

Centralized and decentralized approaches.

# Holistic medication management in hospitals

# Centralized or decentralized: efficient medication management in hospitals

Medication management in hospitals takes a centralized or decentralized approach, depending on where the treatments are created.

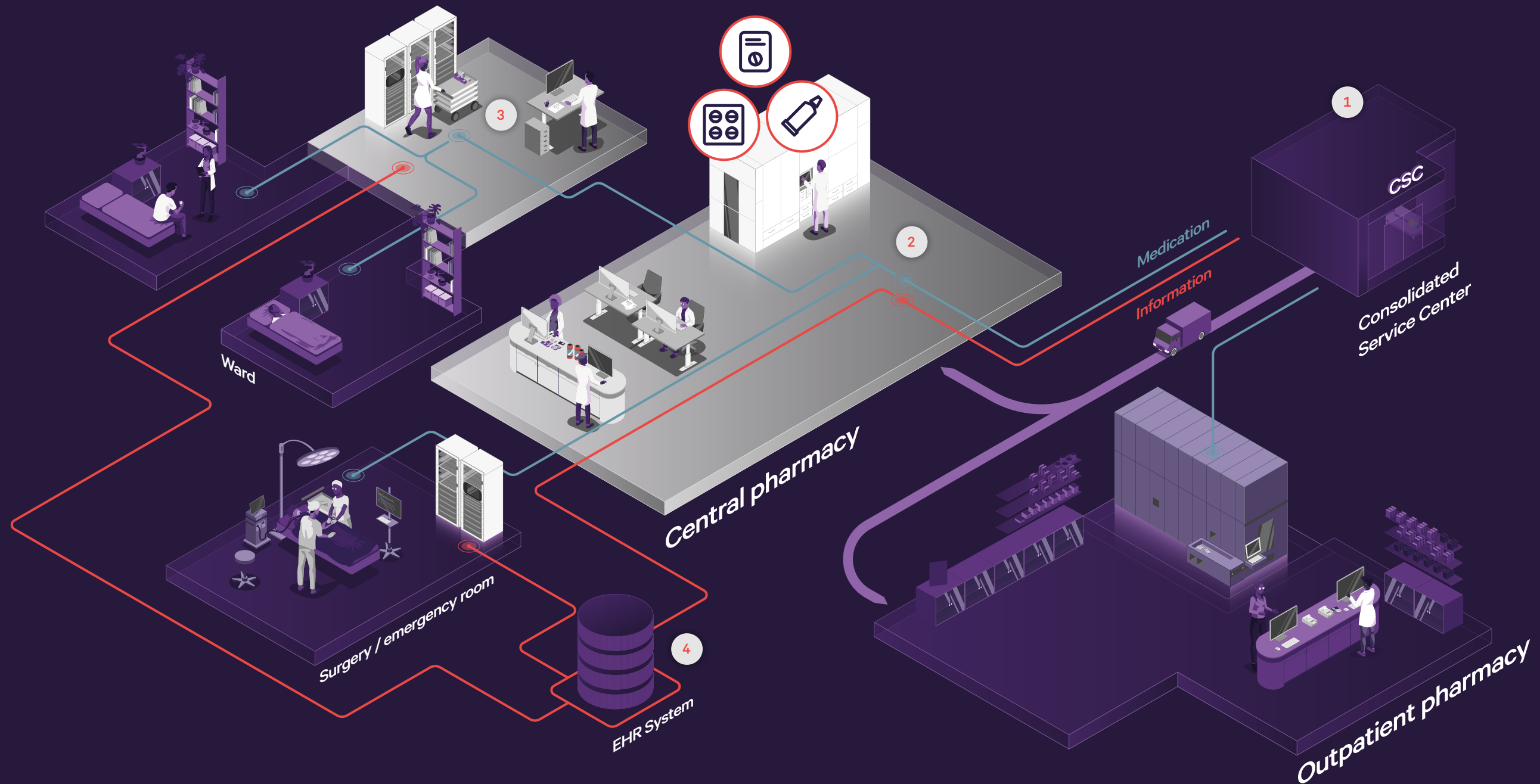
**Centralized approach:** The central pharmacy creates a specific treatment for the patient based on unit doses.

**Decentralized approach:** Nursing staff create the treatment on the ward. This involves combining both patient-independent unit doses and other medication formats to form a patient-specific treatment.

In practice, hospitals usually combine both approaches, although one tends to be dominant. Treatments created using a centralized approach are generally augmented by acute stocks on the wards.

