

What does an NCD Do ?

ARMA Lecture

26th November 2013

Low Back Pain in the New NHS

Charles Greenough

National Clinical Director for Spinal Services

New Medical Directorate

- **Sir Bruce Keogh – Medical Director**
- **Two Deputies – Mike Bewick, ?**

Five Domains

1. Preventing Premature Mortality

Celia Ingham Clark

2. Long Term Conditions

Martin McShane

3. Recovery from Ill Health or Injury

Keith Willett

Five domains

4. Ensuring Positive Patient Experience

Neil Churchill

5. Ensuring a Safe Environment

Mike Durkin

25 National Clinical Directors

- **Major Trauma**
 - **Chris Moran**
- **Musculoskeletal Services**
 - **Peter Kay**
- **Spinal Disorders**
 - **Charles Greenough**

Clinical Input to Specialised Commissioning

- **75 Clinical Reference Groups (CRG)**
 - Specifications, QUIN, QUIP
 - NOT commissioning
- **5 Programmes of Care**
 - **Trauma, Rachel O'Connor**
- **Clinical Priorities Advisory Group (CPAG)**
- **NHS Board**

Low Back Pain

Background and Context

2009

NICE Guidance G88

**Low back pain: early management of persistent
non-specific low back pain**

2010

Department of Health

**Organising Quality and Effective Spinal Services
for Patients**

**A report for local health communities
by the Spinal Taskforce**

2013

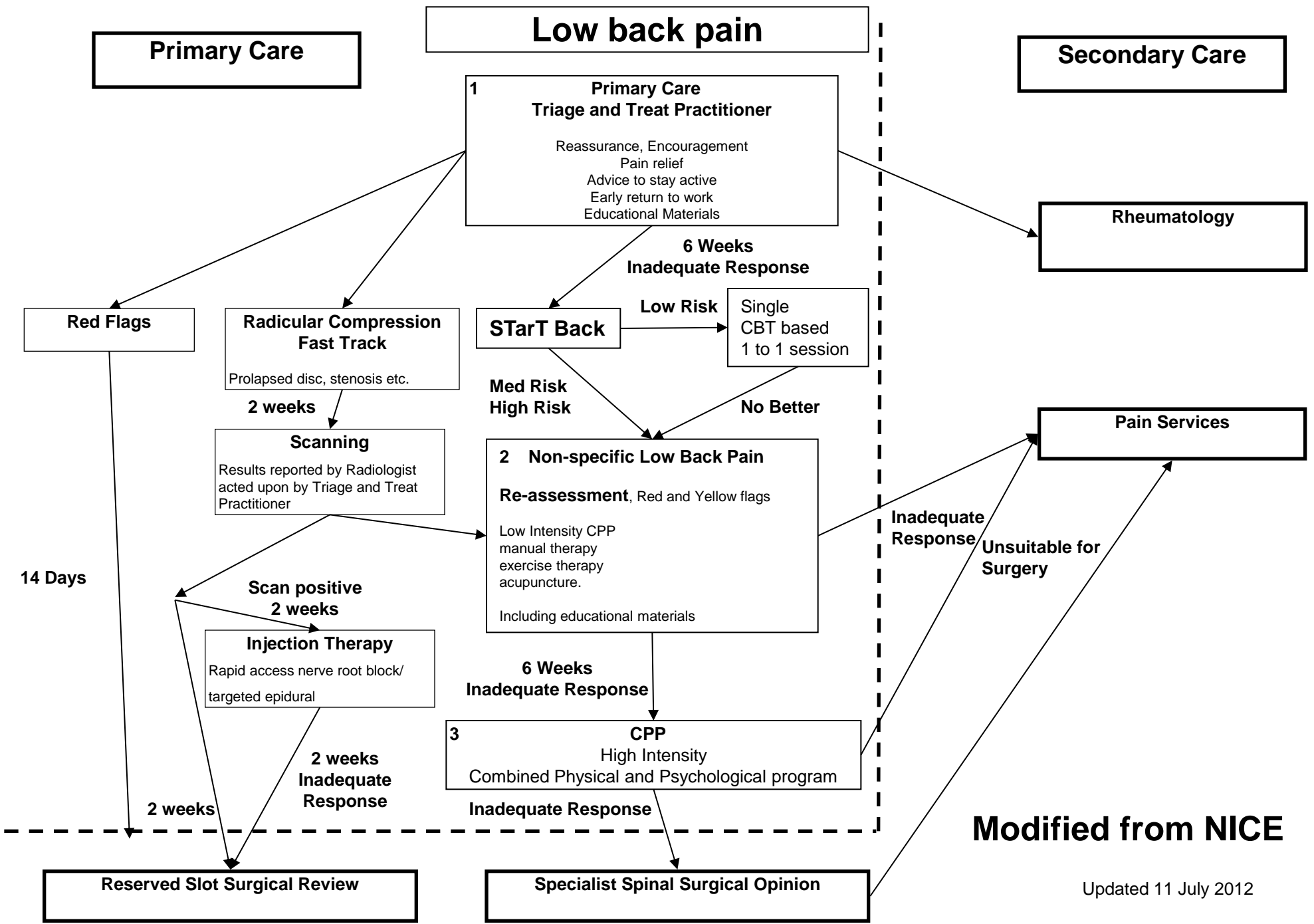
The National Spinal Taskforce

**Commissioning Spinal Services – Getting The
Service Back On Track**

A Guide For Commissioners Of Spinal Services

Points of Agreement

- **Pathway of Care**
- **Simple Therapies**
- **No Injections**
- **Combined Physical and Psychological Programme (CPPP)**
- **Fusion Surgery**



Implementation

Pathway

- **No general implementation**

Implementation

Simple Therapies

