



**Pharma  
Summit 25**  
Evolving through change



**Fionnuala King**  
Chief Pharmacist for the  
Access & Integration Drug  
Management Programme



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# **Evolving Landscape of Medicines Management in Irish public hospitals**

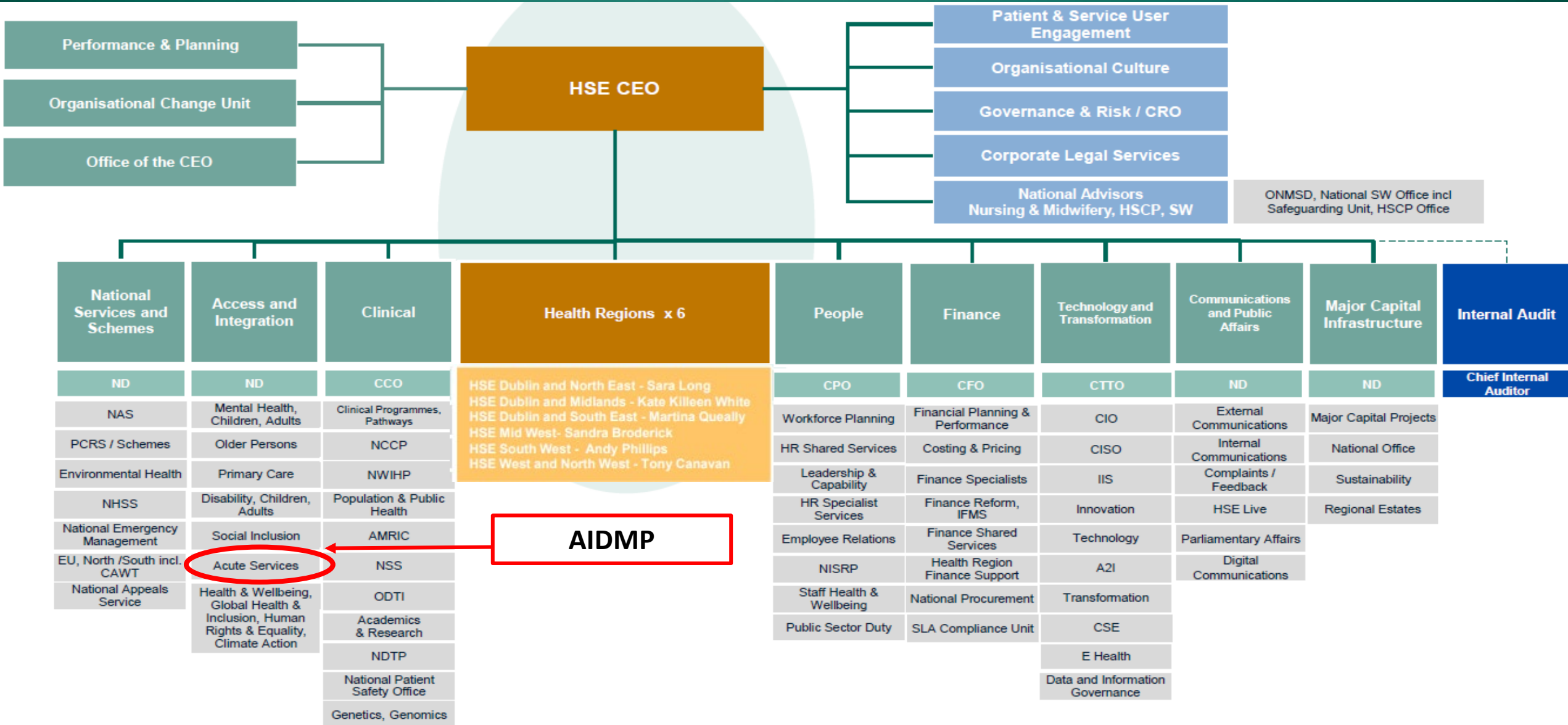
**Fionnuala King**

**Chief Pharmacist,**

**Access & Integration Drug Management Programme**



# HSE Centre New Structure

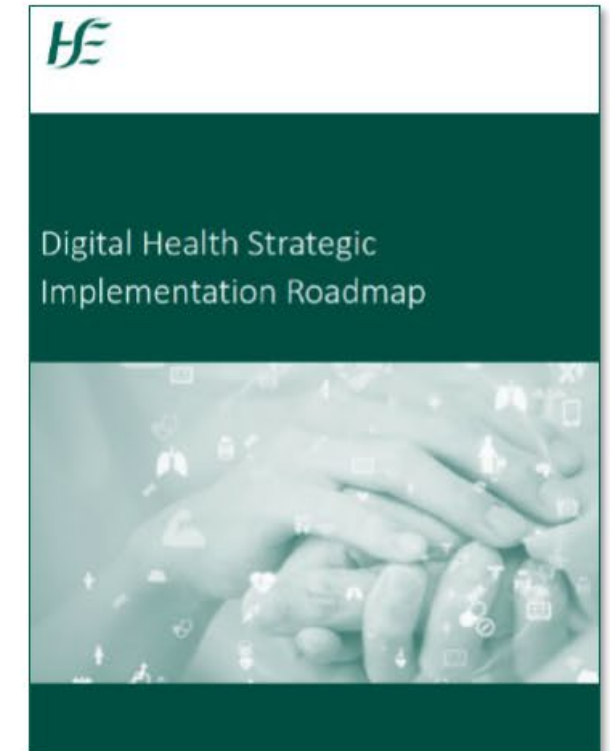


## Sláintecare Policy

“A healthier Ireland, with improved health and wellbeing for all, and with the **right care** delivered in the **right place** at the **right time**.”

