



AWTTC

All Wales Therapeutics & Toxicology Centre
Canolfan Therapiwteg a Thocsicoleg Cymru Gyfan

Medicines Access in Wales: New Initiatives

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All Wales Medicines Strategy Group



New developments

- [AWMSG strategy 2024-2029](#)
- National and International collaborations
- Horizon scanning
- **Changes to medicine access routes**
- MVU collaboration
- EAMs
- 2024 Voluntary Scheme for Branded Medicines Pricing, Access and Growth – VPAG investment facility



AWMSG Strategy for Wales

- **AWMSG 5 year strategy** published in April 2024
- **Vision:** *Improving the health and well-being of people in Wales by enabling patients to get the best outcomes from their medicines*
- **Mission:** *To deliver better health outcomes for people in Wales by ensuring timely and equitable access to medicines and appropriate medicines optimisation resources*



Principles

People-centred

Evidence-based decision making

Health equity

Avoidance of harm

Collaboration

Sustainability

Accessibility and transparency

Vision

To improve the health and well-being of people in Wales by enabling patients to get the best outcomes from their medicines

Mission

We will work to deliver better health outcomes for people in Wales by ensuring timely and equitable access to medicines, and the development and appropriate use of medicines optimisation resources

AWMSG Strategy 2024-2029

Ambitions

1. Help people in Wales get the best outcomes from medicines
2. Enable access to the right medicines at the right time for people in Wales
3. Minimise medicines-related harm and improve medicines-related safety for people in Wales
4. Optimise the value that NHS Wales achieves from its investments in medicines

Goal 1

Advice, resources and guidance reflect the priorities and needs of people and health and social care professionals in Wales

Goal 2

AWMSG advice, resources and guidance are disseminated, widely promoted and routinely implemented

Goal 3

Data and technology are used to improve value, patient outcomes and safety

Goal 4

Medicines assessment processes are rigorous, timely and deliver value

Goal 5

Health and social care professionals receive high-quality training in the safe and effective use of medicines

Goal 6

People in Wales take their medicines in a way that maximises their health outcomes