- **Manual Therapies – Generally Available**
- **Exercise Therapies - Patchy Availability**
- **Acupuncture - Poor Availability**

Implementation

No Injection Therapy

- **Enthusiastic Implementation !**

Implementation

CPPP

- **Extremely Limited Availability**

Implementation

Fusion Surgery

- **General Availability**

Why did Implementation Fail ?

- **No coherent commissioning structures available**
- **Difficulty of Changing funding flow**
- **Need for “Champion” in every PCT**
- **Local opposition of vested interests**

New Commissioning Structures

- **Direct Commissioning of GPs via 27 Area Teams**
- **Commissioning of non-specialised services in primary and secondary care by 211 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)**
- **Direct Commissioning of Specialised Services by Specialised Commissioning Directorate of NHS England via 10 of the Area Teams**

New Commissioning Structures

- **Commissioning Barriers still remain**
 - **Between GP and CCG**
 - **Between CCG and Specialised Services**

GP

Low back pain

**Specialised
Commissioning**

CCG

**1 Primary Care
Triage and Treat Practitioner**
Reassurance, Encouragement
Pain relief
Advice to stay active
Early return to work
Educational Materials

Rheumatology

Red Flags

**Radicular Compression
Fast Track**
Prolapsed disc, stenosis etc.

STarT Back

**6 Weeks
Inadequate Response**

Low Risk

Single
CBT based
1 to 1 session

**Med Risk
High Risk**

No Better

Pain Services

Scanning
Results reported by Radiologist
acted upon by Triage and Treat
Practitioner

2 weeks

2 Non-specific Low Back Pain
Re-assessment, Red and Yellow flags
Low Intensity CPP
manual therapy
exercise therapy
acupuncture.
Including educational materials

