

The problem of labour exploitation in NHS medical supply chains

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Eliminating labour exploitation and implementing decent work in the medical product industry can **break the cycle of intergenerational poverty** by providing a safe and dignified source of income for people in low-and-middle income countries

Background

Clean Gloves, Dirty Practices: Debt Bondage in Malaysia's Rubber Glove Industry

Migrant workers in Malaysia risk forced labor making gloves for American healthcare giants.

UK investigates supplier of NHS PPE over alleged use of forced labour

Metal Exposure in Child Workers

Assessing Hazards in Surgical Instrument Manufacturing Workshops

18.7 million forced labour victims globally

Labour exploitation is present in the NHS medical supply chains

Current risk management policies are ineffective

Lack of empirical research

Labour exploitation is a complex, systems-level problem requiring inter-disciplinary research

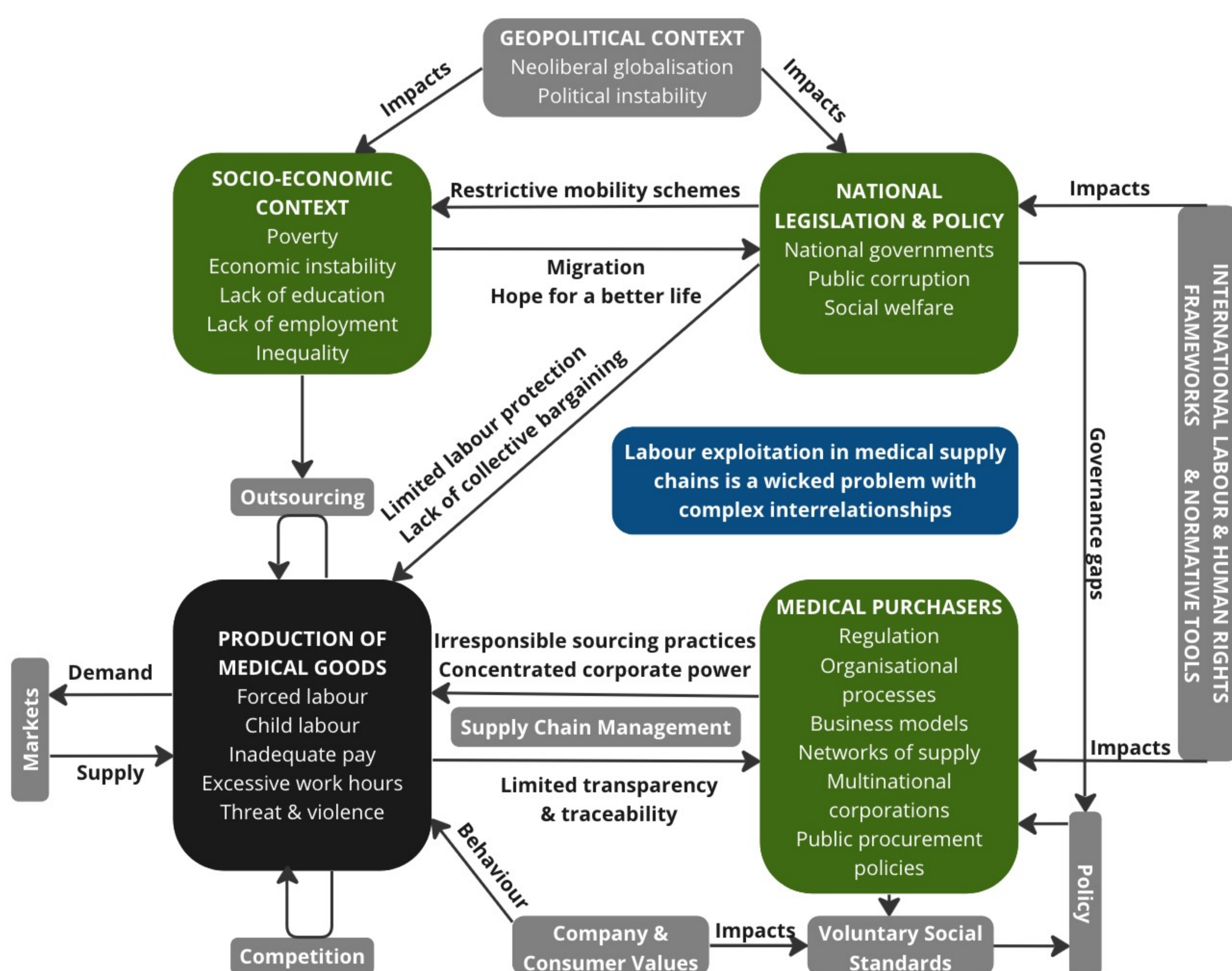


Figure 1: An integrated concept map illustrating that labour exploitation in global supply chains is a wicked problem with complex interrelationships.