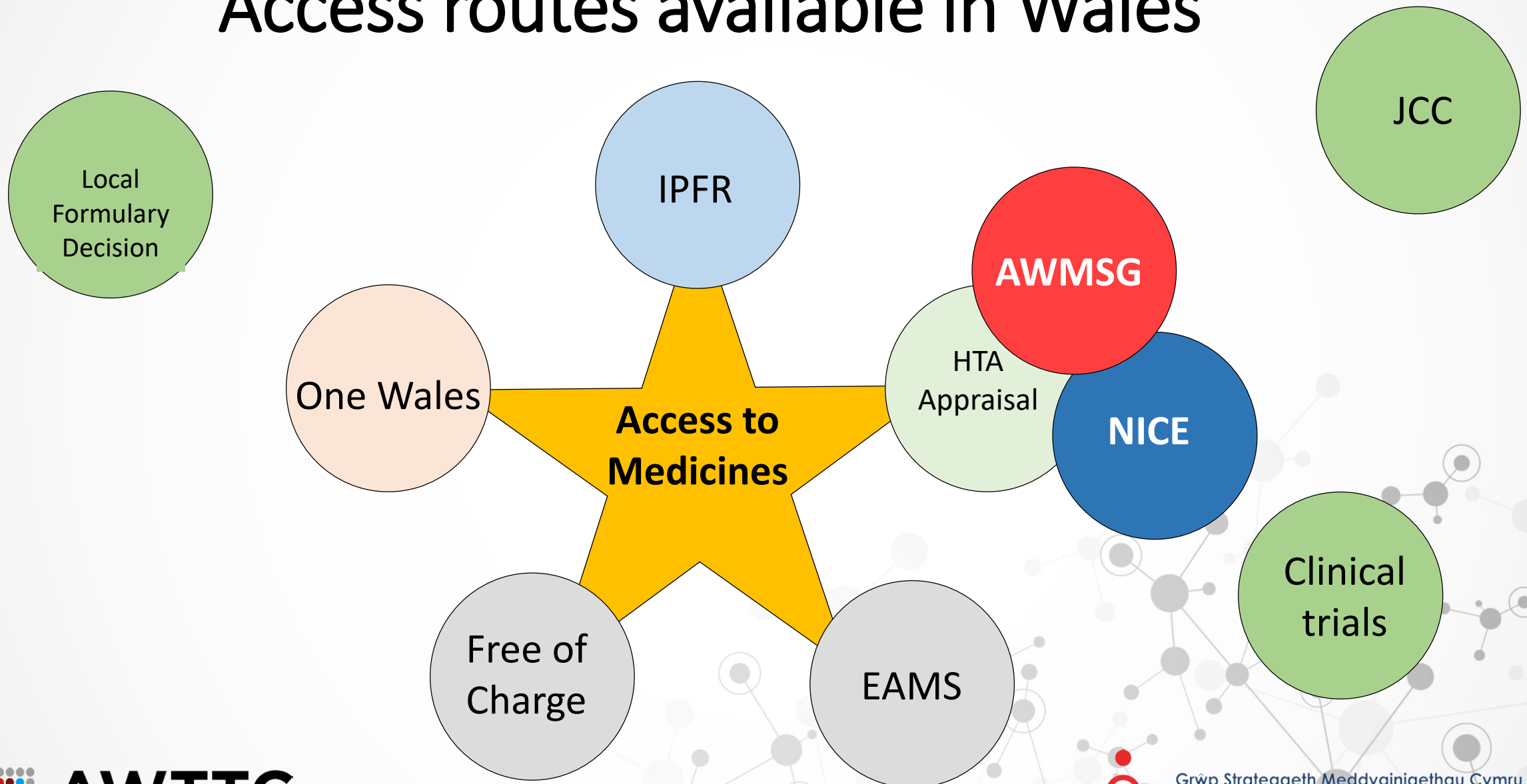
Goal 7

Waste associated with medicines use is reduced and sustainability is improved

Goal 8

The benefits of genetic-informed precision medicines are realised in Wales

Access routes available in Wales



Current Challenges

- Responding to changes at national and international level
- Effective horizon scanning against a changing and ever more complex landscape
- Medicine may fall outside the criteria for HTA or One-Wales assessment
- Perceived limited value in providing HTA advice for some medicines: is it the best use of limited resources??
- Engagement with pharmaceutical industry to ensure Wales is ready to adopt NICE guidance at FAD publication (i.e. commercial arrangements and service requirements)
- Usefulness of statements of advice?

How are we responding?



National and international collaboration



Adapting the horizon scanning process



Reviewing our processes for identifying medicines which may require AWMSG advice (inclusion criteria/scrutiny panel)



Review of the remit of the AWMSG sub-committees



Adaptation of the current assessment processes through AWMSG

National and International Collaborations

- Innovative Licensing and Access Pathway (ILAP)
- CAN/AUS/NZ/UK
- Medicines and Medical Devices Access Steering Committee and subgroups
- Health Technology Assessment Innovation Laboratory (HTA Lab)
- UK HTA strategic group
- National group on pathway mapping for complex/novel therapies into practice
- Clinical networks
- Advanced therapies Wales/AWMGS/AWGOG/NPPG
- Efficiencies task and finish group



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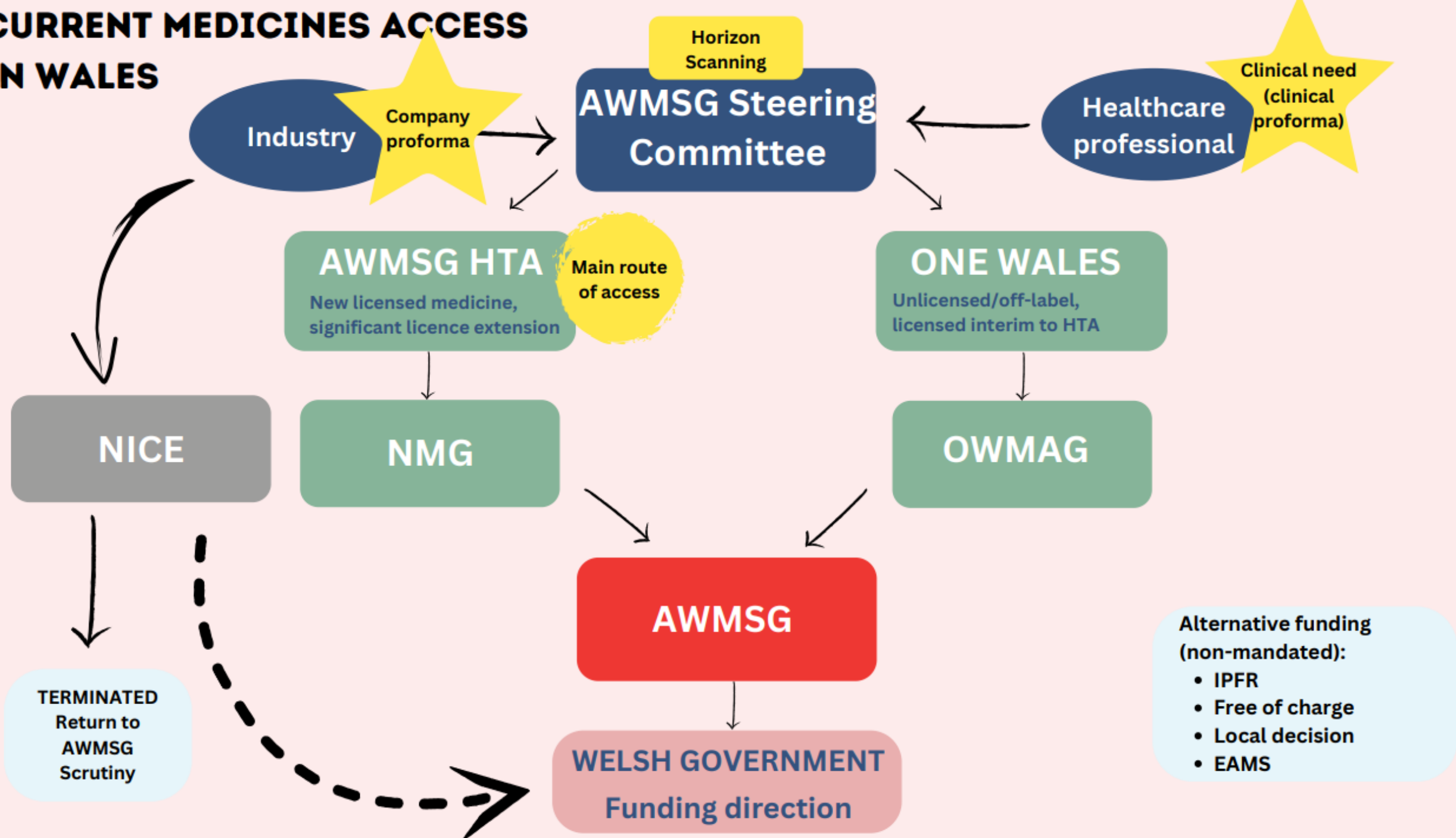
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Horizon Scanning and Financial Forecasting

