

# Making Closed Loop Medicines Supply a Reality

Matt Elliott  
([matthew.elliott1@nhs.net](mailto:matthew.elliott1@nhs.net))

# Conflicts of Interest

- No personal conflicts of interest
- Research group previously received funding from Lloyds Register Foundation Assuring Autonomy International Programme

# Acknowledgements

- NHS Digital
- NHSx
- DXC/Dedalus
- JAC/Wellsky/CMM
- Trust Teams
  - IT Integration and Server Team
  - Pharmacy Finance & IT
  - Dispensary Staff



**Digital**



**Dedalus**



CareFlow  
MEDICINES  
MANAGEMENT

# Content

- Context
- Project
- How Does it Work?
- Lessons Learned
- The Future

# What is UHDB?

- Acute Foundation Trust covering 5 sites
- Merged Trust in 2019
- 1700 beds
- Patient Population over 750,000
- 13,500 staff

## Derby Sites (RDH & FNCH)

- Migrated ePMA from iCM to Lorenzo in November 2020
- One Main IP Dispensary
  - CMM Dispensing System
- > 1000 IP px items/day
- Outsourced OP Dispensary services



# The Problem

Px

- Prescriber prescribes medication

Contact

- Healthcare team contacts Pharmacy to supply medication

Dispense

- Transcribe order into dispensing system
- Dispense and label items

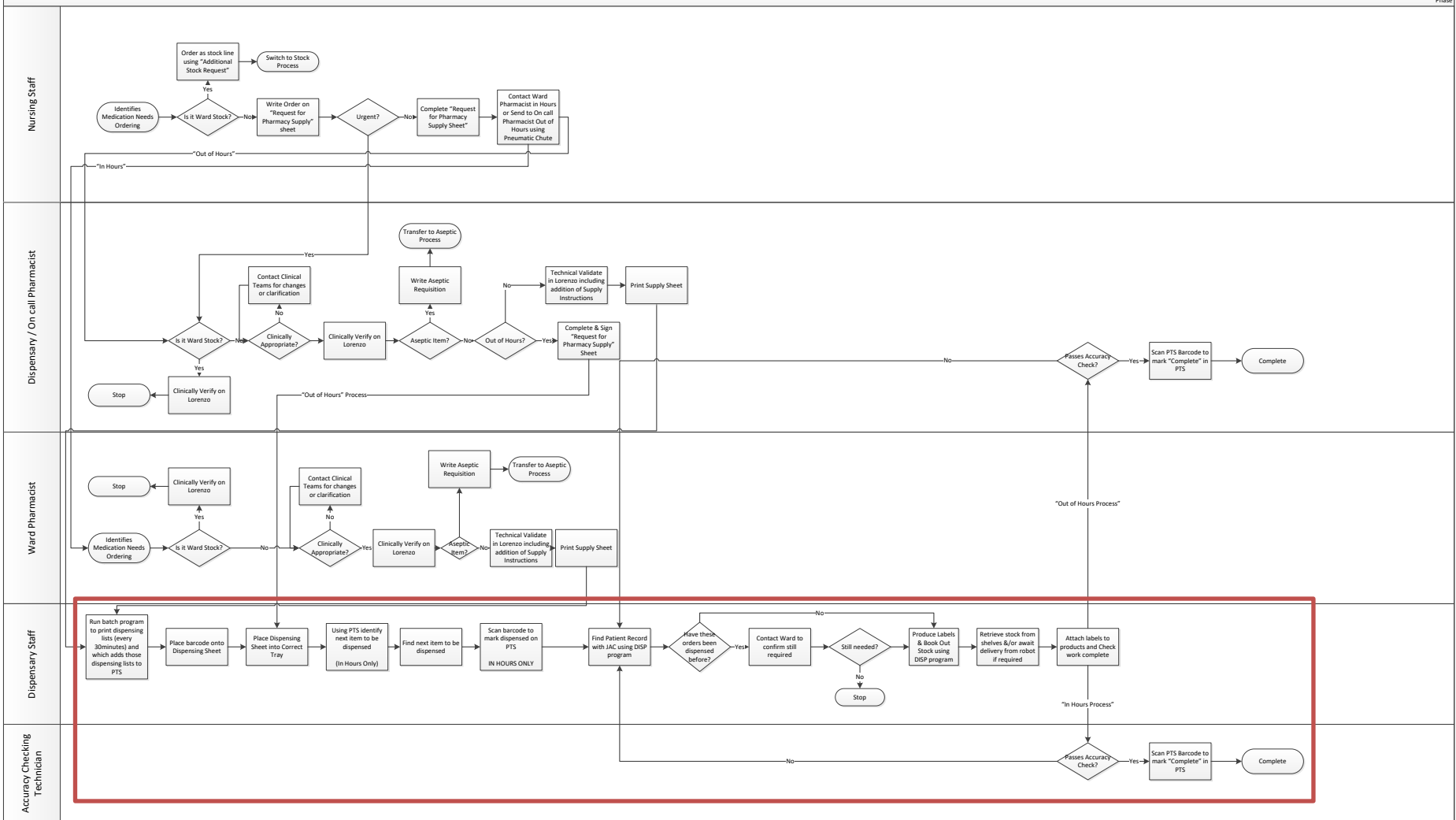
Check

- Dispensed item and label checked to ensure accuracy against the order and it meets relevant professional and regulatory standards

