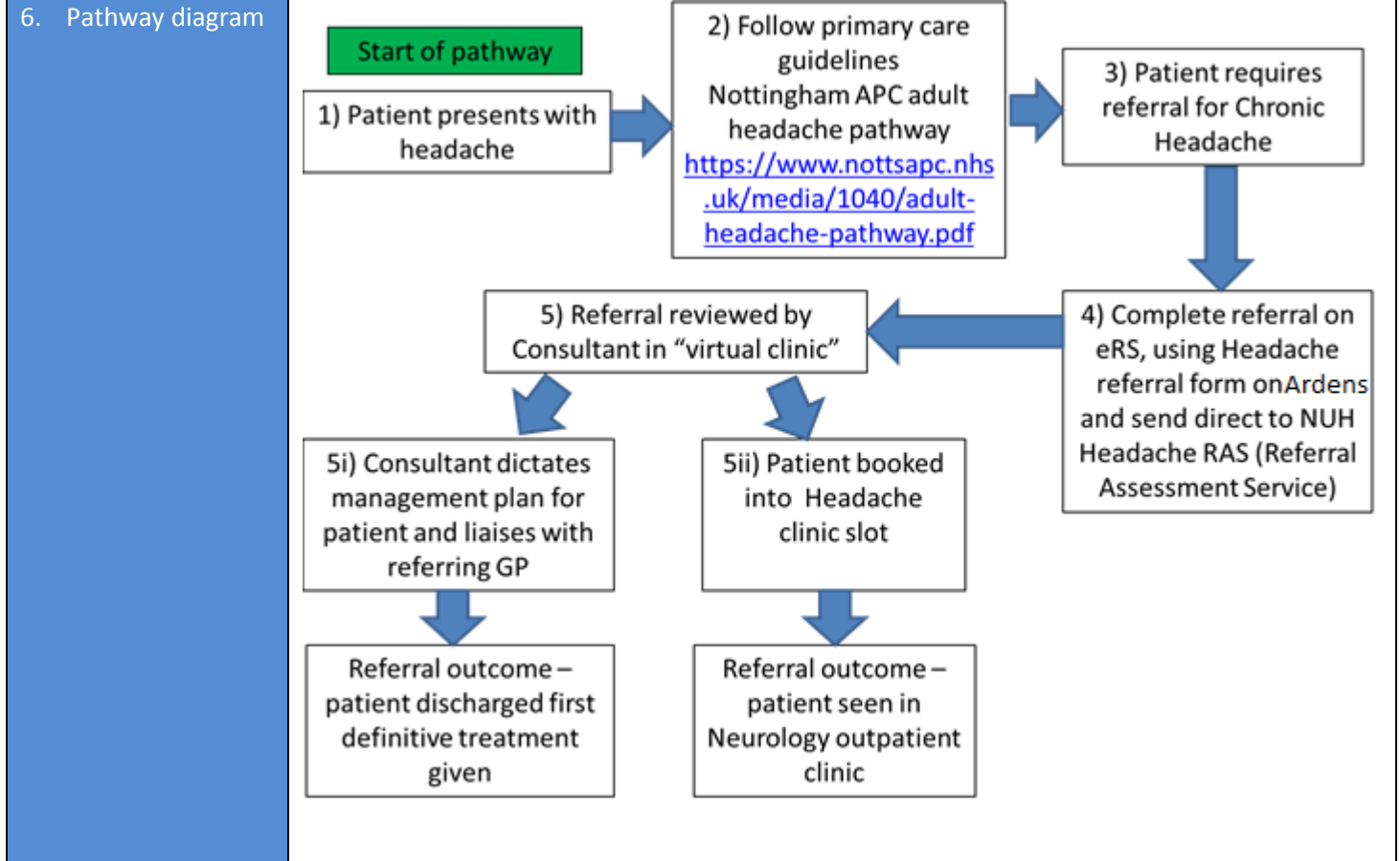


Supporting information for Pathway Launch / Service Redesign

1. Title of pathway	Chronic headache pathway
2. Start date	New referral form to be used from 23/8/19. First Consultant Triage “virtual clinic” will be held on 9/9/19.
3. CCGs	Nottingham City, Nottingham North and East, Nottingham West and Rushcliffe CCGs. NUH will also accept referrals from Mansfield and Ashfield and Newark and Sherwood CCGs as no service at SFHT – clinics are provided at King’s Mill and Newark Hospital sites.
4. Provider of service	NUH NHS Trust – Neurology Service
5. Background	<p>To undertake a 6 month pilot, with full audit at 3 months, to implement a new Chronic headache pathway.</p> <p>The Neurology Service at NUH currently sees 100 or more headache patients each month, The vast majority are migraine and treatment is standardised, and can be managed with medication advice. A very similar clinic letter is written for most patients and few are followed up. Examination is unhelpful except to exclude papilloedema, which can be done in general practice or at all high street opticians.</p> <p>All Nottinghamshire GPs have direct access MRI scanning available, so referral to secondary care for a scan is no longer required.</p> <p>NUH are introducing a system of Consultant triage of referrals, so that patients who previously would have been seen in a face to face appointment will now have their referral reviewed by a Consultant (in a “virtual clinic”) which will lead to an outcome of either a written management advice letter back to the GP and patient, or, (for cases where the Consultant feels it is warranted), an outpatient appointment in a neurology clinic will be made.</p>



7. Potential outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved patient experience. The service aims to provide the management advice letter (with clear stepwise guidance for headache management) within 4 weeks of receiving the referral. This compares with a current wait of 15 weeks for a neurology outpatient appointment. Reduced demand for neurology first outpatient appointments Reduced waiting times for neurology first outpatient appointments
8. Referral form to use	<p>Standardised Neurology Headache Referral form – available on F12, EMIS, Ardens and eHealthscope.</p> <p>Headache referrals sent as paper referrals or direct to secondary care will be rejected and a referral form requested.</p>
9. Who to refer	<p>Patients with a headache, in line with the Nottinghamshire APC adult headache pathway https://www.nottsapc.nhs.uk/media/1040/adult-headache-pathway.pdf</p> <p>Headaches with papilloedema or headaches associated with persistent or developing neurological deficits should not be referred through this pathway and should go to eye casualty/A&E or be referred to the acute neurology team by contacting the on call consultant at QMC.</p>
10. How to refer	<p>NUH have established a Headache Referral Assessment Service (RAS) on eRS to support the new pathway. GPs to refer directly into this.</p>
11. Useful contacts	<p>Dr Gillian Sare (NUH Consultant Lead) Gillian.Sare@nuh.nhs.uk</p> <p>Dr Hugh Porter (GN CCP Clinical Lead) hugh.porter1@nhs.net</p> <p>Claire Williamson (GN CCP Planned Care Manager) claire.williamson10@nhs.net</p> <p>Sherie Belfitt (NUH Service Manager Neurosciences) sherie.belfitt@nuh.nhs.uk</p> <p>Rachel Spencer (NUH Service Improvement lead) Rachel.spencer@nuh.nhs.uk</p>