**Key enablers -data, technology, and digitisation,** “advancement in health systems information, is vital in underpinning policymaking that is **person-centred and delivers on strategic priorities**”.

Integrated care is only possible with free flow of Data and Information – Right Data and the Right Staff.



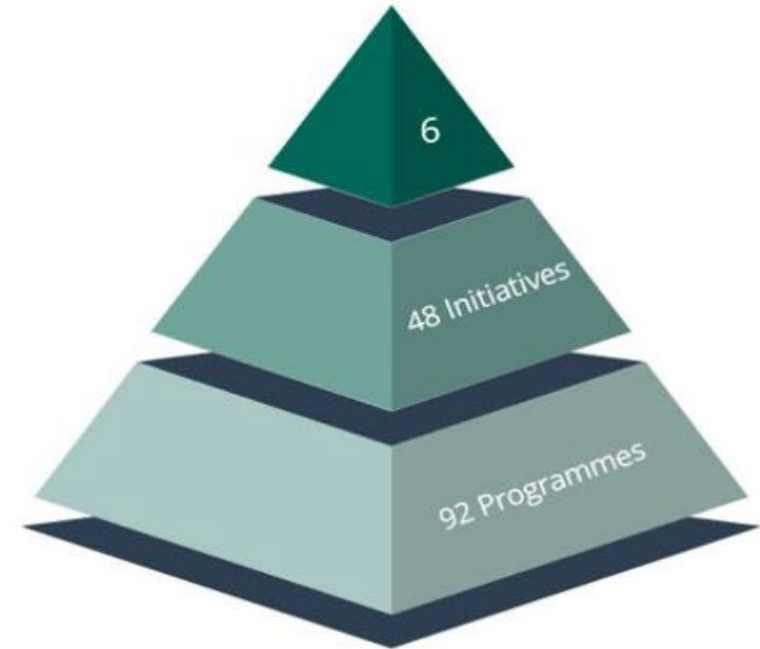
Department of Health – [Digital for Care – A Digital Health Framework for Ireland 2024-2030](#):  
Published 21st May 2024

Health Service Executive - [Digital Health Strategic Implementation Roadmap 2024-2030](#):  
Published 8th July 2024

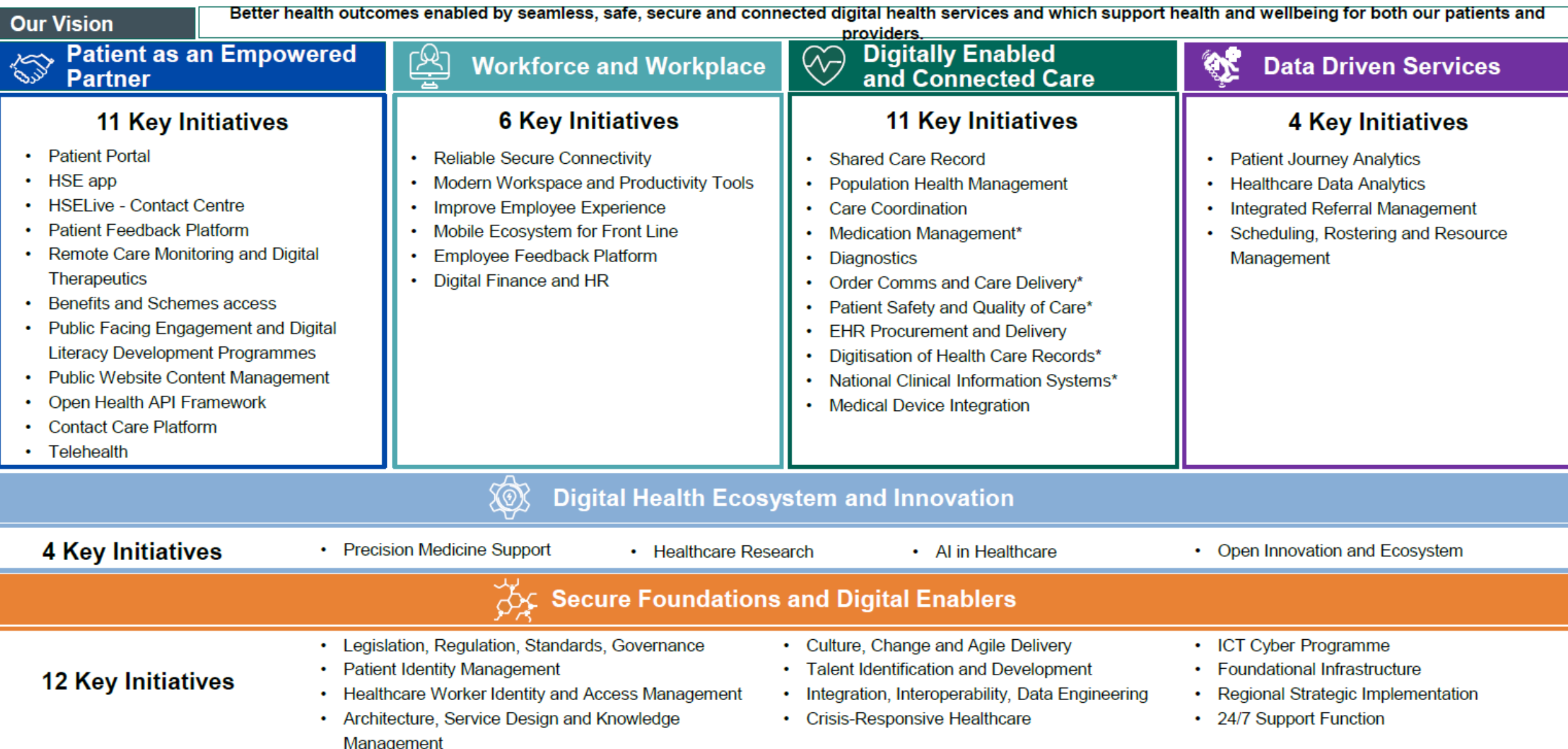


# Digital for Care 2030

Delivering **Better Health Outcomes** enabled by **Seamless, Safe, Secure, and connected Digital Health Services** which support **Health and Wellbeing** for both our **Patients and Providers.**



