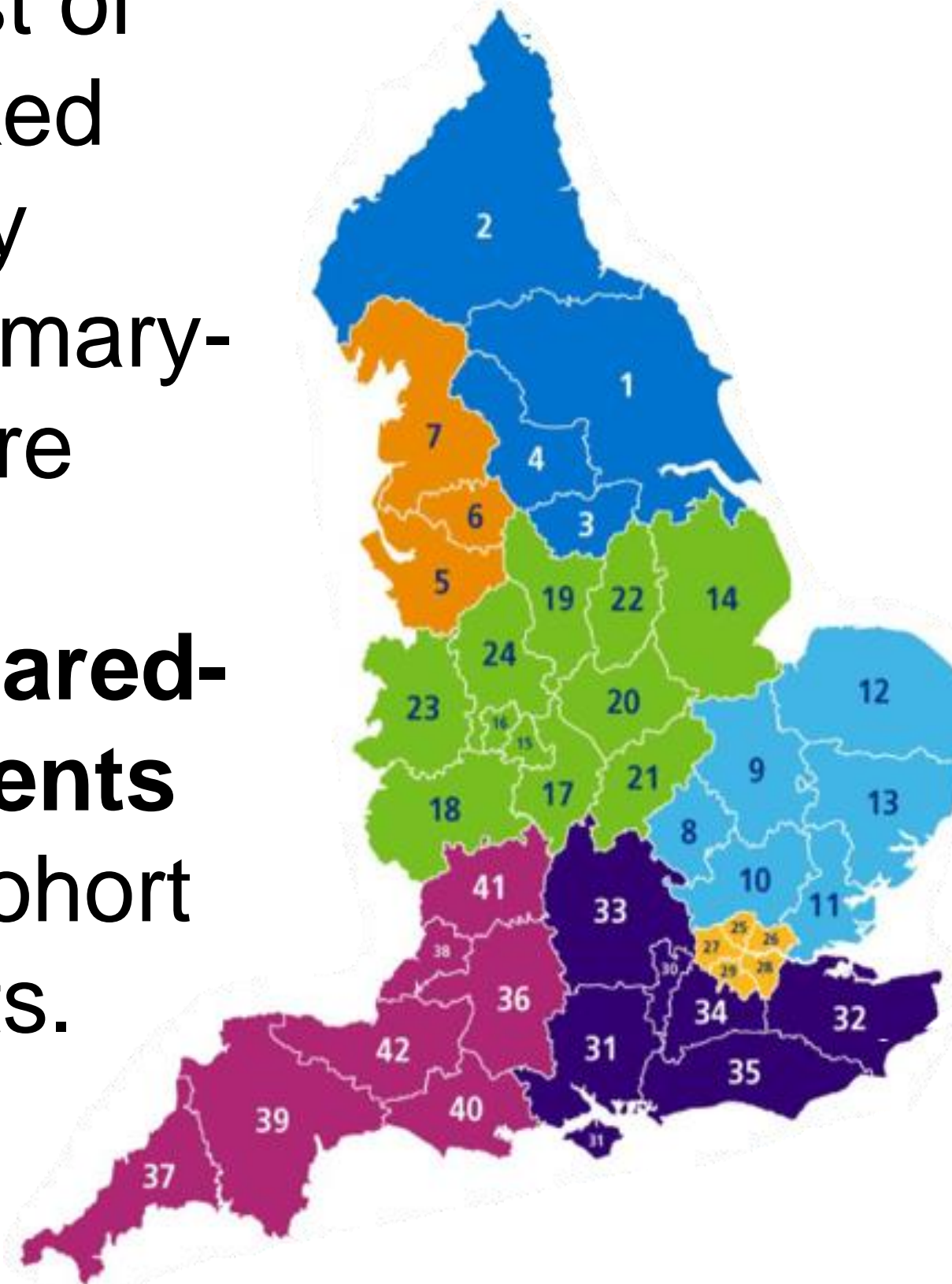


A Collaborative Approach to Implement Shared Care Agreements for Amiodarone Therapy

