Provincial Terminology Services
Alberta Health System

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Objectives

1. Alberta Health System
2. Provincial Terminology Services Strategy
3. Provincial Terminology Services
   - Interim State
   - Strategic Planning
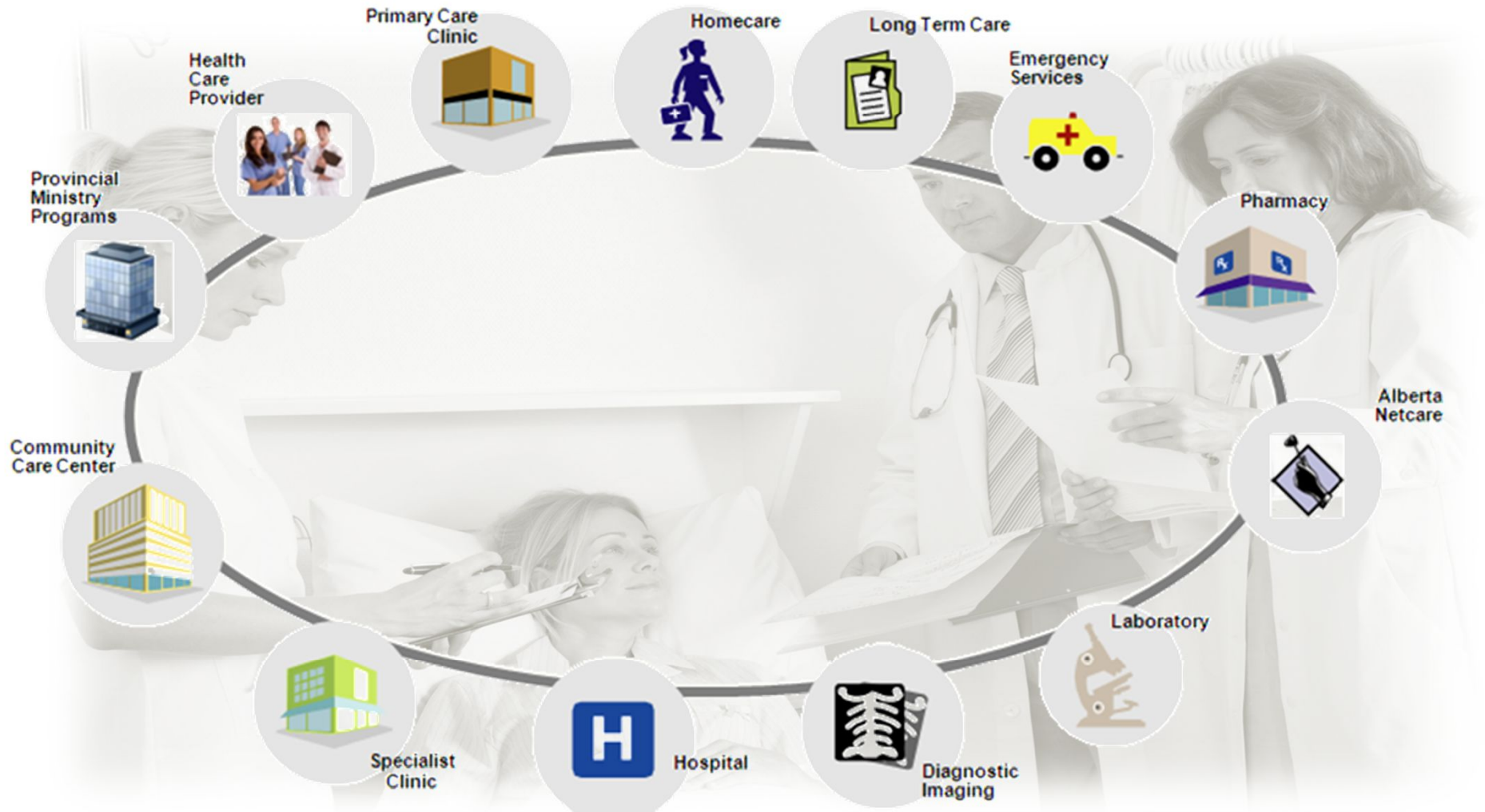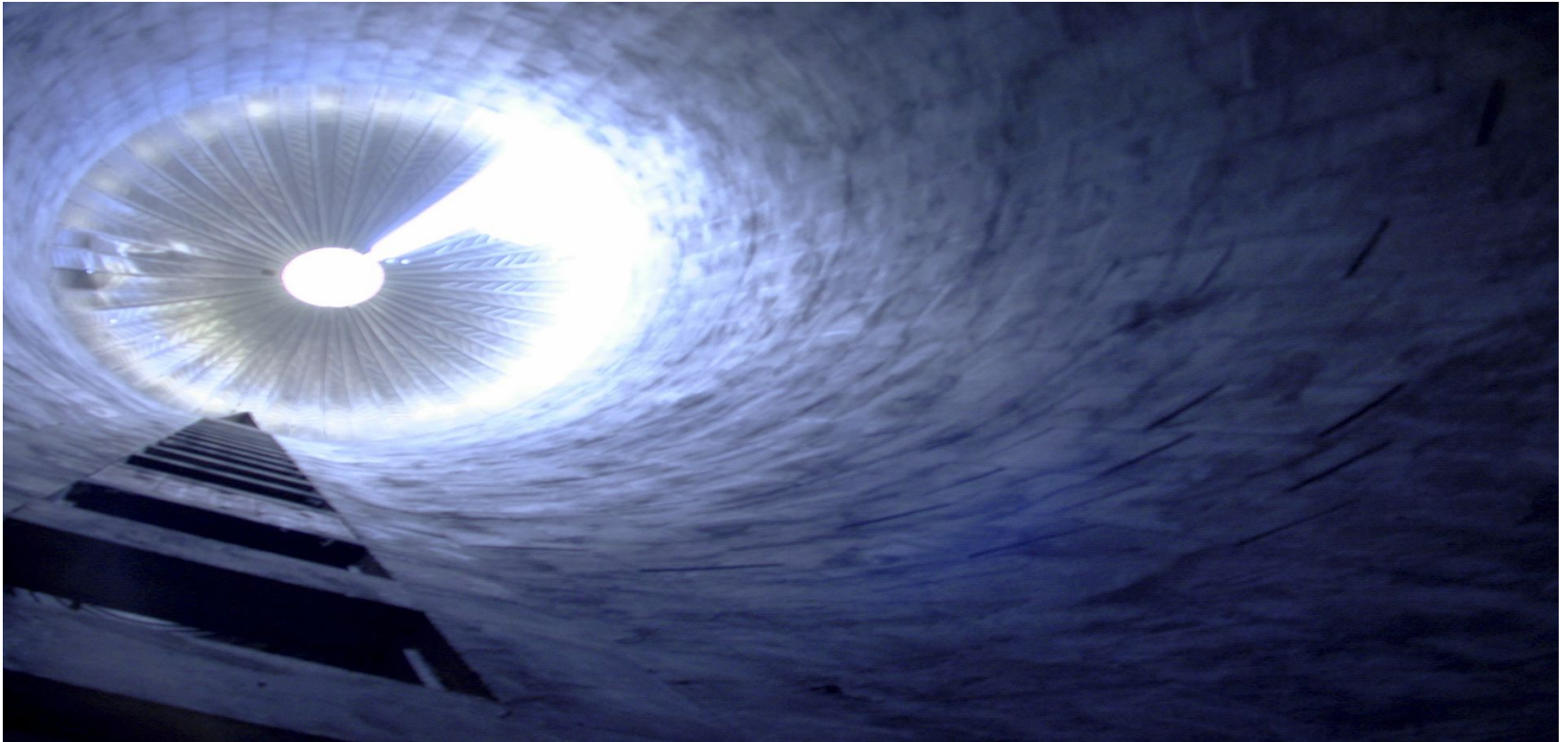   - Operational Challenges