# Process Map

Current Process –  
Inpatient Ordering (New Medication) & Re-Ordering

Phase



# CLMS Philosophy

## "Best of Breed"

- Lots of bespoke software very good at what it does
- Requires interoperability to work effectively
  - Requires messaging to allow information use in other systems
  - Manual transcription if not done well!
- Separate teams for each software product
- Derby sites approach

## "Vertically Integrated"

- Single vendor provides all modules AND handles integration
- Usually allows use of information from one part of the system in any other
- Requires a much more integrated approach to configuration and team setup
- Burton sites approach



# What did we hope for?

Px

- Prescriber prescribes
- Computer delivers relevant alerts from FDDE catalogue

Pharmacy

- Verify the prescription is safe/effective/appropriate
- Select appropriate product to dispense
- Confirm products required for dispensing

Dispense

- Automatic transmission of the order into Pharmacy system
- Human picks next item to dispense from pick list in Pharmacy system
- Automated label directions from Medication request message

Check

- Use of barcoded checking system
- Human checks product against "Supply Sheet" from ePMA if fails

Distribution

- Nurse comes to the hatch to collect

# What Does it Look Like?

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "LORENZO - Internet Explorer" displaying a patient's medication list. The patient's details are shown at the top: "XXTESTPATIENTAAJT ,Ebs-Donotuse (Ms) 08-May-1951 70 yrs 02036331 999-002-6149" and "01773456789". The page is titled "Technically validate" and "Technically validate:". Below this, there is a section for "For administration medication items" which contains a table of medications.

Prescription item	Other information	Start date	Supply status	Supply instructions/ Product options	Supply comments	Latest supply	Next supply
<b>ANTIMICROBIAL</b>							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> amoxicillin - capsule - DOSE 500 mg - oral - three times a day at 8am 1pm 10pm - for 5 Day(s)	Stop Date: 22-SEP-2021 18:48 - Renewal On: 19-sep-2021 12:49	17-Sep-2021	<Select>	Add supply instructions/ Product options			
<b>REGULAR</b>							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> atenolol - tablet - DOSE 50 mg - oral - every morning		17-Sep-2021	<Select>	Add supply instructions/ Product options			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> metformin - modified release tablet - DOSE 500 mg - oral - every morning		17-Sep-2021	<Select>	Add supply instructions/ Product options			

At the bottom of the page, there are links for "Dispensing instructions" and "Show legend". The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the screen, showing the search bar, taskbar icons, and system tray with the date and time (19:55 17/09/2021).