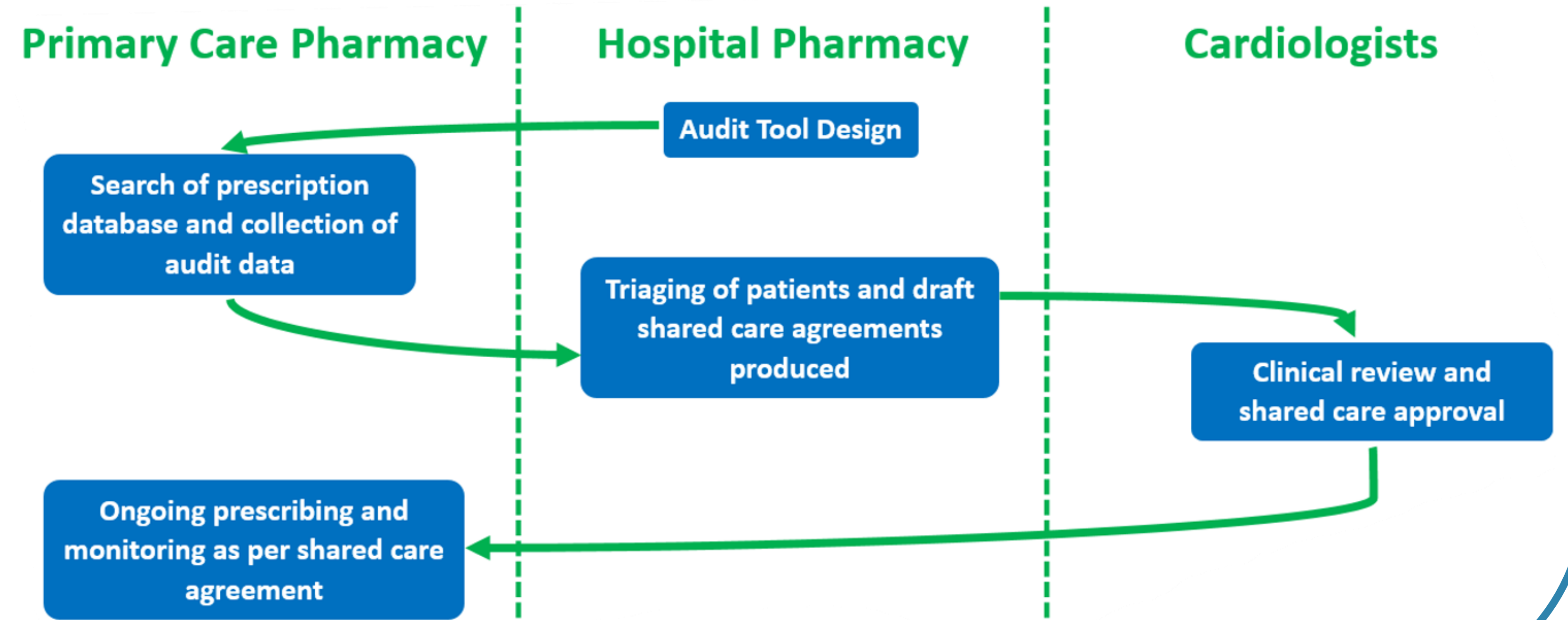
What was done?

A hospital pharmacy team in the North East of England worked collaboratively across the primary-secondary care interface to implement **shared-care agreements (SCA)** for a cohort of 129 patients.



How was it done?