# Digital for Care: 48 Initiatives





# What is HMMS?

- HMMS is the national project to **replace the Hospital Pharmacy Departments current legacy pharmacy software** and will also provide a platform for electronic prescribing and electronic medicines administration (EPMA)
- HMMS will **deliver Pharmacy stock control software, within interfaces to PAS, Pharmacy robots, ward ADCs and Finance systems**
- HMMS will be offered to all publically funded acute and non-acute hospital sites in Ireland that are currently paying Pharmacy software license fees
- HMMS was implemented in University Hospital Galway and Merlin Park University Hospital in May 2023 and Rotunda March 2025.



## **NSP 2023: Key Objective**

*“Support the safe and cost-effective use of medicines through health technology and management processes for new medicines and the ongoing clinical management and monitoring, ensuring equity in the provision of existing and emerging medicines / therapies”*



# HMMS and the eHealth Ecosystem

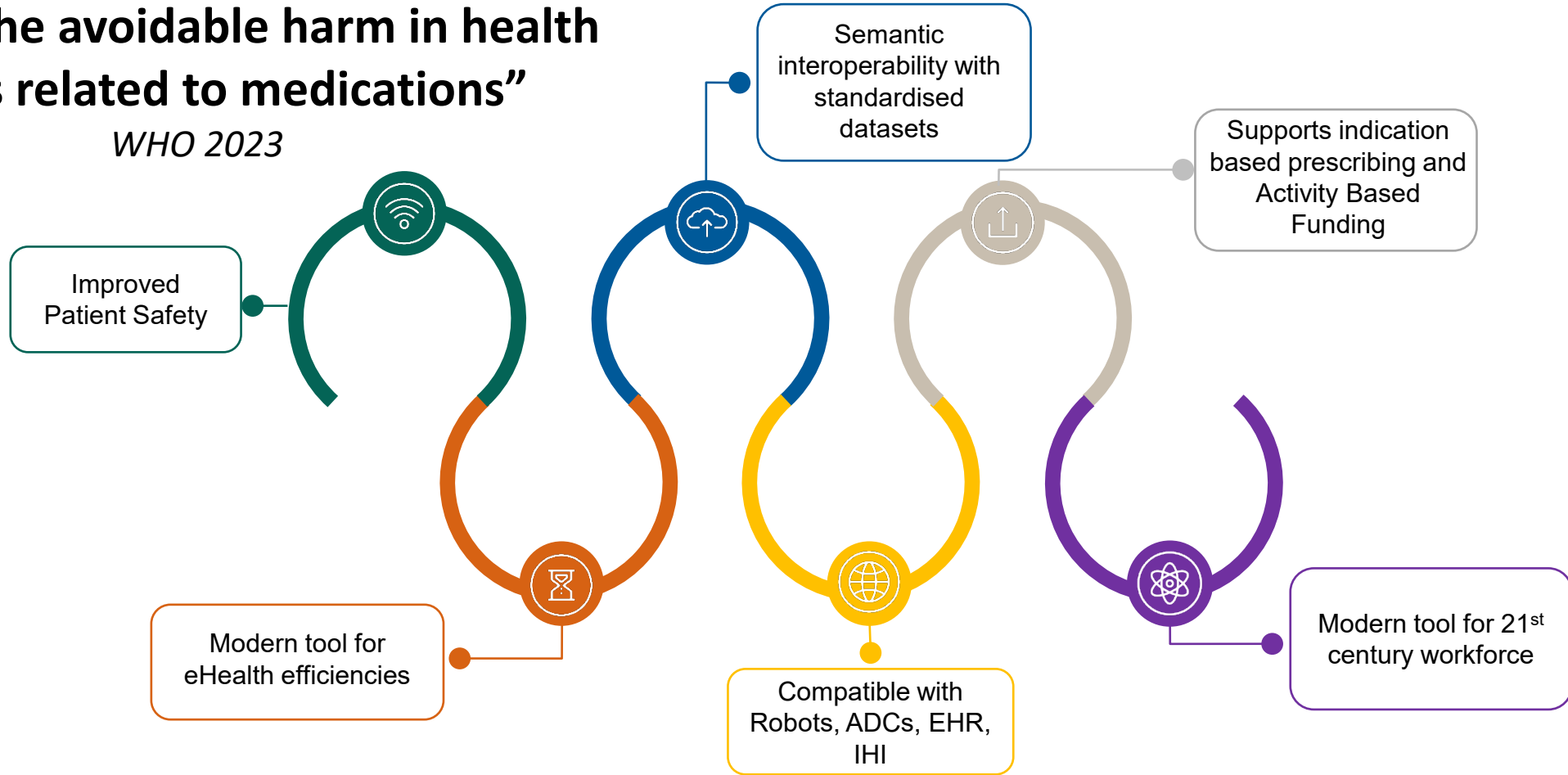




# HMMS Benefits

**“Half of the avoidable harm in health care is related to medications”**

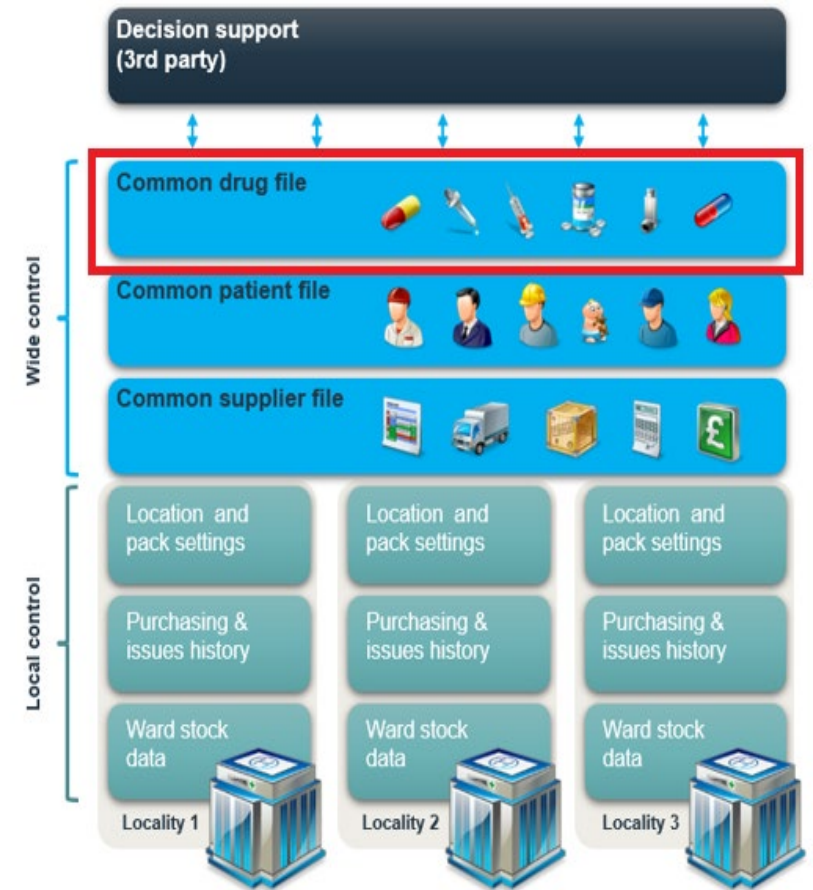
*WHO 2023*





# Drug File Build

- Development of DMAINTW = HMMS National (Common level) drug file
- No comprehensive national drug file
- >15,000 drug lines, >300,000 data points
- Ongoing process – resource intensive
