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OBJECTIVES: This study aims to map and compare the provincial management of new medical service items in China in order to inform national-level coordination. **METHODS:** Literature review was used to collect policy documents and research articles related to the management of new medical services at national level and provincial level of China. After conducting cross-province mapping of key variables, we explored the potential effects of the recent national pilots. **RESULTS:** The management process of new medical service items was decentralized and differed across provinces. The recent national pilots of deepening medical service price reform may have profound influence on the management of new medical service items. **CONCLUSION:** The management of new medical service items shared many common practices across provinces in China, while varied to some extent and also carried foreseeable uncertainty because of the ongoing national pilots of deepening medical service price reform.

Background

Medical service items and pharmaceuticals are parts of health technologies. However, the management of new medical service items is quite different from that of new pharmaceuticals in China. Due to the decentralization of medical service management, the administration of each province in China has established its own medical service price schedule used within the province, as well as new medical service items.

Objective

This study aims to map and compare the provincial management of new medical service items in China in order to inform national-level coordination.

Methods

Literature review was used to collect policy documents and research articles related to the management of new medical services at national level and provincial level of China. A total of 30 provinces' policy were collected. After conducting cross-province mapping of key variables such as the definition of new medical service items, management body, applicant institution, approval process, pricing, and transferal to regular items, we explored the potential effects of the recent national pilots of deepening medical service price reform on the management of new medical service items.

Results

The management of new medical service items was decentralized to provincial level in China (Fig 1). The practices of defining new medical service items differed across provinces. In most provinces, public hospitals were the applicant institutions for new medical service items, and the Healthcare Security

Administration were responsible for the approval process with the support of the Health Commission, professional organizations and specialists with clinical, financial, and pricing expertise. The approved new medical service items would typically undergo a 2-year trial period, followed by the decision of transferring to regular items and medical insurance reimbursement.

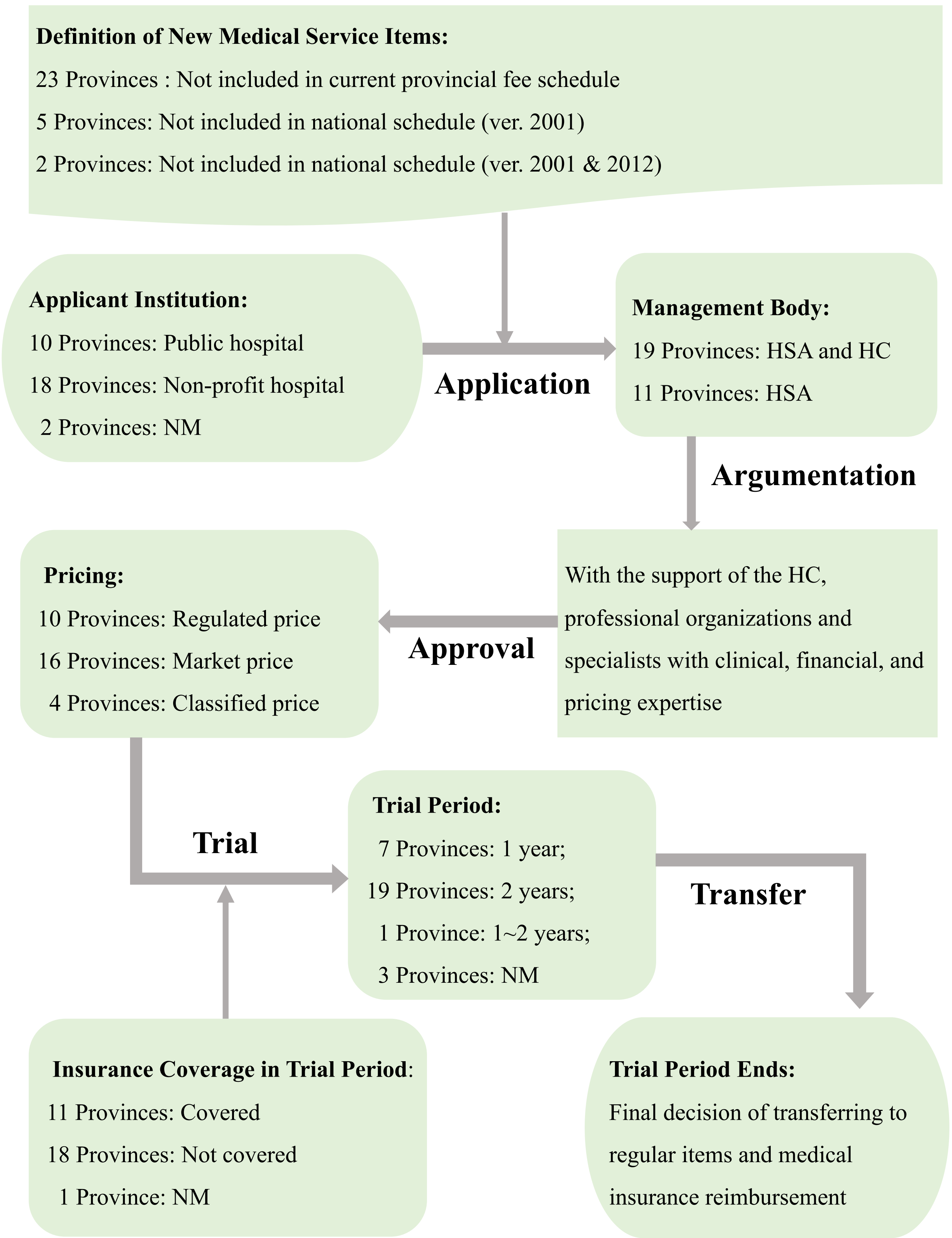


Fig 1: Comparing the management process of new medical services item in China.
 Abbreviations:
 NM: Not Mentioned; HSA: Healthcare Security Administration; HC: Health Commission;