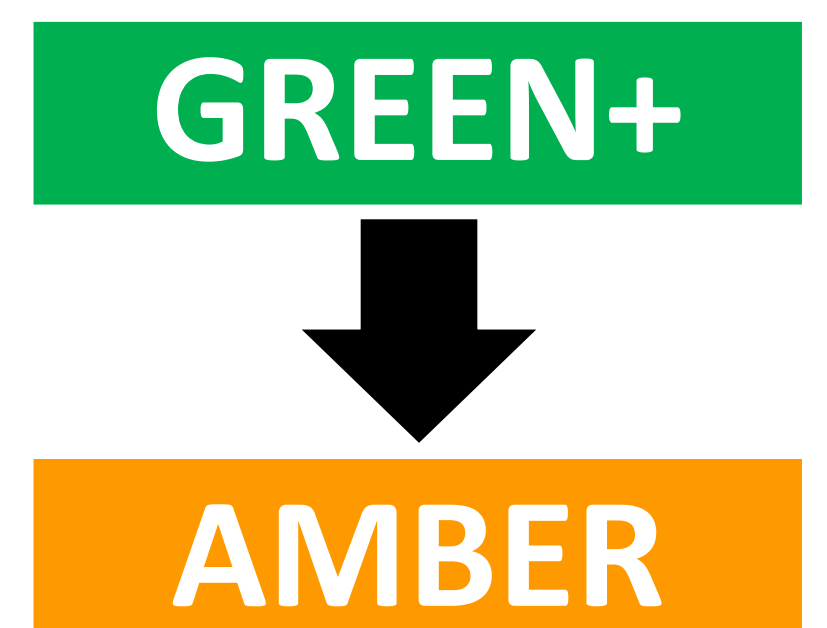
- Pharmacy teams worked together across the primary-secondary care interface to drive engagement using a **systems approach**.
- A cohort of patients taking amiodarone without a SCA in place were identified.
- Working with GPs and consultant cardiologists, a work plan was devised to **share resources, maximise efficiency, and optimise patient experience** across a locality.



Why was it done?

The use of amiodarone in persistent or permanent atrial fibrillation is not recommended, due to lack of evidence as a rate control strategy and risk of severe and potentially irreversible adverse effects.

In County Durham, a change in the formulary status of amiodarone from *Green+* to *Amber* in 2023 necessitated SCAs with secondary care for all patients on long-term amiodarone. This **locality-wide review ensured safe and appropriate prescribing** and provided an opportunity for **de-prescribing safely**.