- Includes both:
  - **VMP** (Virtual Medicinal Product) – utilised by EPMA
  - **AMP** (Actual Medicinal Product) – utilised by Pharmacy Stock Control System





# EAN & GTIN Barcodes

**GTIN codes** are used to decommission products, in accordance with Falsified Medicines Directive

ez\_- FMD provides an interface between FMD software & HMMS, allowing a product to be both decommissioned and moved into stock on HMMS

**GTIN codes** are essential as a product identifier between both these systems.

**EAN codes** are the product/pack size identifiers for HMMS / Robot interfaces.

**EAN codes** can also be used for product search in HMMS software.

**EAN codes** can also be used to scan & deliver products into HMMS in the goods inwards process.





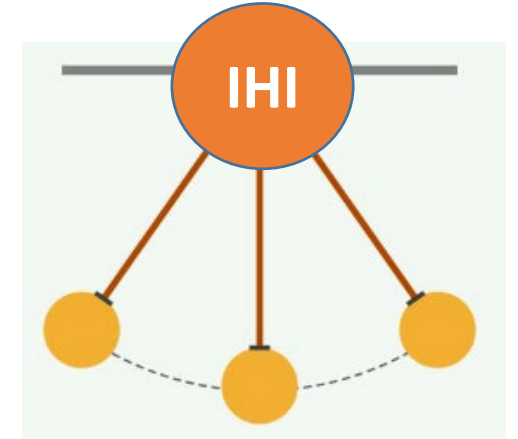
# The Wish list

- Data submitted to HMMS team using the online eforms:
  - <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/drugs-management-programme/hmms/hmms-drug-file.html>
- Latest product catalogue from Manufacturers/Suppliers – identifying new products & product codes
- Notifications of product description changes – pack size
- Notification of discontinuations – including expiry dates
- Notification of changes in distribution channel – switch of wholesaler



# HMMS Patient Identifier

- Application supports a **single national** patient record
- Single view of patients national medication history



