

3.3 Framework to help identify medicines/ treatments for collaborative commissioning

As highlighted in **Section 2.3.3** PCTs with a committee for collaborative commissioning need to develop a framework to help identify for which medicines or treatments it may be

appropriate to collaborate. An example of a framework which can be used as a starting point for discussions is given below.

The framework proposes three steps:

1. Define **triggers**. Identify criteria that are likely to trigger collaboration (see below). The triggers in themselves may not be enough to indicate that collaborative commissioning is appropriate.

Examples of triggers for possible supra PCT collaboration:

- A number of PCTs are likely to require a policy for the same medicine or treatment
- A medicine/treatment is high cost or high risk
- The evidence base for the medicine/treatment is equivocal and there is a higher risk of neighbouring PCTs making different decisions
- There is uncertainty about the medicine's/treatment's cost-effectiveness
- Medicine/treatment is highly specialised and no PCT could reasonably be expected to have the full range of expertise to make a decision
- The medicine/treatment is likely to significantly change the ways that services are configured for patients across multiple PCTs
- PCTs (where they share information) have received multiple IFRs for the same medicine or treatment
- Medicines coming onto the market where PCTs and providers want to develop an early policy decision
- Other specific medicines-related factors; for example, pricing differentials between licensed and unlicensed medicines, off-license indications
- Other specific provider issues; for example, the need to designate providers

2. Identify the **advantages** and **disadvantages** of collaboration for this medicine or treatment.
3. Make an assessment of relative **impact** by identifying the benefits associated with collaboration compared with commissioning individually. Steps 2 and 3 are summarised in **Figure four**.

Figure four: Summary of steps 2 & 3