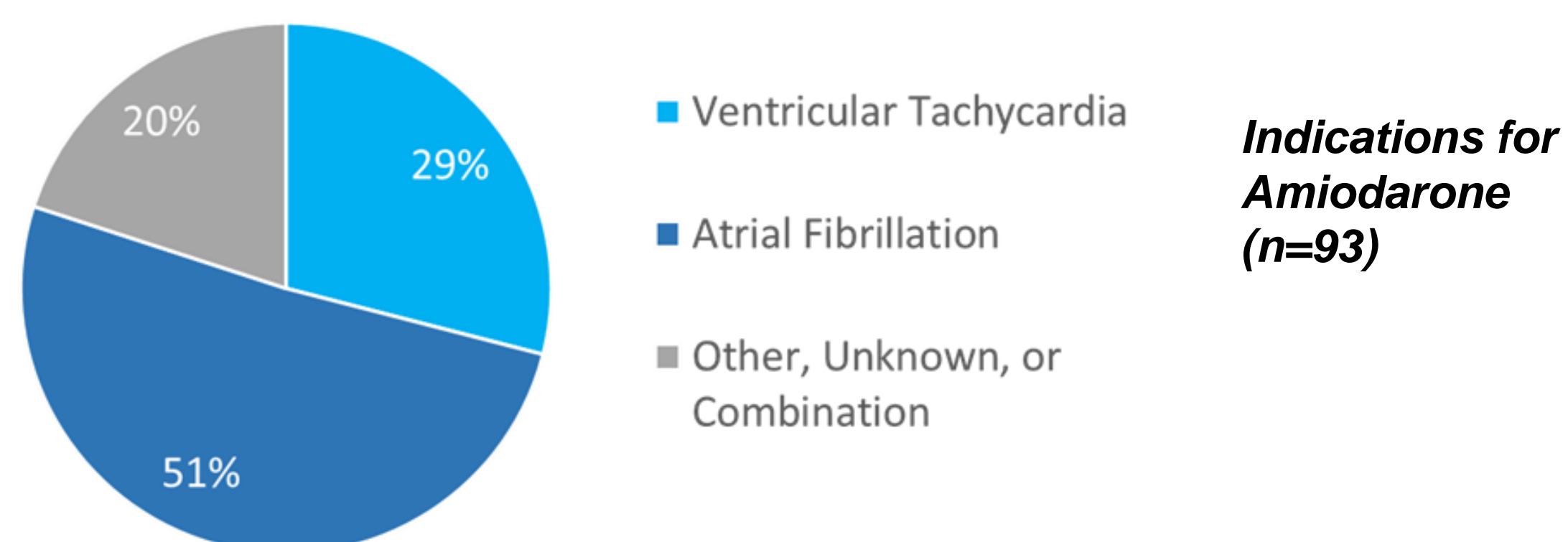


What was achieved?

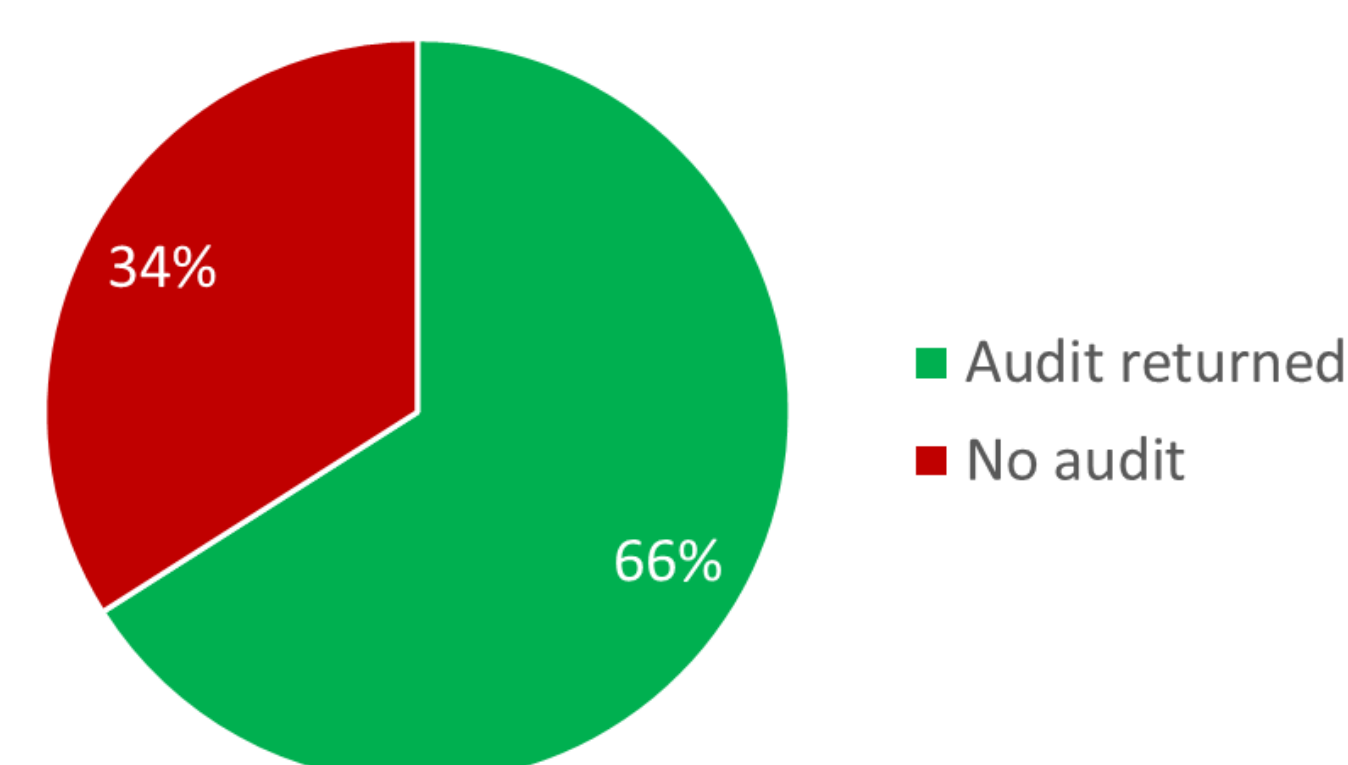
SCAs were completed for all patients prescribed amiodarone to ensure continued robust monitoring in line with national guidance. Clinical pharmacists reviewed medical notes and highlighted patients requiring further review by a cardiologist with a view to deprescribing.

