



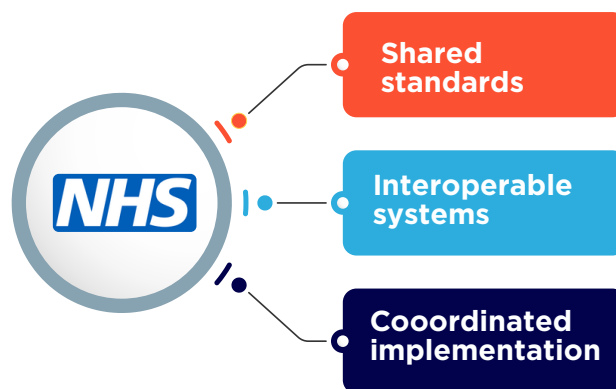
# Driving collaboration across the UK for safer, smarter, and more sustainable medicines pathways

## Identifying the need

Medicines are central to patient care, yet the systems that support prescribing, dispensing and administration remain fragmented, inefficient and prone to error.

Connected medication management, supported by digitalisation and automation, can help tackle these issues by improving safety, reducing waste and freeing up clinical capacity.

To deliver these benefits at scale, the NHS needs:



The **Automating for Better Care (A4BC)** programme is delivered by the Professional Records Standards Body in partnership with industry and the NHS. It focuses on tackling these challenges by co-developing solutions, aligning standards and sharing best practice to support a connected medicines management pathway that is:



**Safer for patients**  
Reducing errors and improving outcomes



**Smarter for clients**  
Enabling seamless prescribing, dispensing, and monitoring



**Sustainable for the NHS**  
Cutting waste, saving money, and improving efficiency

A4BC will identify issues and solutions, communicating benefits and sharing best practice at each stage:

- ✓ **Dispensing and supply chains**  
streamlining logistics, reducing shortages, and improving stock control
- ✓ **Formularies mapping and standardisation**  
Ensuring accuracy, interoperability, and clinical decision support throughout secondary care
- ✓ **Electronic prescribing**  
Ensuring consistent and best practice prescribing across all care settings
- ✓ **Medicines reconciliation and administration**  
Supporting safe delivery of medicines at the point of care, reducing adverse reactions and allergies

## The benefits of automation



### REDUCING MEDICATION ERRORS AND COSTS

Medication errors are the leading cause of avoidable harm in the NHS, with 237 million occurring annually, contributing to 1,700 deaths. Automation can reduce risk by improving accuracy and information flow across medicines pathways.



### REDUCING MEDICINES WASTE AND ENSURING SUPPLY

The NHS wastes an estimated £300 million annually on unused medicines. Automated inventory management reduces waste, lowers holding costs, and ensures critical medicines are always available.



### FREED UP NHS STAFF AND IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY

Pharmacy automation reduces the admin burden on NHS staff, freeing up time for patient care. It also streamlines discharges and department transfers, improving hospital efficiency and patient flow.



### HARNESSING DATA FOR SMARTER MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

Automation generates valuable data that enhances procurement, ensures compliance with clinical guidelines, and optimises system performance.

## Delivering for impact

The 2026 programme, delivered through a cross-sector forum and accelerator working groups will focus on formulary mapping, supporting efficient prescribing practices across all secondary care settings, and interoperability to support a standardised approach to connecting electronic prescribing to point of care.


Alongside collaborative projects to deliver improved standards and sharing best practice, the programme will deliver a policy and advocacy programme to shape policy and investment decisions.


## Supporting the programme

By sponsoring the Automating for Better Care (A4BC) programme, you'll be at the forefront of shaping a UK wide transformation in how medicines are prescribed, dispensed, and monitored. Sponsorship offers visibility as a leader in innovation, direct engagement with NHS partners, and the chance to co-develop solutions that improve patient safety, reduce waste, and deliver measurable savings for the health system.

**Join us in shaping a future where medicines management is connected, consistent, and patient-centred. Together, we can build a pathway that delivers better outcomes, stronger NHS efficiency, and lasting value for society.**

## Find out more

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 [a4bc.org.uk](http://a4bc.org.uk)



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