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## Introduction

The NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) Medicines Information and Governance (MI&G) delivers a range of pharmacy-led services aligned to priorities from local prescribing and therapeutics committees. As well as the core element of enquiry answering, MI&G proactively supports safe and clinical effective use of medicines via development and maintenance of resources such as the Formulary, Therapeutics Handbook (TH) and Medicines Update (MU) blogs across 5 teams. MI&G also provides training to groups including pre and post registration foundation pharmacists, mainly by the enquiry answering team.

## NHS Education for Scotland (NES) Post-Registration Foundation programme for Newly Qualified Pharmacists (NQPs)

This new programme is designed to develop pharmacist independent prescribers with the knowledge, skills and behaviour to deliver safe and effective holistic person-centred pharmaceutical care. A key difference from the previous NES framework was the removal of the medicines information element for acute sector pharmacists which included a minimum of 3 complex enquiries.

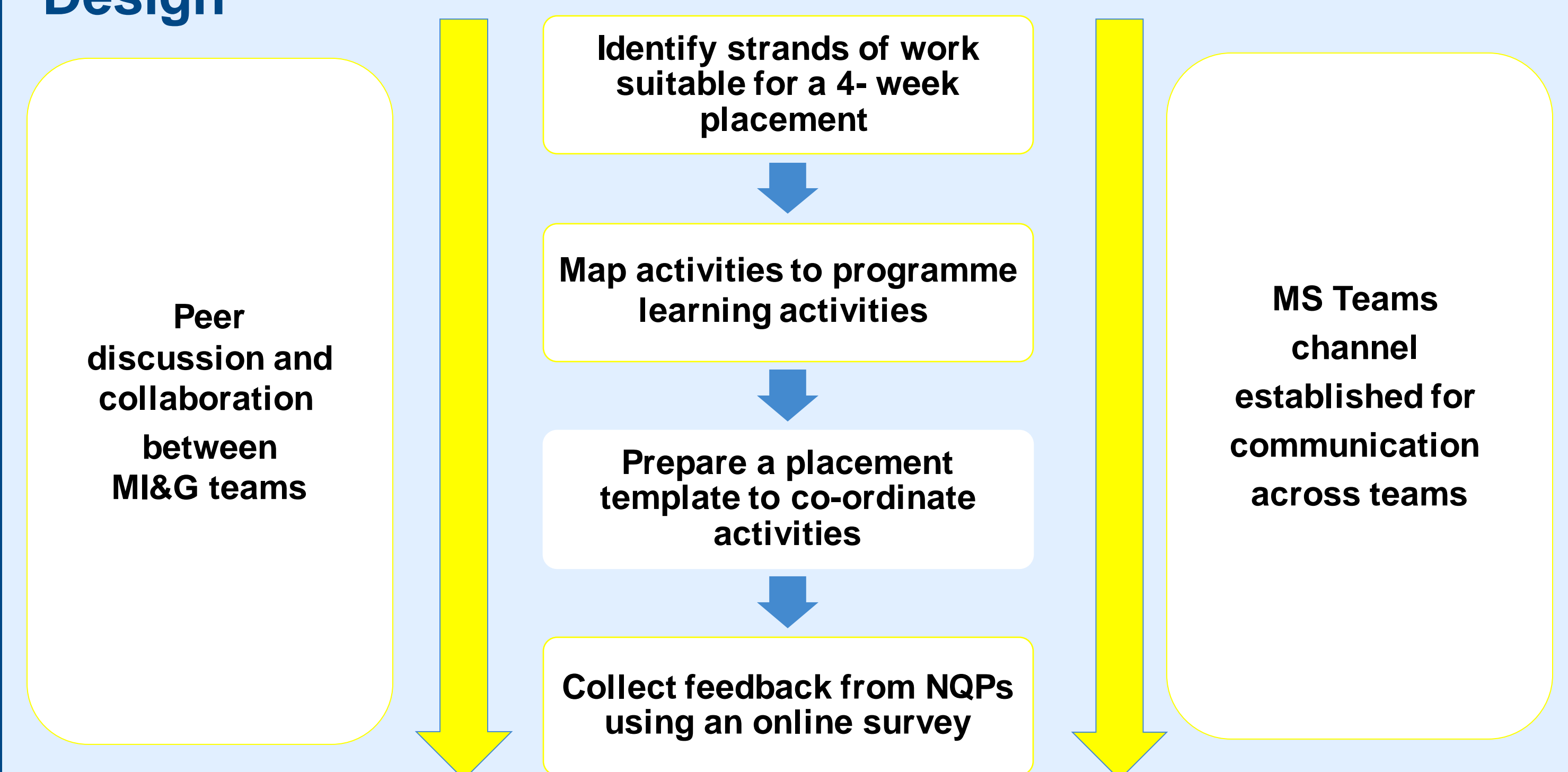
Launch of this new programme created an opportunity to review our training to cover all aspects of MI&G and to support NQPs' knowledge and experience in areas such as prescribing governance and development of prescribing support materials for wide audiences of healthcare professionals as well as patient specific enquiry answering.

## Aim

To develop a new placement to support NQPs in acute hospitals to:

- contribute to the different strands of work in the wider MI&G team;
- develop knowledge and skills in areas such as communication, answering questions about medicines, workload prioritisation, literature searching;
- demonstrate learning outcomes across the domains of the new programme.

## Design



## Results

### The new MI&G placement



### NQP Feedback

Answered by 10 out of 14 NQPs who had completed a placement by May 2023.

#### Key findings:

- Following the placement 9/10 NQPs say they felt:
  - 🔍 More confident to carry out literature searches
  - 💡 Confident to provide evidence-based information on medicines
  - 📖 More aware of resources to use to find evidence-based information on medicines
- On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = not very useful/ easy; 5 = very useful/ easy):
  - 💡 When asked 'How useful the placement was in meeting learning outcomes from the programme' the average rating was 4.
  - 💡 When asked 'How easy it was to complete supervised learning events as evidence for the programme' the average rating was 4.

- 8/10 NQPs would recommend the placement to colleagues and 2/10 would maybe recommend
- 10/10 NQPs felt more aware of the work of the MI&G teams following the placement

General appreciation and understanding of work carried out, improvement in writing skills from enquiry answering and writing my own evidence briefing.  
*NQP comment*

Attending ADTC meeting, learning about how additions are made to formulary. Understanding how to use primary literature sources to answer questions about clinical practice.  
*NQP comment*

Learned more about the role pharmacy plays in the development and reviewing of the adult therapeutics handbook. Learned more about the types of enquiries answered by the MI answering team.  
*NQP comment*

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## Conclusion

An innovative approach to MI&G training has been successfully delivered in NHSGGC Acute. The NQPs deliver specific pieces of work that support safe and effective use of medicines. This placement supports NQPs achieving the NES programme outcomes and develops their knowledge and skills. It has been positively received by NQPs to date and awareness of the role and wider work of MI&G in NHSGGC has increased. Our collaborative approach to workforce development continues to evolve and next steps may include the inclusion of medication safety and medicines planning.