This **pharmacy-led review process streamlined a substantial workload and significantly reduced GP and cardiologist time** in generating and reviewing individual patient referrals. Patient experience was also optimised due to **minimised disruption to prescription supply, avoidance of unnecessary appointments, and detection/prevention of adverse effects**.

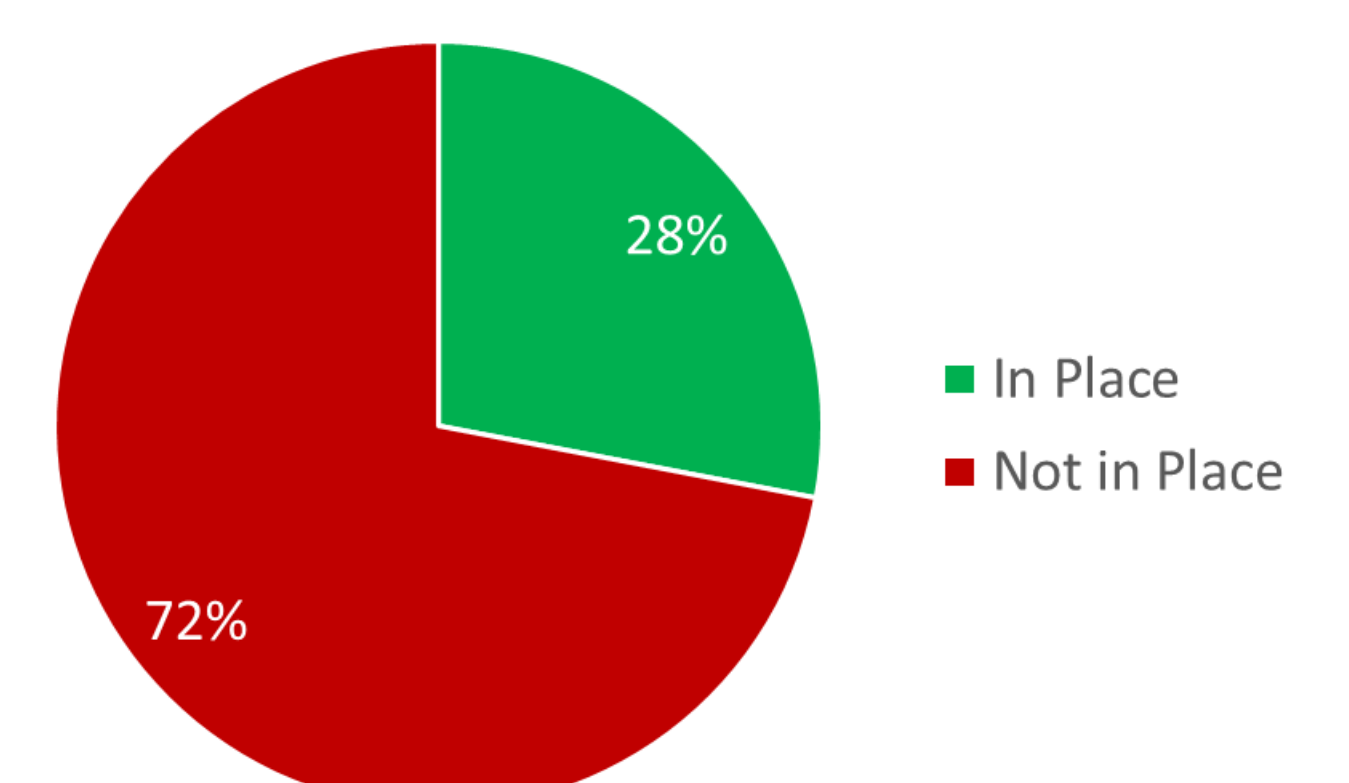
Barriers to this work included primary care engagement and access to medical records.