The recent national pilots of deepening medical service price reform categorized the medical service items into two types and introduced new dynamic pricing adjustment mechanism, which may have profound influence on the management of new medical service items (Fig 2).

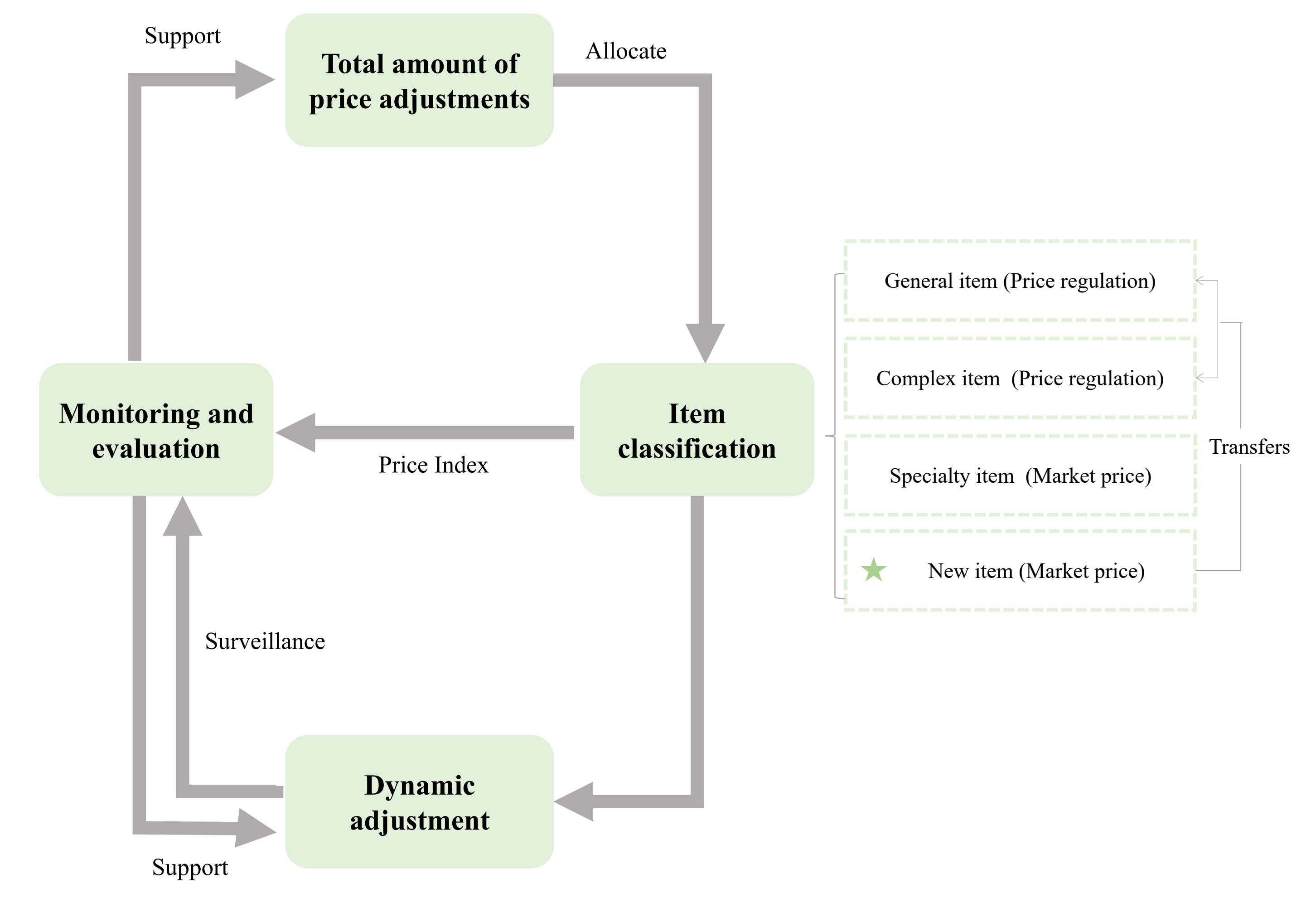


Fig 2: Mechanisms for deepening medical service price reform policy.

Conclusions

The management of new medical service items shared many common practices across provinces in China, while varied to some extent and also carried foreseeable uncertainty because of the ongoing national pilots of deepening medical service price reform.

Main References

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