

# Development of Multi-disciplinary Cancer Genomic Testing Pathways for Scotland

Scottish Strategic Network for Genomic Medicine (SSNGM),  
National Service Directorate, National Services Scotland

## Introduction

In April 2023 Scottish Government funded the implementation of 11 new cancer genomic testing pathways for the patients of Scotland.

Historically, the implementation of new cancer genomics testing pathways has been uncoordinated often leading to inequity of service delivery and long delays in the roll out of new tests.

The Scottish Strategic Network for Genomics Medicine has been working with clinical users and the Genomics Laboratories in Scotland to transform the delivery of new cancer genomic testing pathways by developing a new framework for delivery. Here we present progress to date.

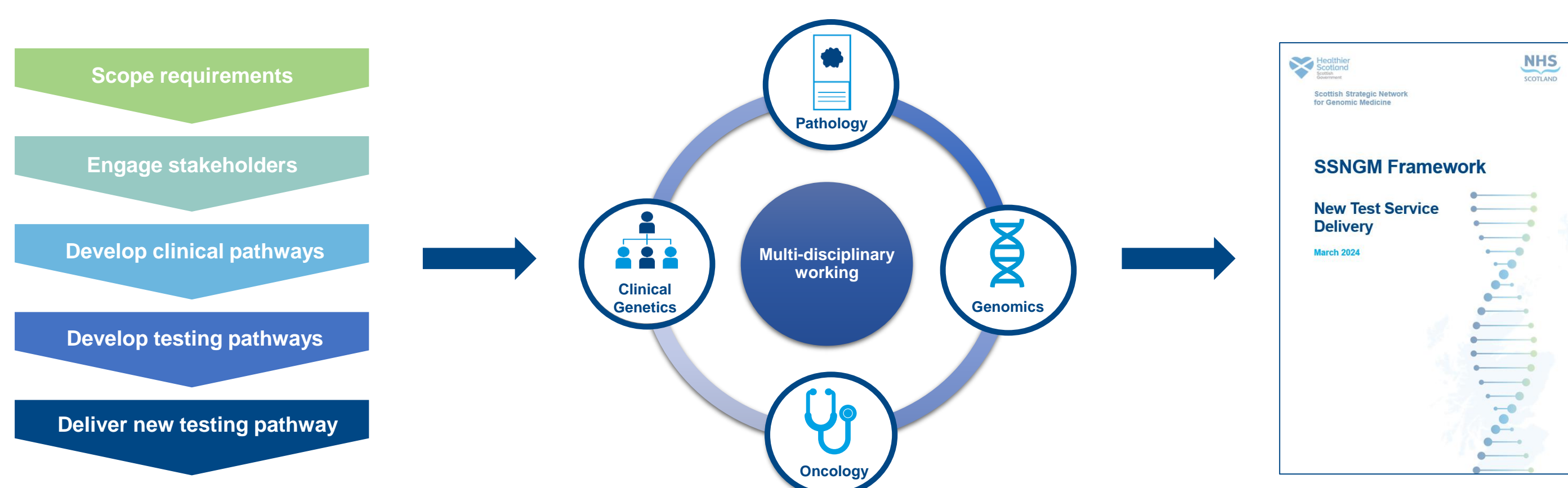
## A New Framework for Delivery

An end-to-end framework for planning of new test delivery is in development and has been successfully used to deliver a 'Once for Scotland' approach for 6 of the 11 cancer genomic testing pathways.

## Multi-disciplinary Working

Ensure all key stakeholders are engaged during planning and implementation, and considered:

- Sample requirements and testing targets.
- Flow of samples between laboratories.
- Clinical referral and reporting pathways.



## Examples of Implemented Pathways

### Acute Myeloid Leukaemia NPM1 MRD

- Delivered in NHS Lothian for all of Scotland.
- Close working with the HATs to agree pan-Scotland reporting turn-around times.

### Thyroid Cancer

- Delivered in all 4 genomics laboratories.
- Close working with the Scottish Thyroid Cancer Network to align with national QPIs.

