



Regional Formulary Project—Update

Phase 2 — Governance Processes

The migration of the Lothian Joint Formulary (LJF) was phase 1, in establishing a new regional formulary for the East of Scotland (NHS Lothian, NHS Borders and NHS Fife.) There was a soft launch of the new website on the 21st December and the old LJF website was switched off in February 2021. Information on this process has been communicated previously across NHS Lothian—links available on page 3.

Phase 2 is the scoping and establishing of a regional formulary.

The governance process for the East Region Formulary (ERF) has been agreed by each of the health boards. The new governance structure sits under each of the boards Area Drugs and Therapeutics Committees (ADTC). A flowchart of the structure is on page 3. The ADTC retains oversight of formulary processes in keeping with existing local governance arrangements. Decision making on new medicines and the formulary is devolved to the new East Region Formulary Committee.

The East Region Formulary Committee and East Region Working Group have representation from all three boards and members have been drawn from the individual boards to sit on either the ERFC or the ERWG.

East Region Formulary Committee (ERFC)

This group undertakes many of the functions that the individual board formulary committees undertook. It will review formulary application forms and approves the formulary content that is developed by the Chapter Expert Working Groups (CEWG). The ERFC will meet every 2 months. The first meeting of ERFC is the 29th September.

East Region Working Group (ERWG)

This group sets priorities, co-ordinates the work of the CEWGs and reviews completed chapters before they are submitted to ERFC for approval. ERWG ensures consistency of approach and editorial style of chapters. If required it will work to resolve any issues that cannot be agreed at the CEWG. ERWG will review drug safety advice and new national guidelines (e.g. SIGN) to agree what amendments are required to the formulary. The workplan for review of formulary content will be agreed at the ERWG. This will allow prioritisation of content. The ERWG will meet every 2 months.

Chapter Expert Working Group (CEWG)

These are groups with specific expertise in each therapeutic area. The formulary content has been split into 19 sections—each with a different CEWG. Invites to join a CEWG are sent out to clinicians in each of the boards, as the meetings are scheduled. Each of the CEWGs will be led by one of the Health Board Formulary Pharmacists on behalf of all three boards.

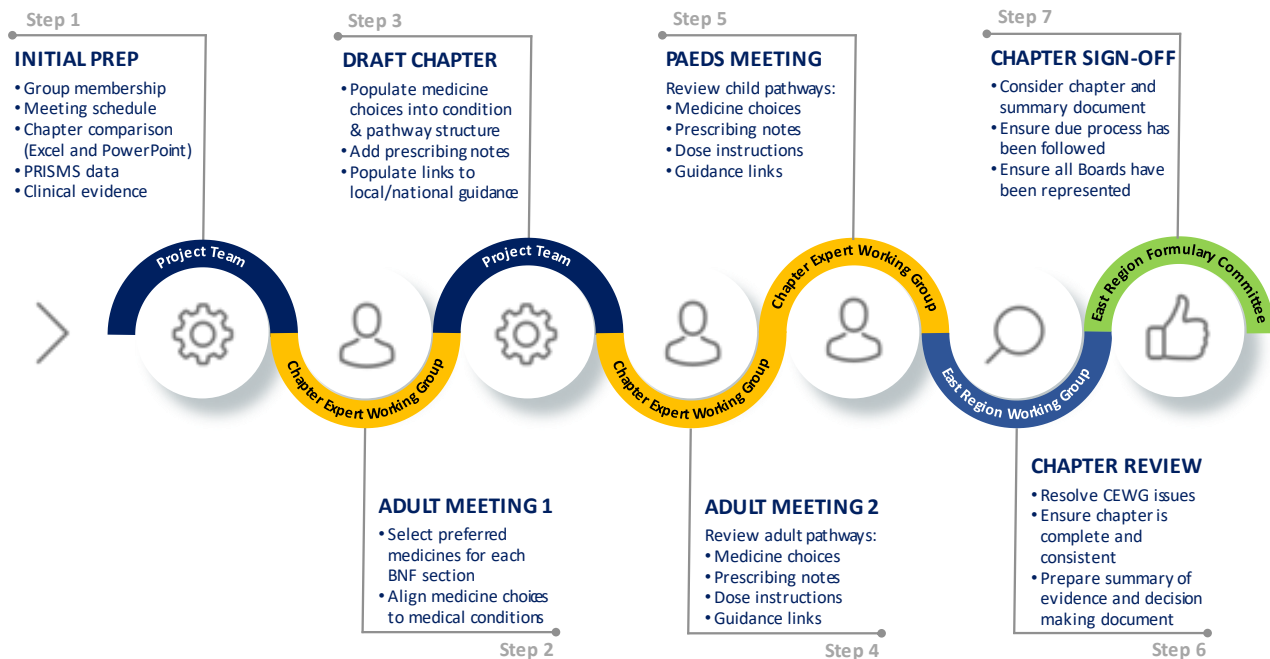
The first 3 chapters of the formulary that will be agreed regionally are skin, gastrointestinal and infection. Meetings have been held and each chapter is at a different stage of completion. Meetings have gone very well and there has been great engagement from all involved.