# Standards



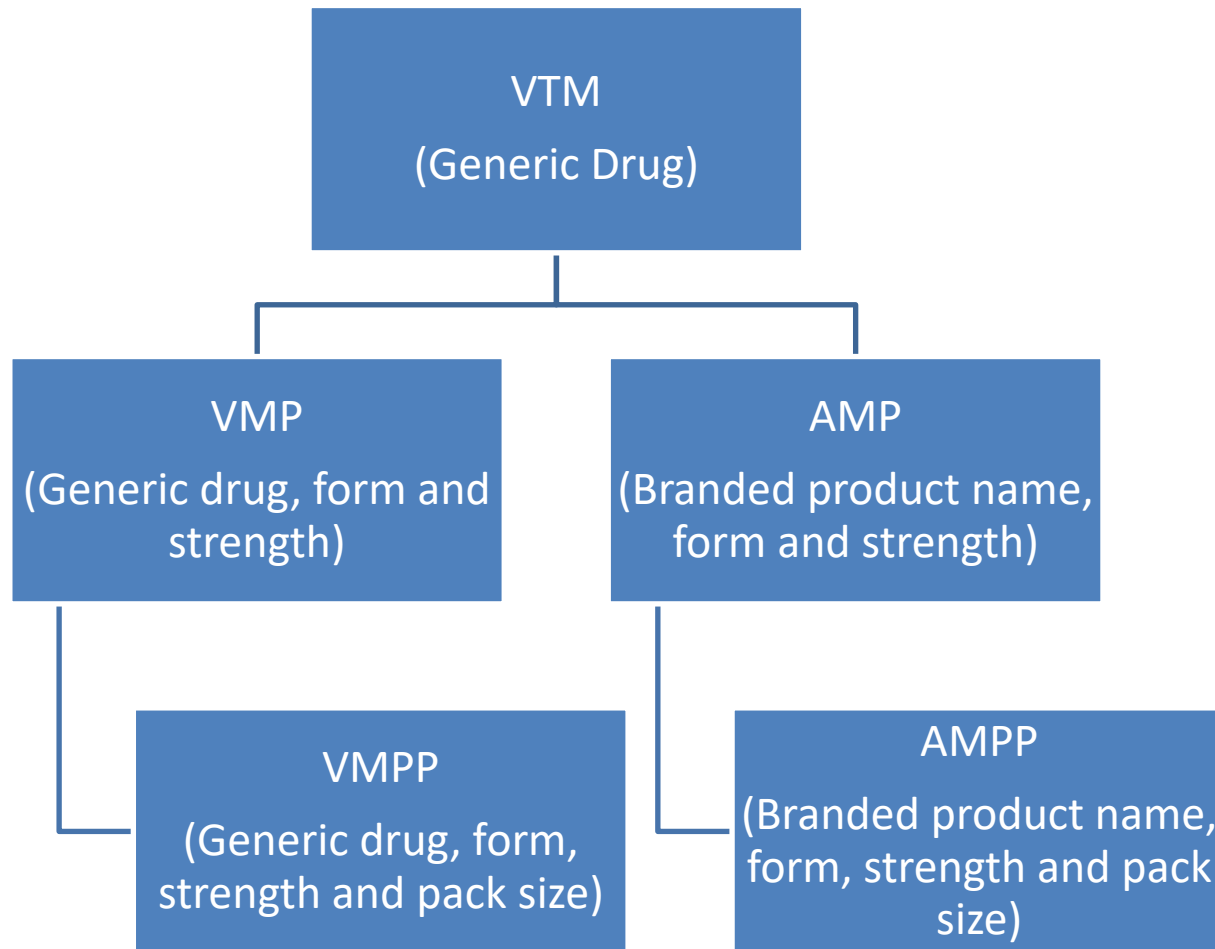
## FHIR

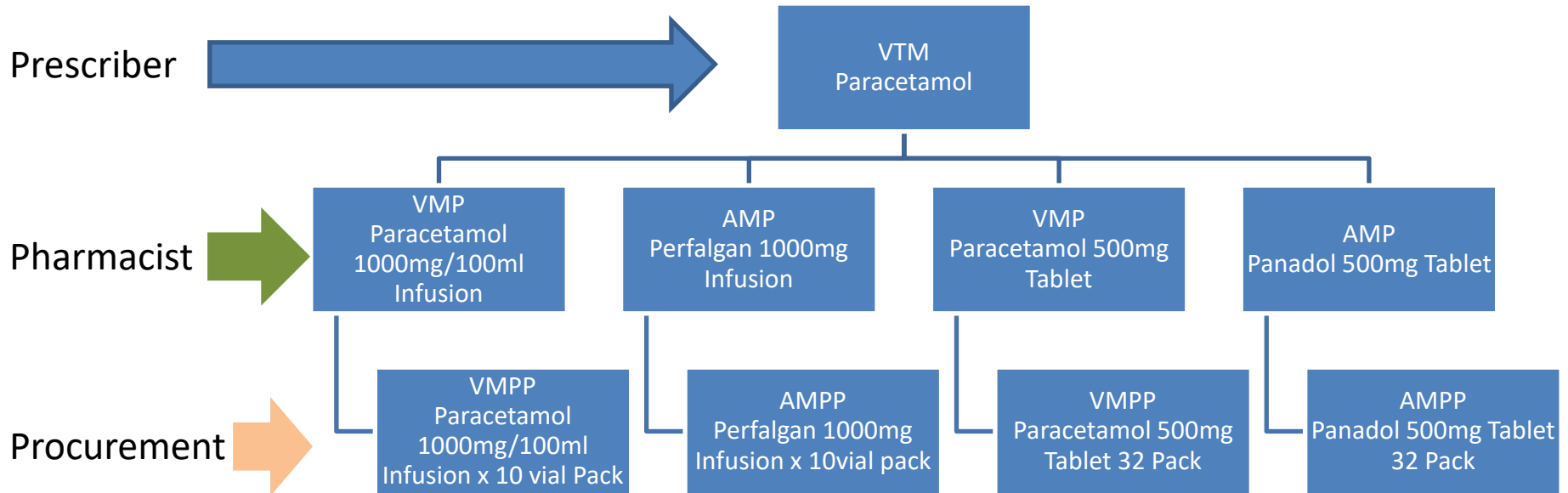
- Message structure
- Determines which fields are available
- Determines how those fields are structured
- Various iterations but R4 will be current UK standard
- Continually evolving
  - Good thing!



