International Telecommunication Union

# Health system perspectives on eHealth and standardization

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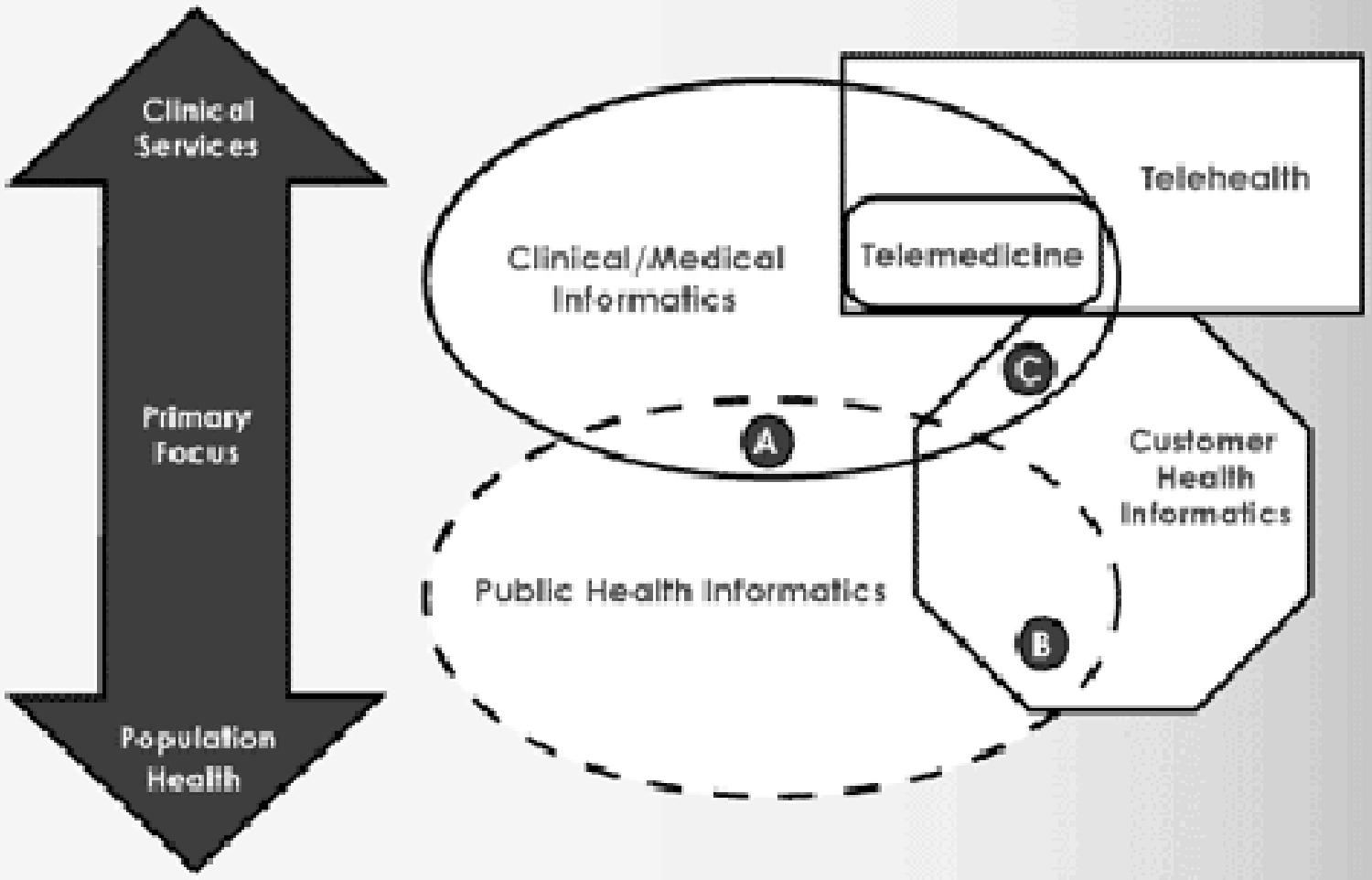
# What is eHealth?




***Source*: The eHealth Landscape (2001)**

# Examples of eHealth benefits - 1

- Call centres for information
- Teleradiology - 5 radiologists cover all of Ethiopia
- Tele-echocardiology - reduction in unnecessary transfers
- Neonatal ICU - 5.4-day reduction in LOS

# Examples of eHealth benefits - 2

- South African telemedicine network - 28 sites
- Cost reduction - Telehomecare
- Informed decision-making
- Internet - central to research information (Health Internetwork)

# Examples of eHealth benefits - 2

- Variety of manifestations - simple email to networked computers
- Clinical interaction mediated with ICT
- Public health - monitoring TB in inner city
- Internet - central to research information (Health Internetwork)

# Potential eHealth benefits - 1

- 25b-40b by giving US consumers the right information, which could lead to better medical results

- 30b-40b from informed decision-making leading to more efficient use of medical and clinical resources

# Potential eHealth benefits - 2

- 30b-40b from use of electronic communications to replace visits to primary care physician

- 15b-20b savings in administrative costs by eliminating the need to for care givers to recreate records each time a patient moves or changes medical plans.