The second group of 3 chapters to be developed will be diabetes, respiratory and cardiology. These CEWG have been formed and invites for meetings in Nov/Dec have been sent out.

Work on paediatric chapters has started and will follow the same 'order' as the adult content.

East Region Formulary Committee Meeting dates	East Region Working Group Meeting dates
29 September 2021	3 November 2021
24 November 2021	12 January 2022
2 February 2022	9 March 2022
30 March 2022	4 May 2022
25 May 2022	6 July 2022
27 July 2022	

EAST REGION FORMULARY – CHAPTER JOURNEY



Process for new medicines and amendments of the formulary

The ERFC needs to make decisions for all three boards together. Therefore the process for medicines newly recommended by the Scottish Medicines Consortium will be slightly different. Now formulary application forms need to include patient numbers from all three boards. Clinical teams will need to work together in completing the forms. The formulary teams can help with identifying contacts in the other boards if that is required.

A new suite of application forms is being developed, but there will be a short period of grace where applications may be submitted on the old paperwork if work had already started on them.

For a short period of time, to allow progress to be made in agreeing content with the CEWGs, non-urgent requests for minor formulary amendments will be put on hold. If lots of minor requests were agreed at ERFC, it would need the three boards to update sections individually. This could be time consuming and take time away from agreeing large chapters of regional content. Urgent updates due to medicines safety for example, will of course be undertaken. The formulary teams and ERWG will help triage these requests.

Further information on processes surrounding SMC medicines, unlicensed medicines and formulary amendments will be issued shortly.