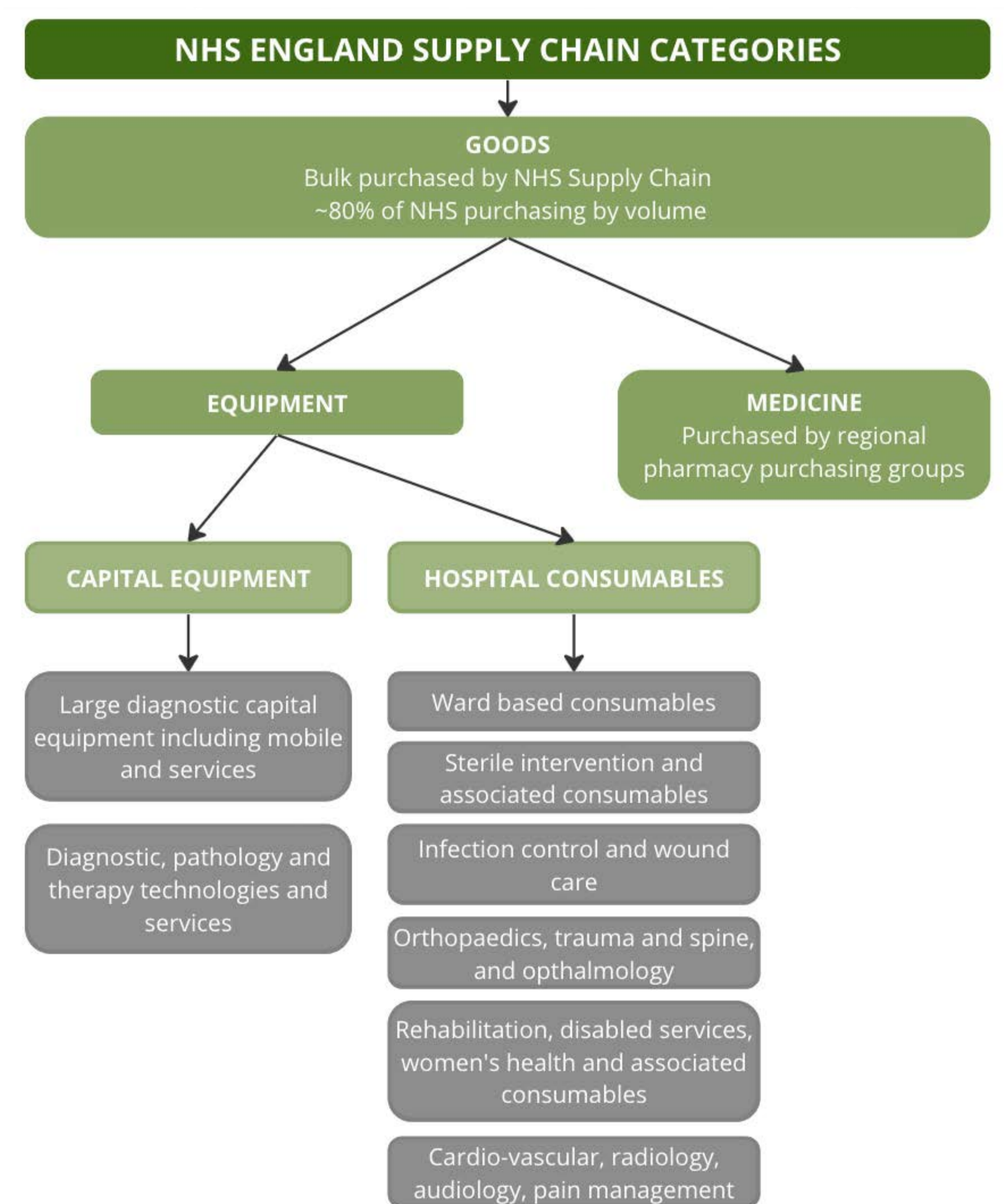


Figure 2: NHS England supply chain purchasing categories for medical goods

How can we design medical supply chains to be free from labour exploitation?

EXPERT INSIGHT

Understanding the NHS context

SUPPLY CHAIN MAPPING

Identifying the risk of labour exploitation embodied in the NHS medical supply chains

SYSTEMS DESIGN

Identifying opportunities for intervention to re-design the NHS supply chain system to be free from labour exploitation.