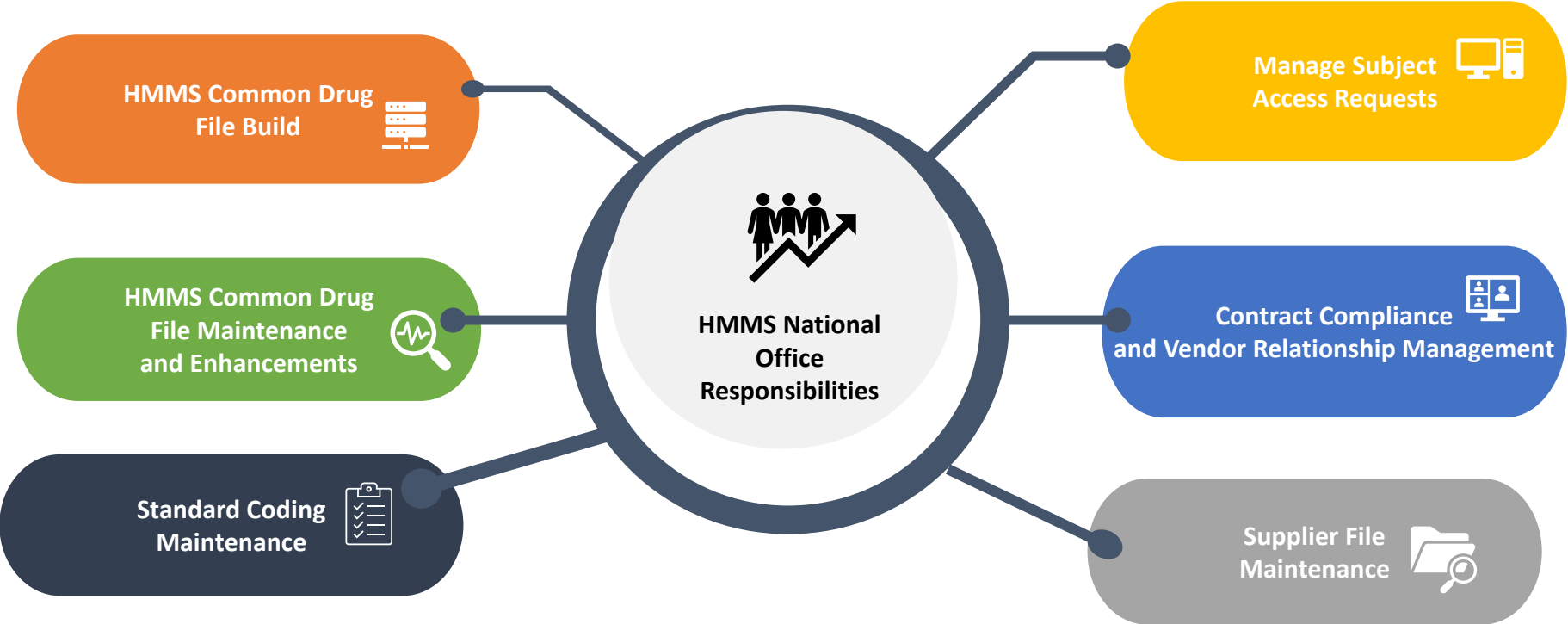
**Patient record created at common or national level**



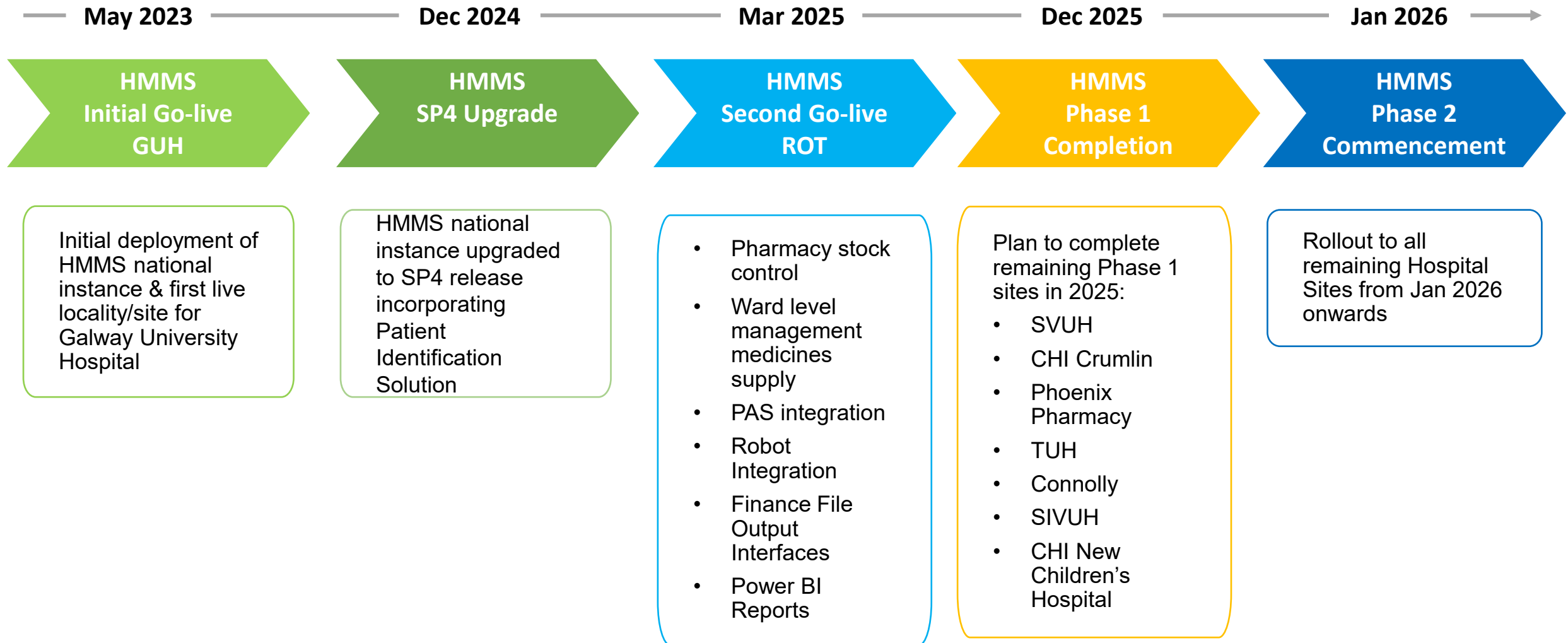
**Patient record registered to the required Locality**