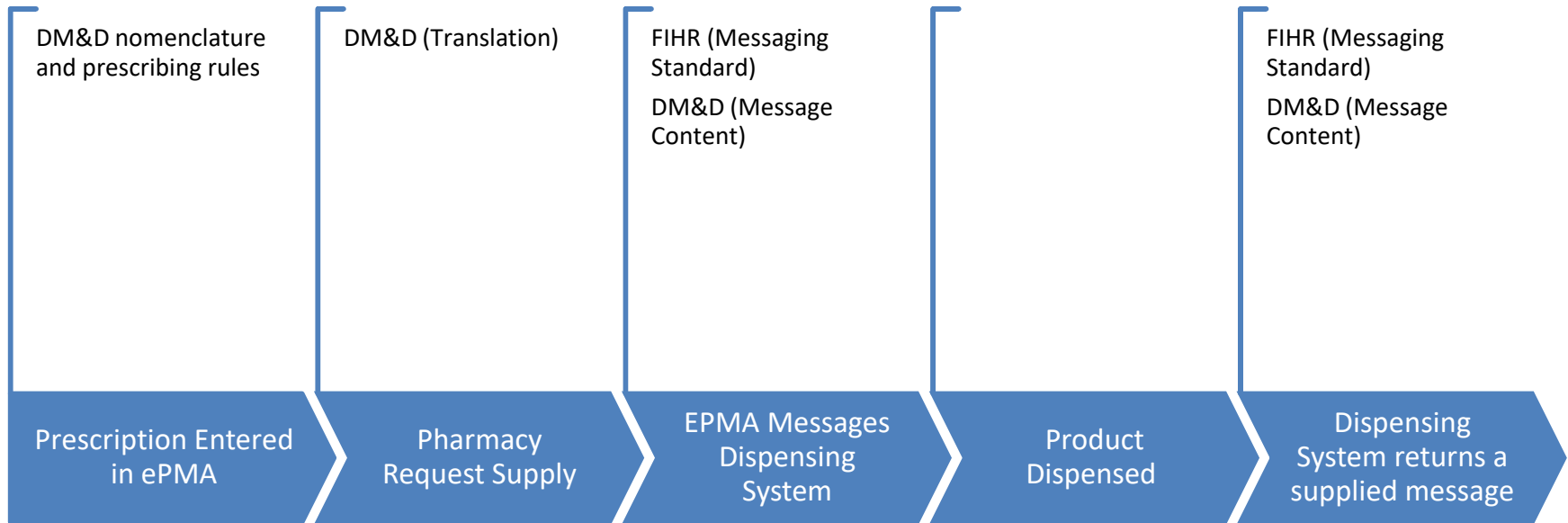
paracetamol - 500mg - tablet - Oral - DOSE 1000 mg - FOUR times a DAY.xml

# Standards





# How Does It Fit Together?



# What Have We Got?

- A working interface!
- >1000 messages successfully sent every day
- 80% success rate for message interpretability by the CMM system
- Anecdotal benefits already seen
  - Reduced transcription errors
  - Dispensing teams feel this is “safer”
  - Very useful second check if workload fails to arrive/print in dispensary
- Formal benefits appraisal undertaken once Technical Check is available

# Challenges

- Data
  - DM&D doesn't cover everything hospital Pharmacy dispenses
  - Are your Pharmacy and ePMA catalogues mapped?
  - FDBE mapping and lag compared to TRUD
  - Message construction best practices still evolving
  - Pharmacy cost centres not always easy translation of wards or Consultants
- Software
  - Dispensing solution an evolving product
    - Built at speed to enable this work to complete
  - Technical check, localities, manufacturing, CD & HC roadmap
- Locations
  - Not all NHS Sites work the same way!
  - Safety Assurance



# The Future

- Looking at resolving outstanding challenges
- Better understand our new processes
- Partnership working with all stakeholders
- More automation!
  - ?Dispensing cabinets
  - ?Unit dose dispensing machines
  - ?Blister Pack filling machines
  - ?Aseptic automation
  - ?Automated Dispensing, Labelling & Checking
  - ?Infusion pumps
- How could this apply to your ICS?
  - Centralised dispensing hubs?
  - Forwarding messages if meds out of stock in one “place” and no common dispensing system?

# Summary

- It's here, it works because of the standards
- Improved accuracy of patient name and drug transcription by removing the need to do it
- Some challenges remain but to be resolved through partnership working models
- The future is bright, probably robotic and not as far away as you think!

# Questions / Contact Us



[Matthew.elliott1@nhs.net](mailto:Matthew.elliott1@nhs.net)