Who We Are

Alberta Health System

o Canada's first fully integrated provincial health system

o Serves a population of ~ 4 million Albertans over 661,848 km

o **Alberta Health** sets policy and direction to:

- Improve health outcomes for all Albertans

- Support well-being and independence of Albertans

- Achieve a high quality, appropriate, accountable and sustainable health system

Source: http://www.health.alberta.ca/about/ministry.html

Alberta Health Services (AHS)

o Patient-focused, quality health system accessible and sustainable for all Albertans

o 96,100 employees

o 8,400 physicians

o 17,600 volunteers

o Programs and services offered at over 400 facilities (hospitals, clinics, continuing care facilities, mental health facilities and community health sites)

- 100 acute care hospitals
- 5 stand-alone psychiatric facilities
- 8,230 acute care beds
- 22,533 continuing care beds/spaces

Source: Adapted from *Health Sector Registries Point of View,* IBM

Provincial Terminology Services Strategy

Recommendations

Vision
- ***Health system-wide vision***
  - *Guiding Principles*
  - *Strategic Objectives*

Program
- ***Establish an Alberta health system-wide Program***
  - *Interim (Current State)*
  - *Future State (5 years to full implementation)*

Centralized Service Model
- ***Selection, adoption, implementation and management of terminologies***
  - *Initially SNOMED CT*
  - *Expand into other terminologies*

Governance
- ***Leverage existing governance structures***

Change Management Strategy
- ***Ongoing strategies***
  - *Change Management*
  - *Stakeholder Engagement*
  - *Communication*
  - *Education and Training*

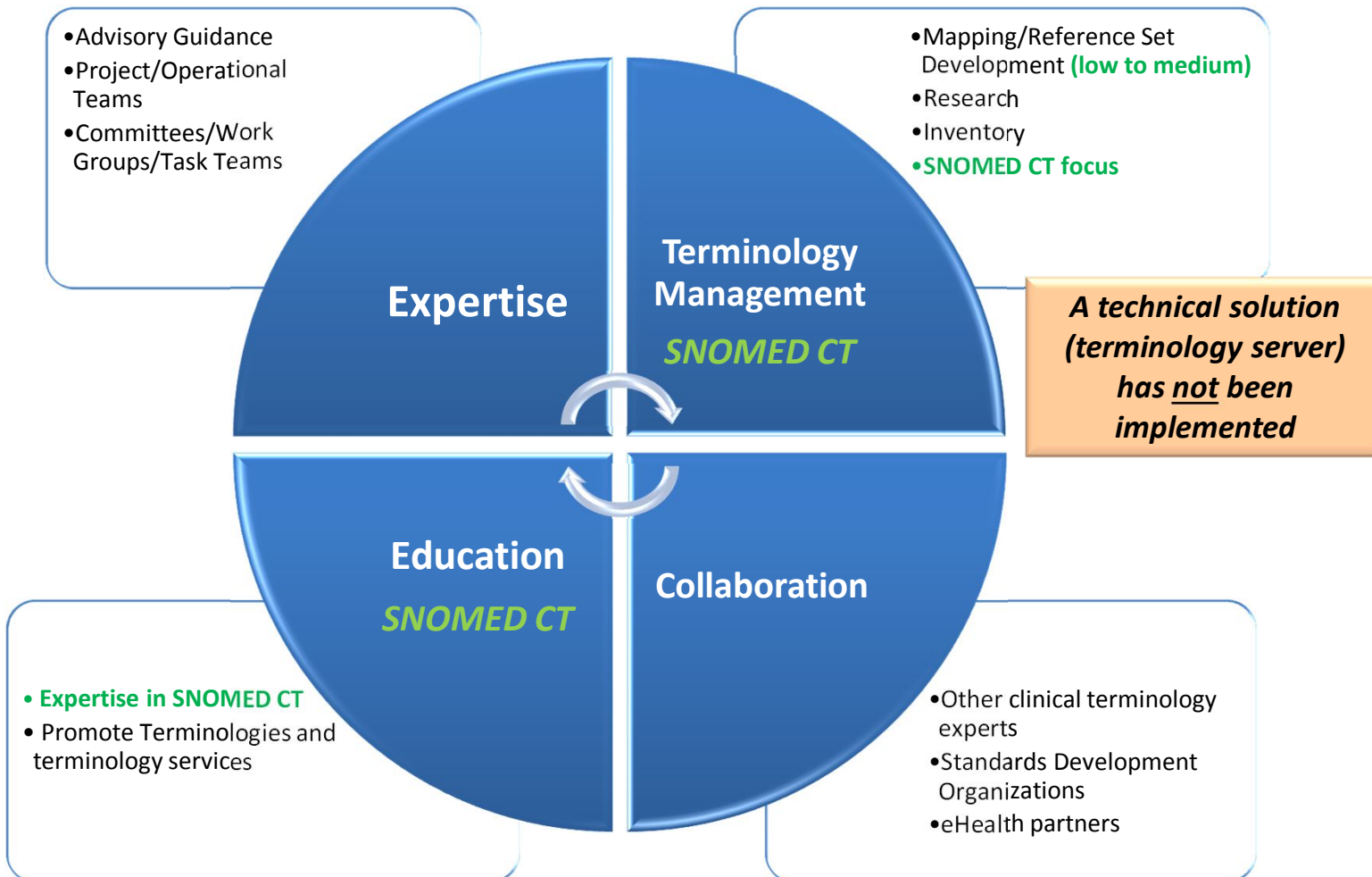Alberta

Alberta Health Services

Provincial Terminology Services

Strategic Planning

1. **What is terminology services?**
2. **What are the qualitative/qualitative benefits of adopting clinical terminologies and implementing a terminology server?**
3. **What does a terminology team look like?**

    – Number of staff, qualifications, roles and responsibilities

4. **How are implementations managed?**

    – What tools are other countries using?