# HMMS National Office (HMMS.contact@hse.ie)



# HMMS Project Delivery Timeline



# Procurement of Medicines in Acute and non-Acute Hospitals



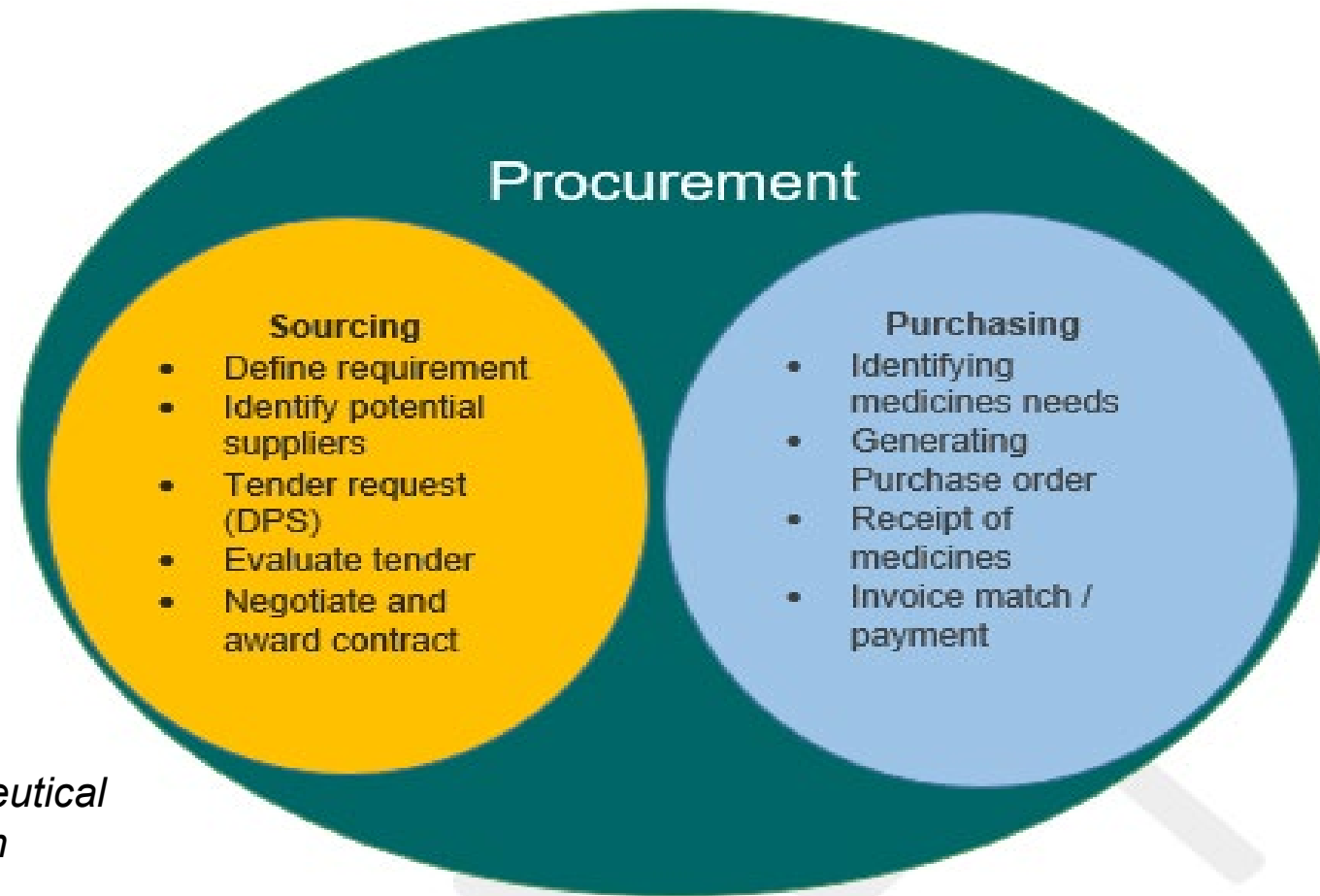


# Current Landscape in Irish Public Hospitals

- Procurement of medicines is an operations activity within the HSE.
- 'Health Region Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or designate (e.g. Hospital Chief Pharmacist / Pharmacy Executive Manager) in each hospital is responsible for the procurement of medicines at the level of their individual hospital and for ensuring that this activity complies with Medicinal Products supply legislation and National/EU Procurement legislation'.
- Majority of medicines are purchased directly by acute & non-acute Hospitals and are funded through individual hospital budgets.
- Certain other medicines are compliantly procured at a national level e.g. vaccines.
- Acute & non-acute hospitals drug expenditure accounts for approximately 20% of the overall HSE spend on medicines.
- Hospital undertake tenders individually or hospitals collaborate through clinical network to tender for medicines.



# Procurement of Medicines



*NPPST: National Pharmaceutical Procurement Support Team*

*Procurement = Sourcing (NPPST) + Purchasing (Hospital Pharmacy department)*



# Background

- [Strategy](#) for the Compliant Procurement of Medicines in Acute and non-Acute Hospitals published in 2019 (updated in 2024)
- Recommendations;
  - Establishment of National Pharmaceutical Procurement Support Team (NPPST) to advise hospital pharmacists on the procurement and contractual knowledge using the pharmacy leadership
  - Establish and utilisation of Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) (>1 supplier)
  - Establish Sole Source Medicines List (single supplier)
- Aims to ensure legislatively compliance with National Financial Regulations (NFR) and EU Procurement Guidelines, safe and cost effective procurement of medicines.
- The procurement of medicines is clinically led by pharmacy, in collaboration with colleagues in finance, procurement and relevant clinical areas.