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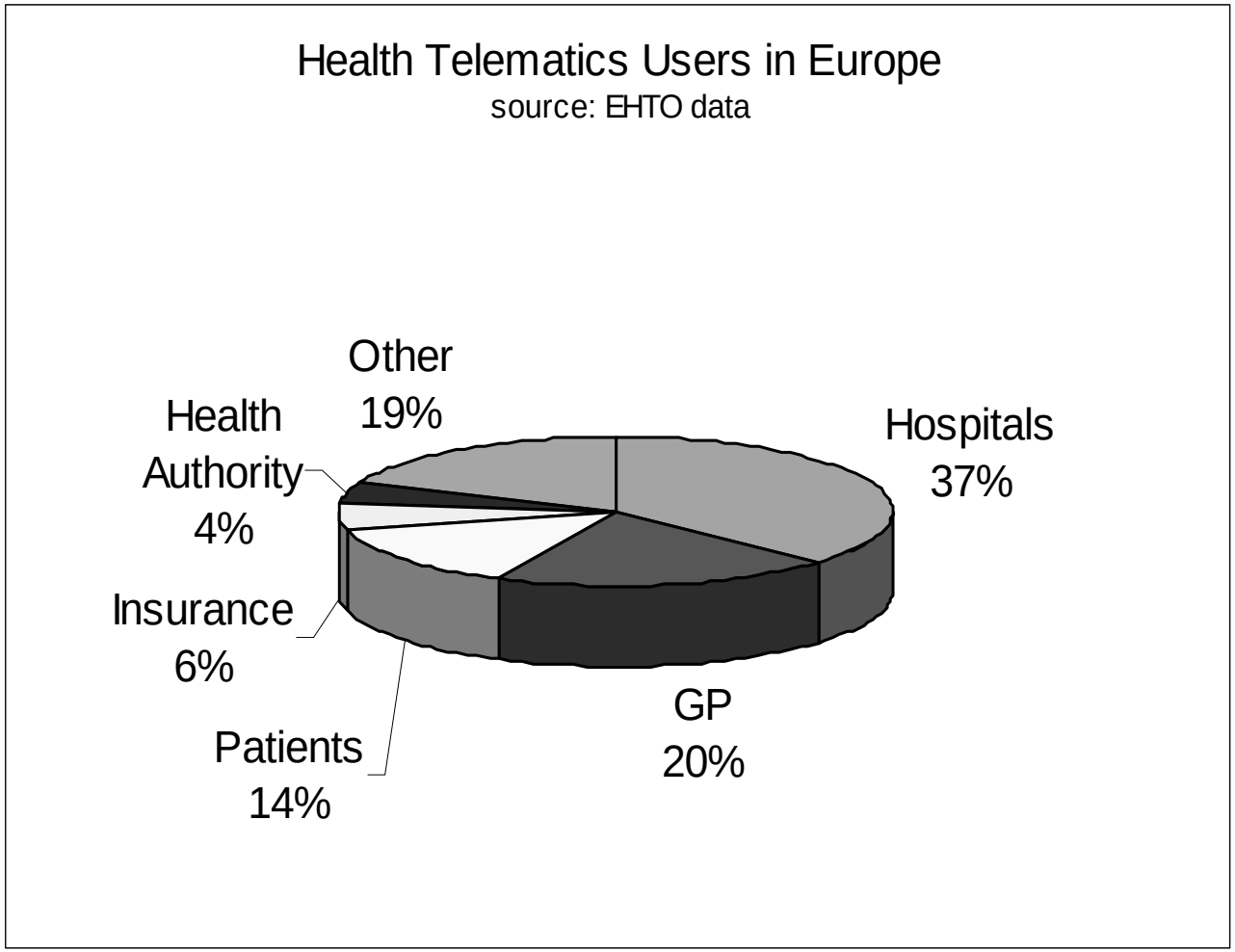
# Users of Health Telematics infrastructure in Europe



# Challenges

- Lack of communication infrastructure
- Lack of standards
- Lack of programmes in other WHO official languages
- Lack of evaluation on health outcomes

# Standardization challenges

- Differing concepts
- Differing semantics, including terminology and codes
- Differing approaches to security and confidentiality
- Differing formats and protocols

# WHO activities

- Committed to building partnerships

- Promote existing partnerships
- *for:*
- mobilizing resources

- realizing benefits

# Balanced development

- Standardization difficult and lengthy
- Compatibility and interoperability
- Ensure benefits not held up due to weak link in chain