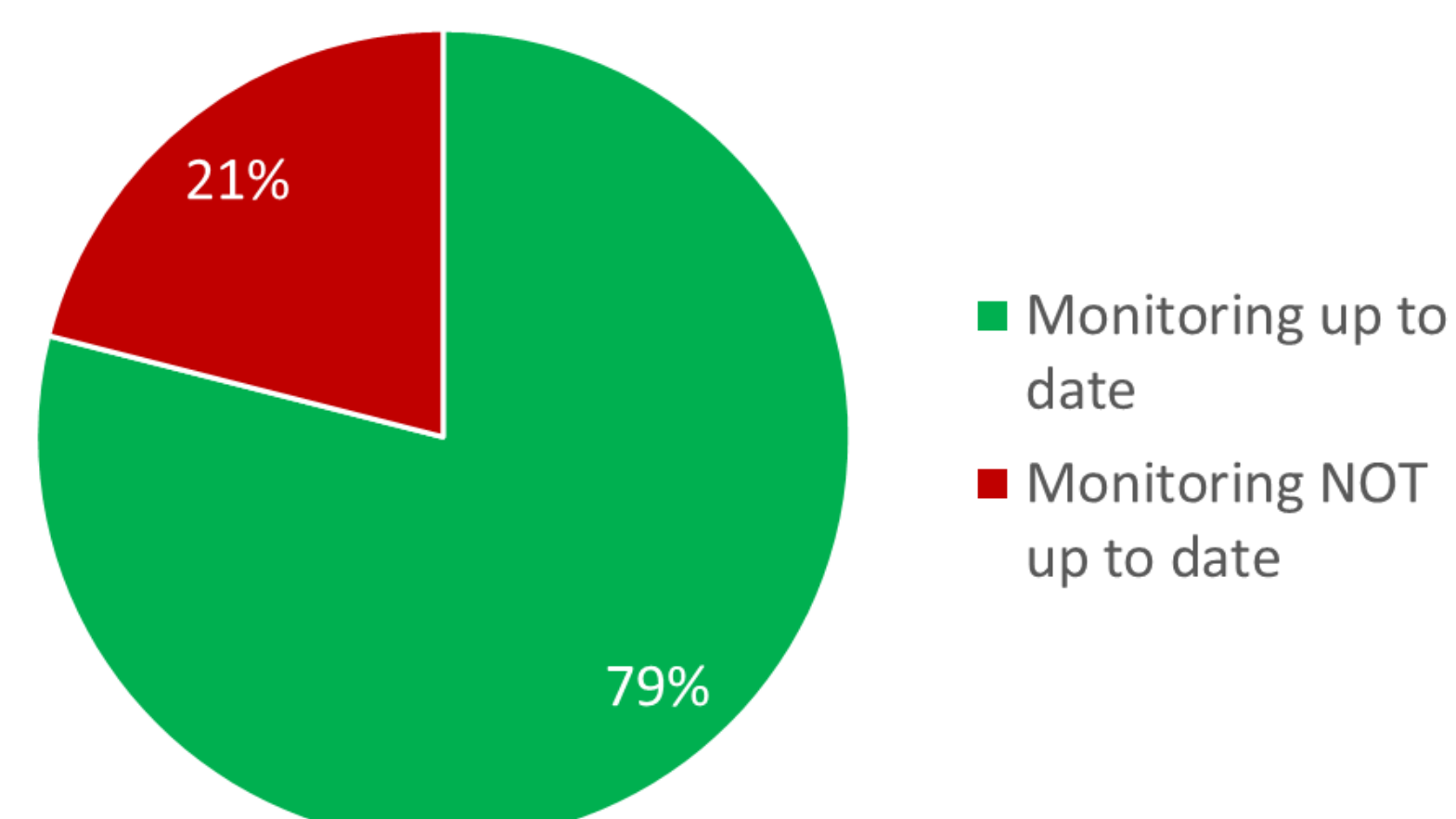
Engagement from GP Practices (n=61)