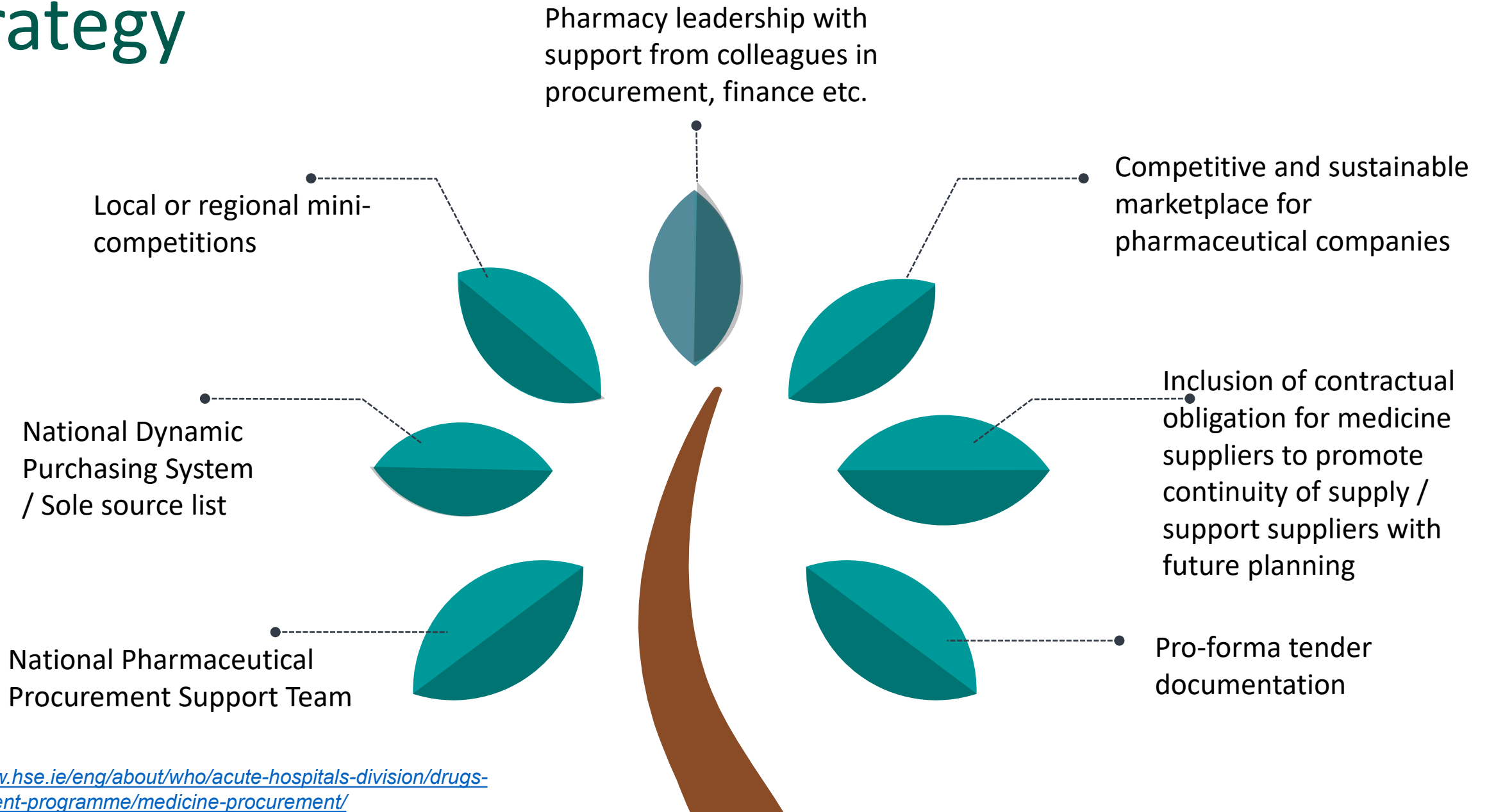


HSE Pharmaceutical Procurement Support Team  
NPPST@hse.ie

## *HSE Strategy for the Procurement of Medicines in Acute & non-Acute Hospitals*

Updated by	Clinical Lead, National Pharmaceutical Procurement Support Team		
Reviewed by	National Pharmaceutical Procurement Expert Advisory Group	Version number	2.2
Approved by	National Director Acute Operations and National Director Community Operations	Date	3rd May 2024

