in 6 localities, with 6 pharmacies held in reserve should any of the initial 10 decide not to proceed:
 - Manchester 3 pharmacies
 - Oldham 2 pharmacies
 - Rochdale 1 pharmacy
 - Salford 1 pharmacy
 - Trafford 2 pharmacies
 - Wigan 1 pharmacy

Key priorities and workstreams



NHS GM Approach to the Pathfinder Programme



Thank you