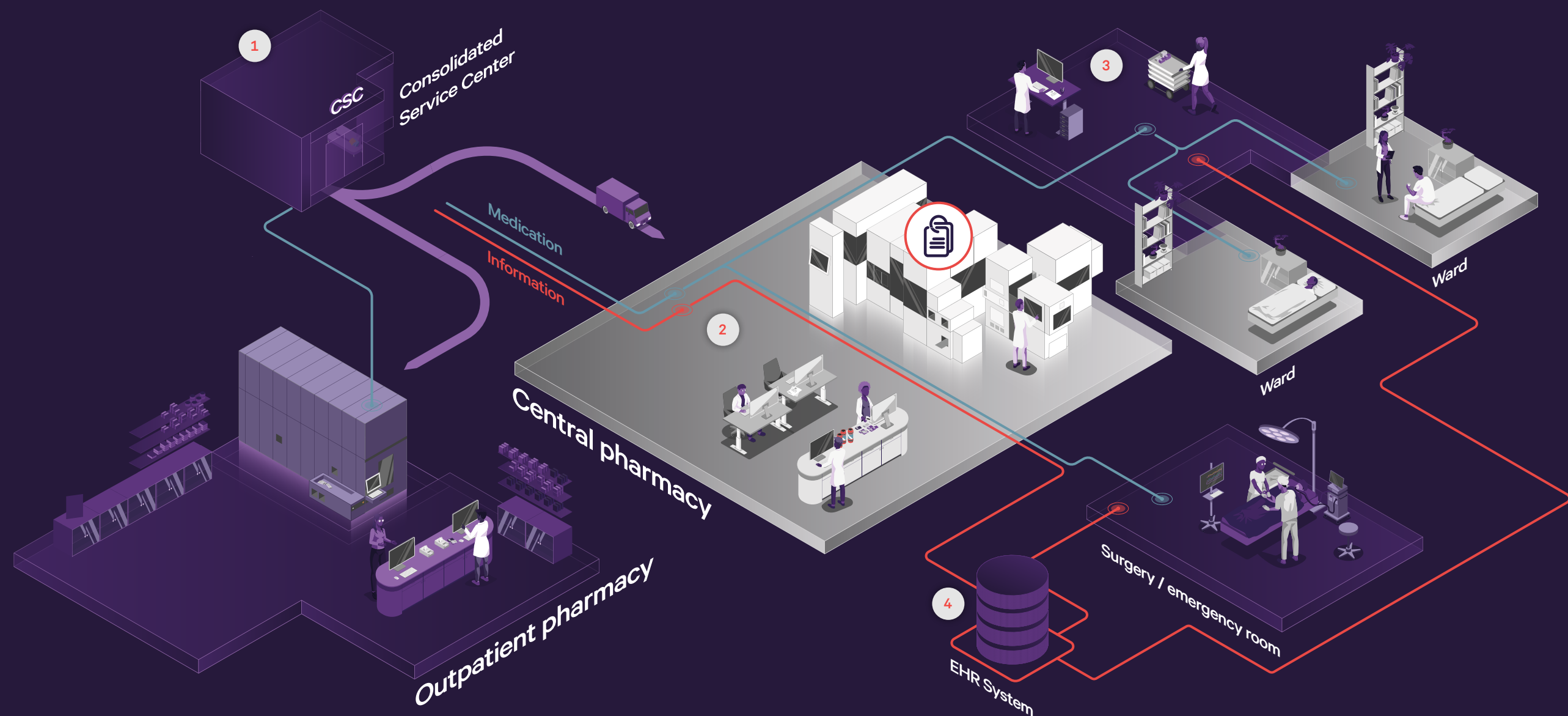
In a decentralized process, nursing staff receive support from the central pharmacy, especially for cost-intensive or highly individual treatments.

# Decentralized medication management



- 1 When stocks of medications fall below the specified minimum level at a hospital or clinic complex, it triggers a reorder from the central storage or wholesaler and the central pharmacy is supplied accordingly.
- 2 BoxPicker is an automated pharmacy storage system. It acts as the hub for collective orders for the stock on the wards. In the central pharmacy, each batch of all the different medication types is loaded into the system. Users can also combine this with a unit dose system upstream. Medication dispensed from the system is recorded digitally, together with the master data and batch.
- 3 Automated dispensing cabinets that store medication on the wards prevent errors by dispensing drugs in a digital, reliable and guided process. The hospital's entire stock of medication is available at all times, eliminating the risk of shortages. By automatically identifying excessively high or low stock levels on the wards, the system also reduces costs caused by unused medications.
- 4 The inventory information from the individual wards is combined in a central interface. This creates a continuous record of ward inventories, while reorders are automatically sent to the BoxPicker in the central pharmacy. This information can be accessed by various user groups in the hospital, depending on their authorization.

# Centralized medication management



- 1 When stocks of medications fall below the specified minimum level at a hospital or clinic complex, it triggers a reorder from the central storage or wholesaler and the central pharmacy is supplied accordingly.
- 2 In the central pharmacy, PillPick automatically separates the medications and loads them into storage. Once a prescription is sent and validated by a pharmacist, individual unit doses are combined on a treatment ring and dispensed together with the corresponding patient information. The patient-specific therapies are then delivered to the wards.

- 3 The nursing staff on the ward receive pre-prepared treatments. They can then match the medication to the right patient using the name, prescription and a barcode delivered on an extra tag on the therapy ring. The ring increases drug safety by providing information on how to administer the medication. If the treatment changes at short notice or the patient is discharged early, the unused therapy ring is returned to the central pharmacy with no contamination. The patient data tag can be easily removed from the ring. The unit doses are then loaded back into the system. This process reduces drug waste and saves costs.
- 4 A central interface combines prescriptions together with the relevant patient data, before sending them to the central pharmacy.



**Swisslog Healthcare**

Webereiweg 3

5033 Buchs

Switzerland

T: +41 62 837 41 41

[press@swisslog-healthcare.com](mailto:press@swisslog-healthcare.com)

[swisslog-healthcare.com](https://www.swisslog-healthcare.com)