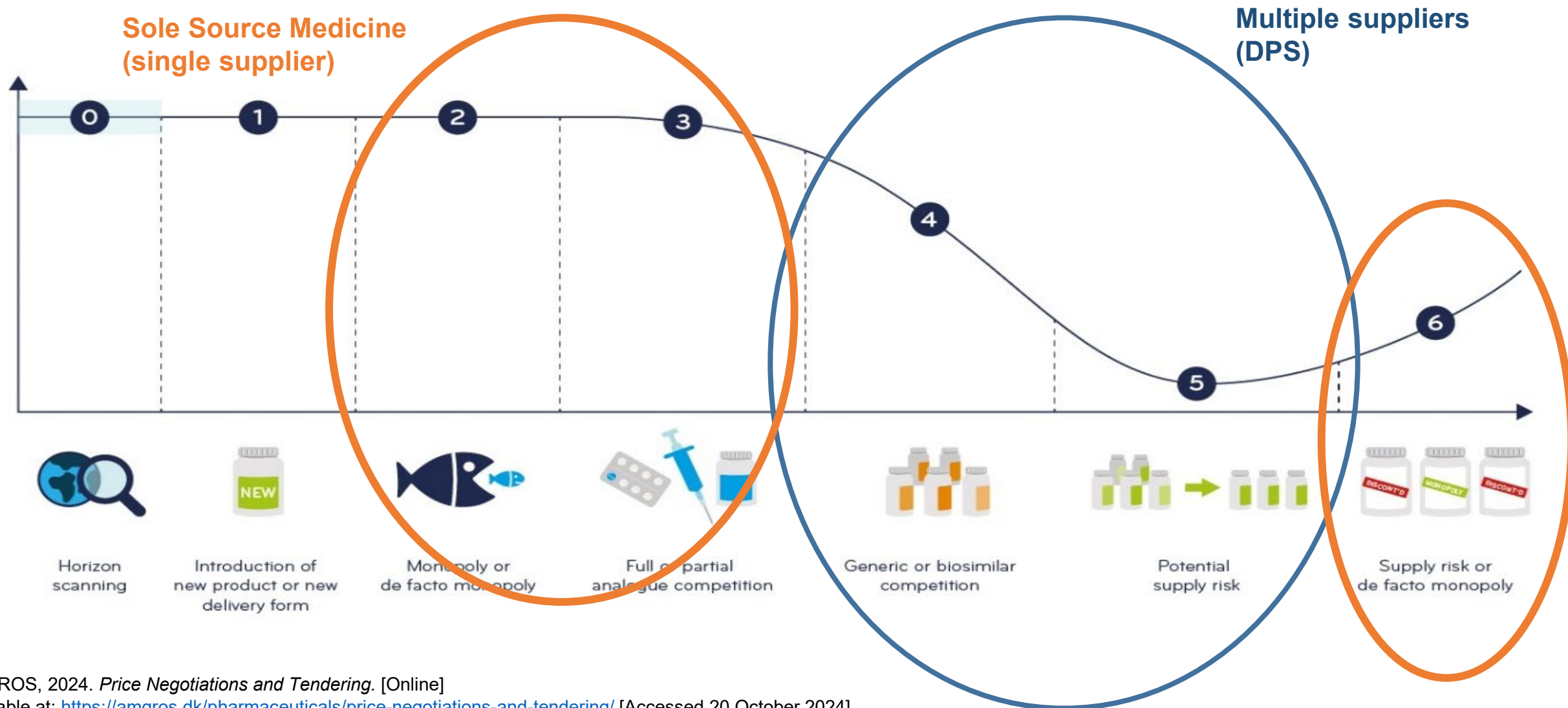
# Strategy



<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/drugs-management-programme/medicine-procurement/>



# Pharmaceutical Lifecycle





# Sole Source List (single supplier)

## **What is the Sole Source Medicine?**

*A medicine that is available from a single known source in Ireland, with marketing authorisation from the HPRA under the Medicinal Products (control of placing on the market) Regulations 2007 or centrally from the EMA. Published twice a year.*

## ***What is a Preliminary Market Consultation?***

Procurement Legislation permits a contracting authority to directly negotiate with a “sole supplier”. However it is necessary to test the market place to identify bona fide sole suppliers. The “Preliminary Market Consultation (PMC)” outlines how the NPPST will engage with the market place to identify sole suppliers of medicines, thereby enabling a hospital pharmacy to achieve compliance using the exemption available for the negotiated procedure under Article 32 of the EU Procurement Directive.

## ***How can suppliers engage with PMC?***

Suppliers can submit response to PMC through e-tender platform. Latest publication available [here](#).

Closing date for responses current PMC (21<sup>st</sup> March 2025), outcome with updated SSL is expected to be published in Q3 2025.



# Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) (>1 supplier)

- First established in 2020 for 5 years and replacement DPS in use since Q1 2025
- NPPST engaged with suppliers to transition to new replacement DPS in later 2024
- Opportunity for suppliers to join at anytime during the lifetime of the DPS

*'A dynamic purchasing system shall be operated as a completely electronic process, and open throughout the period of validity of the purchasing system to any economic operator that stratifies the selection criteria'*

## ➤ Two Stage Process



- **Stage 1:** Qualification of Suppliers
- **Stage 2:** Mini-competition for medicines by individual or group of hospitals
- Suppliers **must be successfully qualified to the DPS by HSE to be notified of mini-competitions** when they are advertised
- 3 mini-competitions to date in 2025



# Green Procurement / Sustainability Criteria

## ➤ HSE Corporate Procurement Plan 2022-2024



### **Climate Action and Sustainability**

The Climate Action Plan 2021<sup>8</sup> provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to put Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050. The role that the public sector has to play in leading by example is critical. It brings a commitment to developing and implementing a sustainable public procurement policy that ensures that what we are buying and building is consistent with our climate ambition. As the largest purchaser of goods, services and works in the State, the health service will play a central role in delivering greener public procurement. Our suppliers will need to prepare themselves in order to be able to continue to work with us to achieve our sustainability goals.

- Award criteria with a focus on environmental / sustainability introduced in medicines tenders in 2023
- Engaging with European Procurement colleagues to scope the future approach



## Contacts –

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