**Inadequate
Response**

**Unsuitable for
Surgery**

14 Days

**Scan positive
2 weeks**

Injection Therapy
Rapid access nerve root block/
targeted epidural

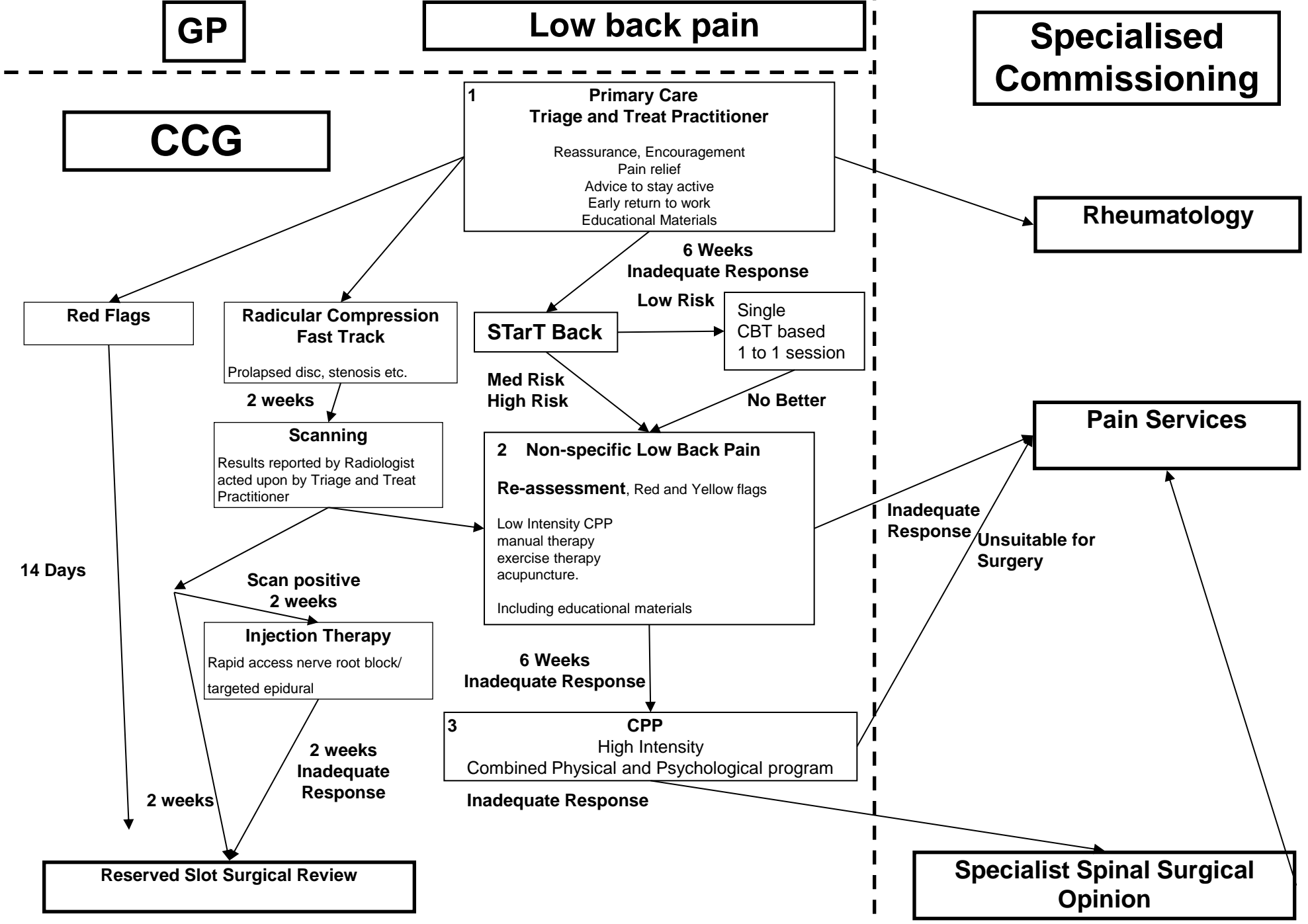
**2 weeks
Inadequate
Response**

**6 Weeks
Inadequate Response**

3 CPP
High Intensity
Combined Physical and Psychological program
Inadequate Response

Reserved Slot Surgical Review

**Specialist Spinal Surgical
Opinion**



New Commissioning Structures

- **Commissioning Assembly allows CCGs and specialised commissioning to interact**

Two National Projects

- **Pathfinder Project**
- **NICE Update of G88 Low Back Pain**

The Pathfinder Projects

- **An initiative of Specialised Commissioning.**
- **High Value Patient Pathways encompassing GP, CCG and Specialised Care.**
- **Designed to create seamless pathway from GP consultation through to Specialised Care.**
- **Serve as a model for other conditions**

The Pathfinder Projects

Low Back Pain and Radicular Pain has been selected as the Pathfinder Project for the Trauma Programme of Care Board

Two Components

- **Clinical agreement on the Pathway, based on *Current Evidence***
- **Cost Analysis, Case for Change and Commissioning Structures by NHS England**

The Pathfinder Projects

Designed to produce implementation of the *Current Evidence Based Pathway*, and implement the Treatments Recommended.

Designed to Promote Implementation of New Evidence in the Future, by Creating Commissioning System to underpin change.

NICE Update of G88

Two Major Changes Proposed

- **Removal of the Upper Time Limit of 12 Months**
- **Addition of Radicular Pain**

NICE Update of G88

Progress So Far

- **Chair of GDG, Stephen Ward, Appointed**
- **Draft Scope Out for Consultation, now closed**

NICE Update of G88

Some Concern

- Existing Evidence to be “Re-Interpreted”
- GDG Structure

NICE Update of G88

Future Progress

- Aim to Report Early 2016

Role of ARMA ?

- **Comment on Pathfinder Pathway**
 - **Invitation to join Clinical Group**
- **Support Joined Up Commissioning**
 - **CCGs**
 - **Community MSKS Services**
- **Support for Education and Training**
- **Consistency**

NCD Spinal Disorders

Feedback Wanted !



THANK YOU



Discussion