    – What does full implementation look like?

    – Use of Natural Language Processing, indexing, search and retrieval

5. **How are other organizations/countries managing multiple terminologies?**
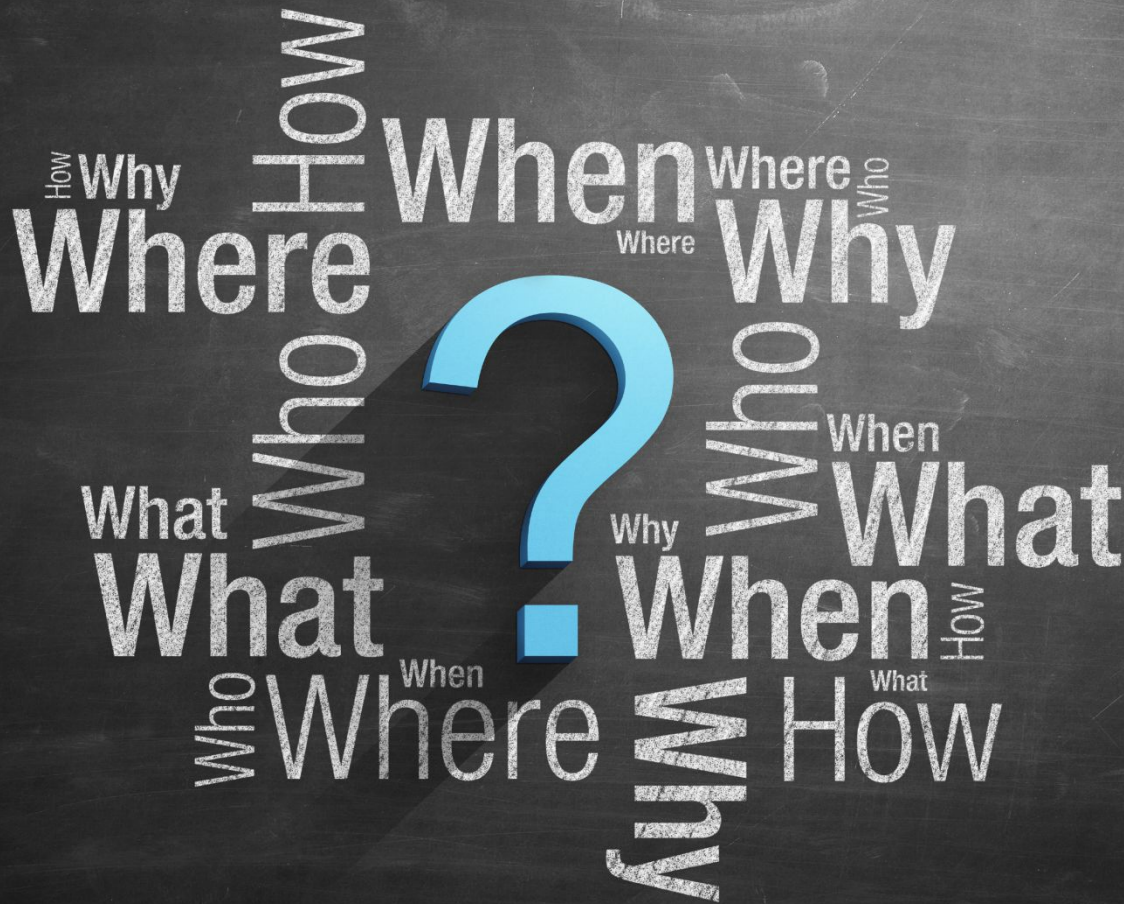
Provincial Terminology Services

Alberta Health Services

- Advisory Guidance
- Project/Operational Teams
- Committees/Work Groups/Task Teams

Expertise

Terminology Management

SNOMED CT

- Mapping/Reference Set Development **(low to medium)**
- Research
- Inventory
- **SNOMED CT focus**

*A technical solution (terminology server) has **not** been implemented*

Education

SNOMED CT

Collaboration

- **Expertise in SNOMED CT**
- Promote Terminologies and terminology services

- Other clinical terminology experts
- Standards Development Organizations
- eHealth partners

Operational Challenges

Current State:

Functioning in an interim state utilizing freeware tools

Collaborative Opportunities:

- Guidance on concept modelling:
  - Manual process
  - Tools for validating modelling
  - Supporting documentation
- Use cases
- Mapping questions
  - Combing clinically distinct terms
  - Hierarchy selection

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