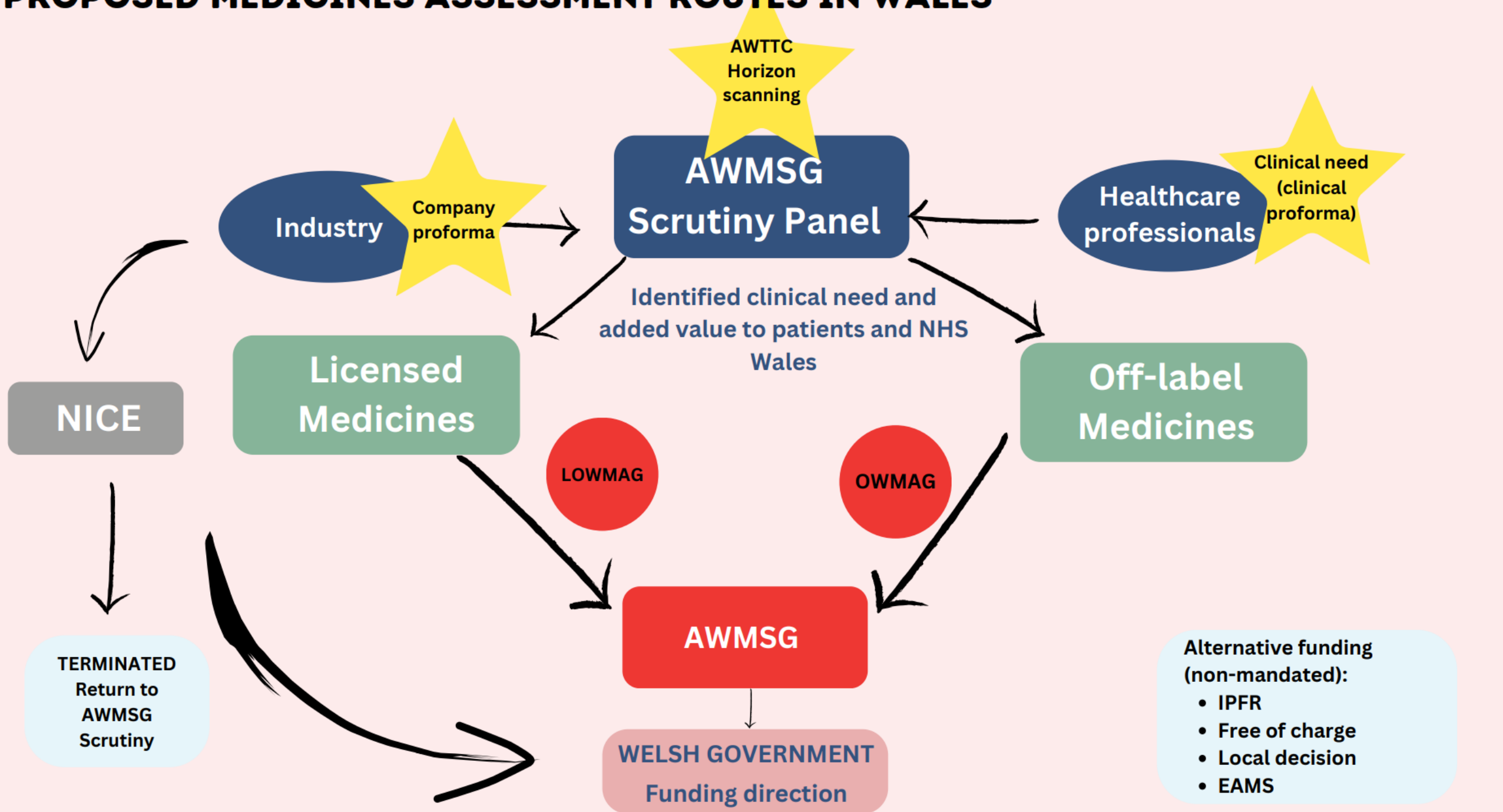
- Effective horizon scanning (HS) and financial forecasting (FF) information is essential to ensure system preparedness across the NHS in Wales
- The complexity, costs and service needs associated with many of the new innovative medicines approved by NICE and AWMSG based on 'emergent' data is increasing e.g. genomic medicines and ATMPs, meaning that current HS/FF services may no longer meet requirements
- Early work with the cancer network – moving from horizon scanning to horizon planning
- Increased support required to enable a deeper dive into specific medicines/areas