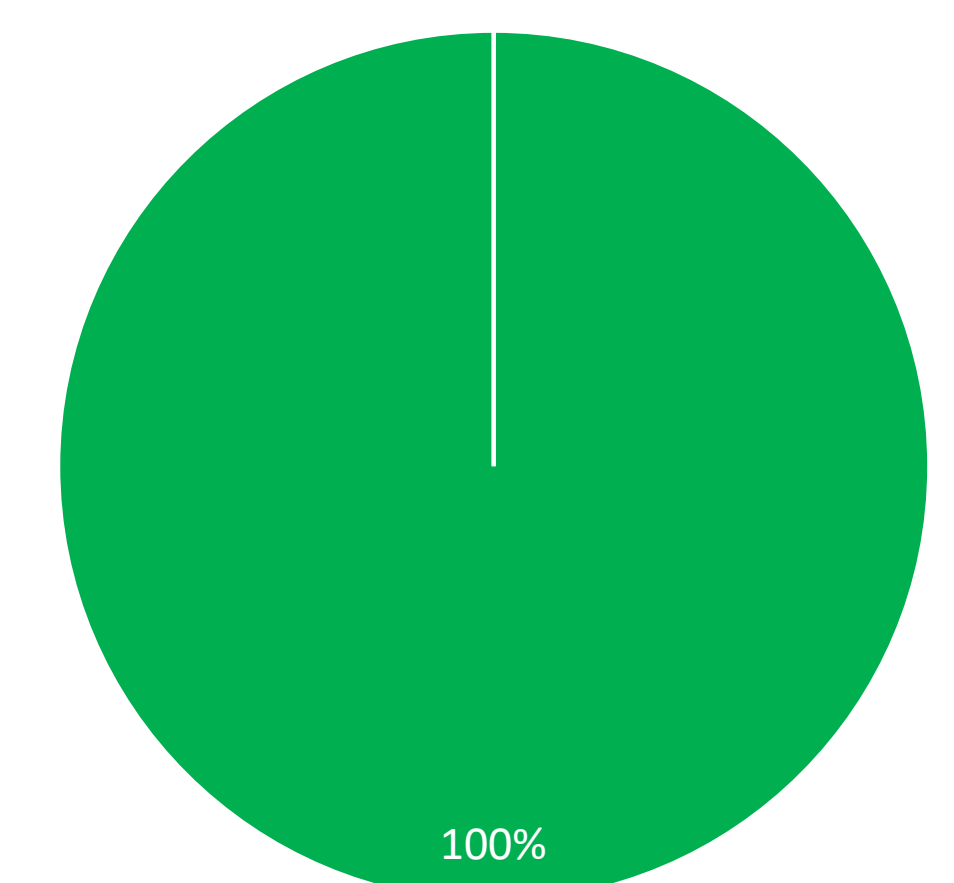
Patients with a Shared Care Agreement in Place (n=129)



Patients WITHOUT shared-care agreement



Patients WITH shared-care agreement



What is next?

- Six-month follow-up audit planned to collect SCA compliance and deprescribing data.
- Building working relationships across interfaces of care within cardiology has provided a **model for sustainable collaboration on future shared-care work** across other clinical specialities.

