The Gold Standards Framework Scotland IT Project - the electronic Palliative Care Summary (ePCS)

THE GOLD STANDARDS FRAMEWORK SCOTLAND

AIMS
- To develop a practice-based system to improve the organisation & quality of care for patients with cancer & palliative care needs in the community, so that more live & die well in their preferred place of choice.
- GSFS offers primary health care teams an evidenced based programme with the tools & resources to help improve the planning of these patients' palliative care needs in the community.

BASIC ELEMENTS
Register - to identify cancer and palliative care patients
Regular review - to assess physical, psychosocial & spiritual needs of patients & carers
Reflective practice - plan ahead & share appropriate information across teams especially Out of Hours

KEY TASKS – FOCUS ON 7 Cs
- Communication
- Co-ordination
- Control of Symptoms
- Continuity out of hours
- Continued learning
- Carer support
- Care of the dying

BENEFITS
Patient – More anticipatory care leading to fewer crises and improved quality of life, better terminal care; preferred place of care.
Carer – More support, information, involvement, empowerment.
Staff – Increased job satisfaction, teamwork, communication, organisation, skills, support.

OUTCOMES
Offered to all GP practices in Scotland 2003 - 2006
Uptake by 68% practices as of Oct 2006
Now part of GP Contract Quality Outcomes Framework
Many GPs asked for electronic rather than paper version

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THE GSFS IT DEVELOPMENT - the electronic Palliative Care Summary (ePCS)

WHY IT DEVELOPMENT ?
Request from practices to replace paper based GSFS tools and integrate the framework into existing practice IT systems, utilising efficiency, access and automation benefits.

BENEFITS
- Automatically add data to patient record
- Plan review dates
- Alert to imminent review dates
- Generate patient lists for team review
- Share critical information with OOH agencies

WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE EXTRACTED
Up to date summary of
- Medical conditions – agreed by GP and patient
- Anticipatory Care Plan
- Patient and carer understanding of diagnosis and prognosis
- Care plan, including preferred place of care
- Resuscitation wishes
- OOH contacts
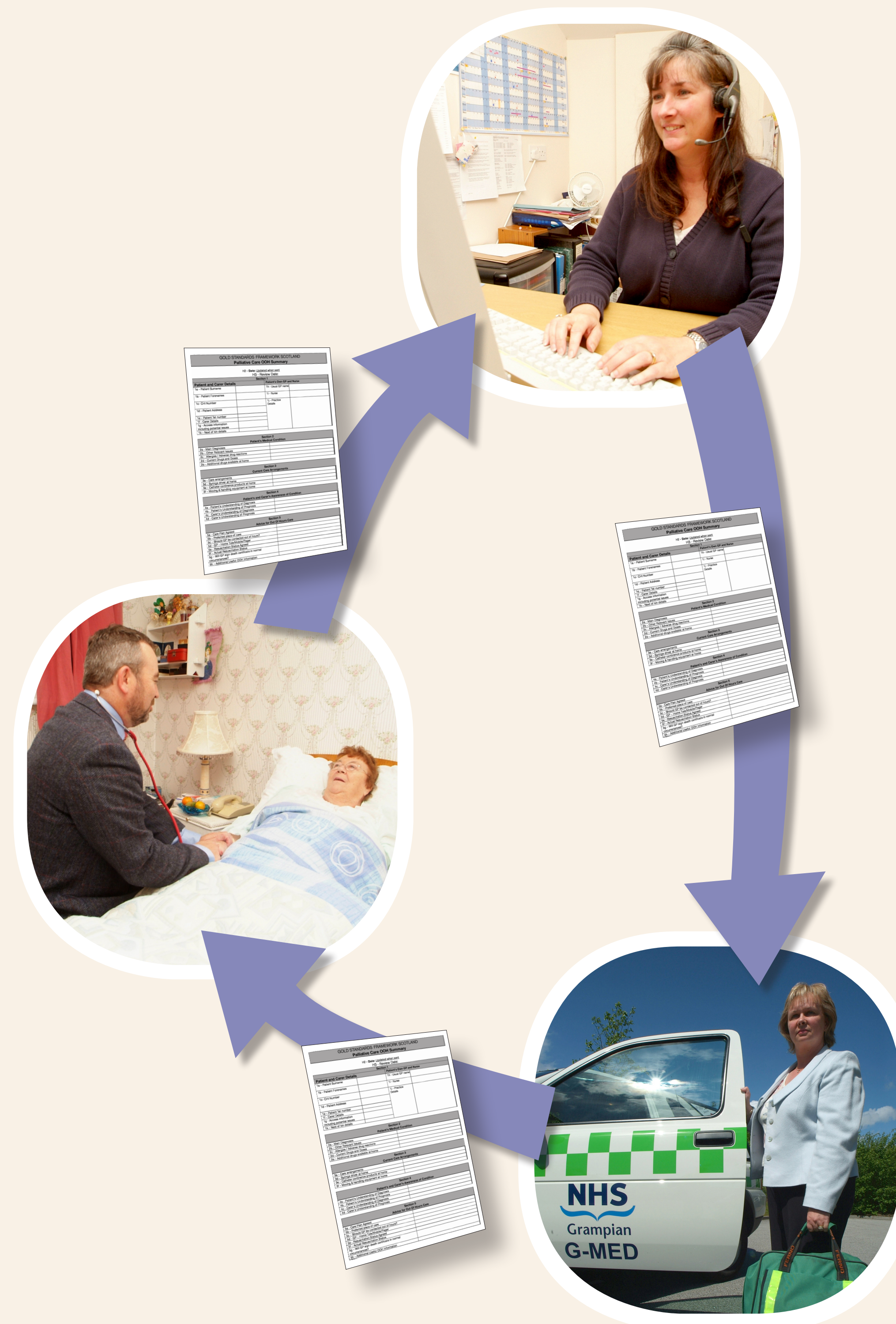- Medication and equipment at patient's home

HOW WILL IT HELP?
Supports clinicians to do the right thing at the right time - making it easy to have the best possible information available for forward planning, team review, consistent communication and sharing critical information.

WHO SUPPORTS IT?
Wide stakeholder support: GSFS practices, GSFS Steering Group, Primary Care Cancer Groups and Regional Cancer Advisory Groups, ISD, NCDDP, OOH providers, NHS24, SCIMP, ECS, Scottish partnership for Palliative Care, patient and carer representatives.

WHEN WILL IT BE AVAILABLE?
Autumn 2009 - following Grampian pilots and evaluations.