CURRENT MEDICINES ACCESS IN WALES



PROPOSED MEDICINES ASSESSMENT ROUTES IN WALES



AWMSG MEDICINES ASSESSMENT ROUTES FOR OFF-LABEL MEDICINES

- The medicine is not licensed for the indication of interest
- There is a clearly defined and specific cohort of patients identified by NHS Wales
- The requested use of the medicine is outside of an accepted treatment pathway, i.e. the specific sequence of treatment/s has not been approved by NICE/AWMSG
- There is no routinely available licensed medicine that will meet the patient's needs
- Requests for consideration of medicines are through the service in NHS Wales
- Opportunity for company to provide a commercial discount and comment on evidence report

Off-label Medicines



Assessment



OWMAG

- All recommendations are interim and subject to review (12 months after initial decision then every 1-3 years)
- Health boards are responsible for implementation of One Wales decisions
- Clinicians are required to collect and report patient outcomes
- If the product becomes licensed for the indication it will no longer be suitable for this process and the company will be expected to submit for HTA

AWMSG MEDICINES ASSESSMENT ROUTES FOR LICENSED MEDICINES

- New licensed medicine
- Significant licence extension
- Likely to have a significant impact in NHS Wales (service and/or budget)
- Delay in NICE advice or NICE advice not applicable due to associated commercial arrangement

Licensed
Medicines

- Not selected by NICE topic selection
- No significant cost/impact to NHS Wales
- Included in national guidelines
- National commissioning available elsewhere in UK

Full
assessment

Limited
assessment

Collaboration with the Medicines Value Unit

- AWTTC/MVU MOU signed April 2024
- Shared ambition - improving value to the whole service and society whilst achieving overall savings
- To explore opportunities of expanding medicines access and delivering better health outcomes for the population of Wales.
- To facilitate decision-making and inform best practice in healthcare to promote efficient and prudent approaches that maximise health benefits for the people of Wales
- Biosimilars
- Provide synergy and reduce duplication of effort



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EAMS

- Low uptake in Wales compared to other areas of the UK
- Is there a missed opportunity?
- No national process for the consideration of whether or not to adopt
- Lack of early information
- Initial work underway
- AWTTTC keen to take on a coordinated approach/act as the information gatekeeper

Next Steps.....



Engage with health care professionals to identify medicines where there is a clinical need for advice



Engage with pharmaceutical industry to gather information on pipeline medicines



Engage with NICE/NHSE to identify gaps in advice in NHS Wales



Collaborate with medicines value unit to ensure a coordinated approach and enable the best deal for NHS Wales

VPAG investment facility

- VPAG is a voluntary agreement agreed in 2024 between DHSC, the NHS and ABPI to support to improve patient outcomes, manage the NHS' medicines bill, and support the life sciences industry.
- The VPAG Investment Programme is a joint government-industry programme to strengthen the UK's global competitiveness in health and life sciences and drive innovation-led growth
- The programme will target investment (circa £400 million) across the four nations, with initiatives in three focus areas - clinical trials, manufacturing and health technology assessment
- Bid from AWTTC to support 4 key areas within HTA: Horizon scanning/financial forecasting, changes to the 'medicines ecosystem'. Development of implementation frameworks to support uptake of advice and unlocking data

Diolch yn fawr Thank you

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