## Examples of Pathways still in Development

### Renal Cancer

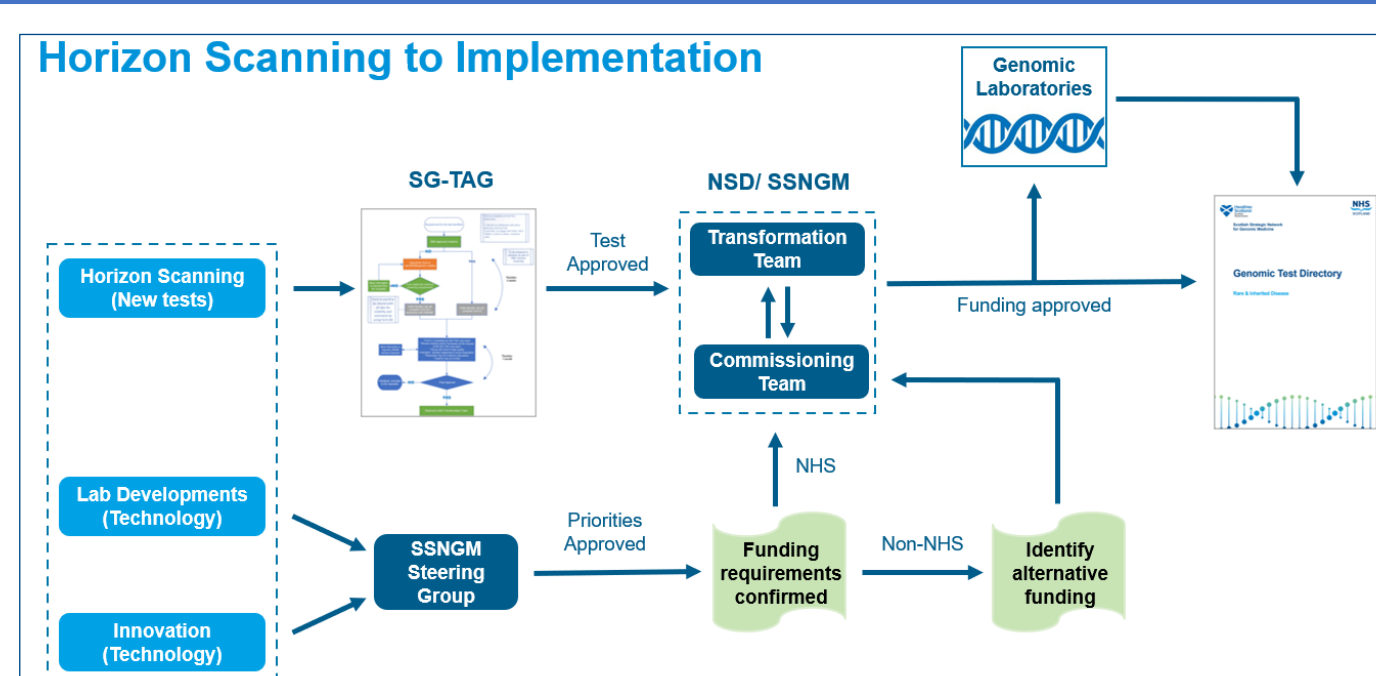
- Rescoping required since not well defined on original application for funding approval.
- Less patients will require testing.

### Neuropathology

- Delayed due to significant rescoping to agree testing and clinical referral pathways.
- Further delayed, 3 complex tests to validated.

## Horizon Scanning to Implementation

In collaboration with the Scottish Government Genomics Policy Team, the SSNGM is developing a new end-to-end process that includes horizon scanning through to the implementation of newly funded test within the genomics laboratories in Scotland. Key areas of this process are now in place and are being delivered for Scotland.



## Challenges

- Implementing multiple testing pathways simultaneously.
- Delays in funding and recruitment have significantly impacted delivery timelines.
- Managing user expectations for the delivery of genomic testing pathways.

## Next Steps and Lessons Learnt

- Finalise the delivery of the existing cancer genomics testing pathways.
- Develop educational material to support implementation of new testing pathways.
- Scoping for testing and clinical pathways needs more consideration at SG-TAG stage.

## Acknowledgements:

The SSNGM would like to take the opportunity to thank all our healthcare professionals across Scotland who have worked to help us deliver pan-Scotland genomics testing pathways for our patients. Engagement and input from all involved has been excellent and has helped drive forward a new 'Once for Scotland' way of working and approach to the delivery of new cancer genomics testing pathways.