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A chronological review of Scotland's policies and strategic priorities for implementation of pharmacy-related technologies.

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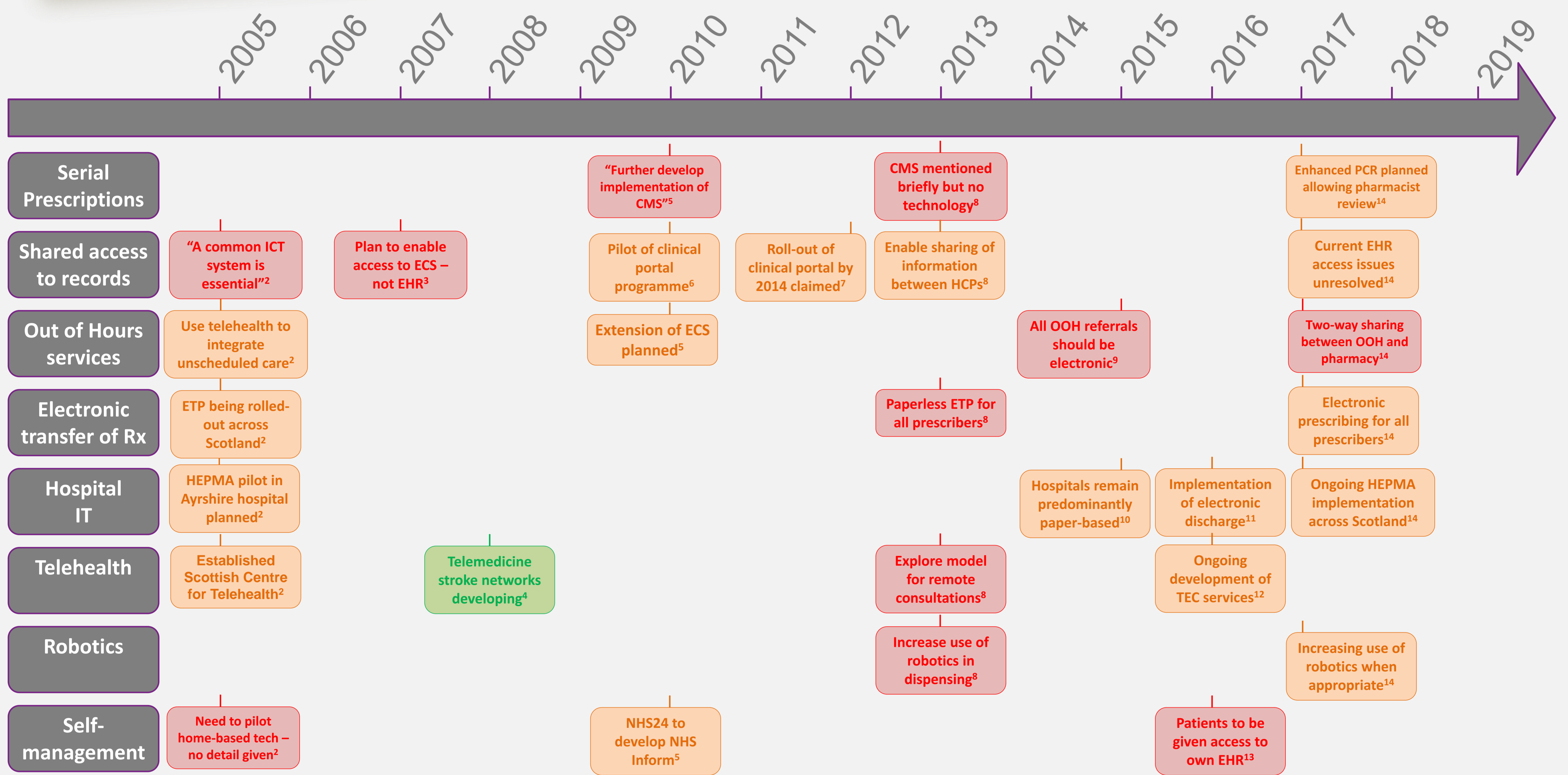


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National Strategies across the world have highlighted the need for improving technology in healthcare¹. This study aims to summarise the goals and intentions of the Scottish Government and evaluate implementation.

Scottish Government Archives 2002-2009

Health & Social Care documents were searched for using CRD guidelines. Archive was digitally and manually searched, with snowballing from references. Documents were searched (again digitally and manually) using variations of pharmacy and technology key terms. Extracts were synthesised using a summative content analysis approach.



Implementation Key

- = Planning stage / not started
- = Pilot stage / implementation
- = Goals met / fully implemented

Key Findings

- There has been a consistent focus on pharmacy access to medical records since 2002 which is equally relevant today.
- Both ETP and HEPMA were in early phases of implementation in 2005 and are both yet to be fully implemented.
- A PACS (Picture Archiving and Communications System) was announced in 2005. This was readily accepted and fully implemented by 2009.

Conclusion

Substantial focus has been given to Pharmacy related technologies over the last 16 years of Scottish Government policy and strategy. Technology, when fully implemented, has been demonstrated to provide a safer, more efficient workplace which promotes patient safety¹¹. However, issues remain around implementation of pharmacy-related technologies requiring further investigation of the user experience including facilitators and barriers of implementation of pharmacy related technologies.

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