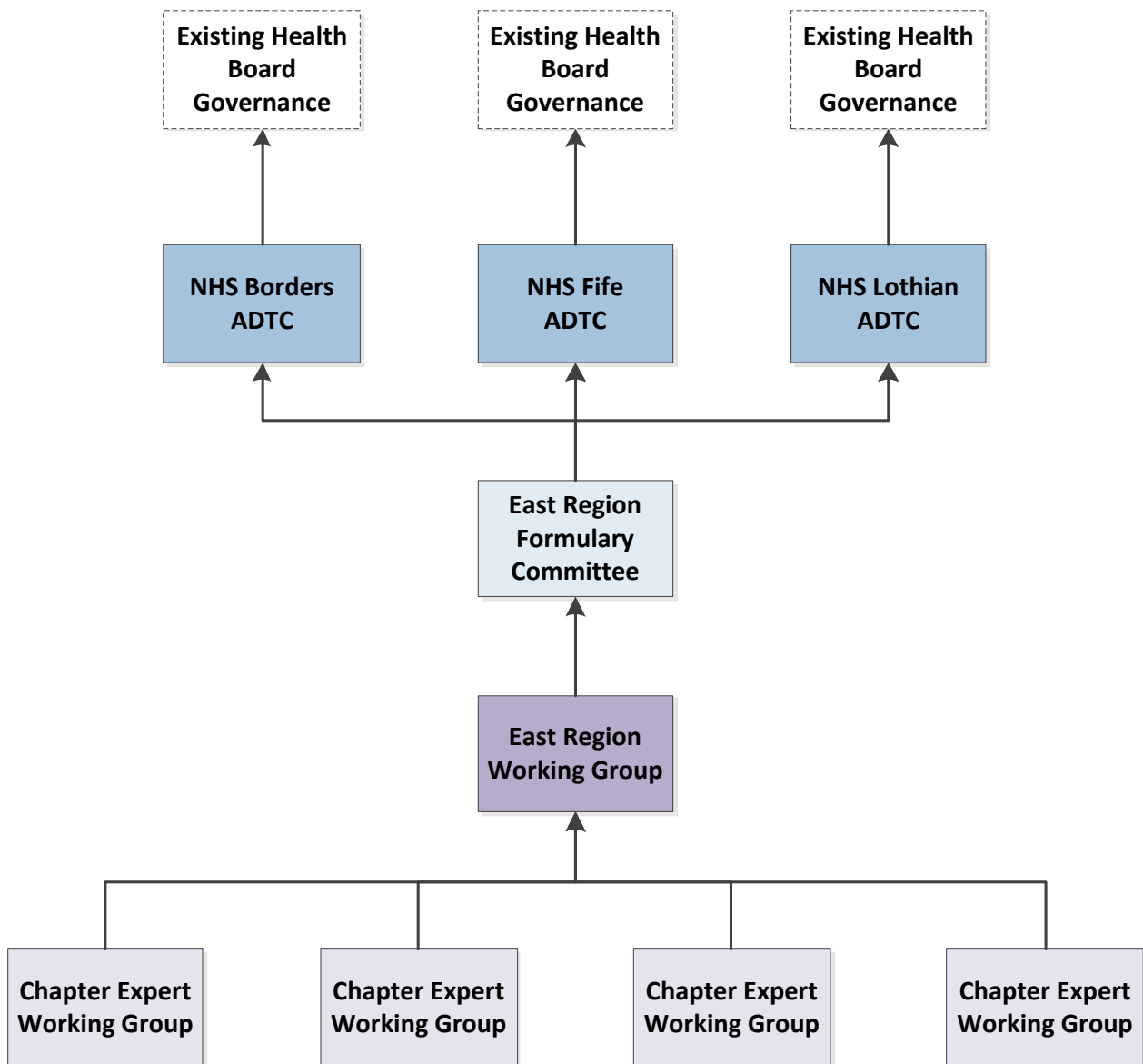
Formulary content, website and mobile app

When complete, the new regional recommendations will be delivered to all formulary users in NHS Borders, Fife and Lothian via a new website and mobile app. The new content is presented using a condition and treatment pathway structure. NHS Lothian have already gone live with the new website at formulary.nhs.scot/east and this is currently branded as NHS Lothian.

As we work through the process of approving each chapter of the regional content, the chapters will initially be made available to formulary users via the existing local formulary websites. This means that formulary users in NHS Borders and Fife will view the content as PDF documents from their own formulary websites, just as they do at present.

As we head towards completion of the regional formulary development, we will reach a point where the new website will be re-branded East Region Formulary and users in NHS Borders and Fife will switch to using the site. Details of when this will take place will be communicated closer to the time.

East Region Formulary - Governance Chart



Previous updates on the East Region Formulary

[Exciting times -coming soon – a new formulary website](#) (June 2020)
[Soft Launch of new formulary website](#) (December 2020)
[Launch of new formulary website](#) (January 2021)
[Regional Formulary update](#) (March 2021)
[Launch of new formulary app](#) (March 2021)

Lothian Prescribing Bulletin articles; [Sep 2020](#), [July 2021](#), [Sep 2021](#)

Regional Formulary Team

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Contact us through the website or by emailing prescribing@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk marking the email for the attention of the Regional Formulary Team.