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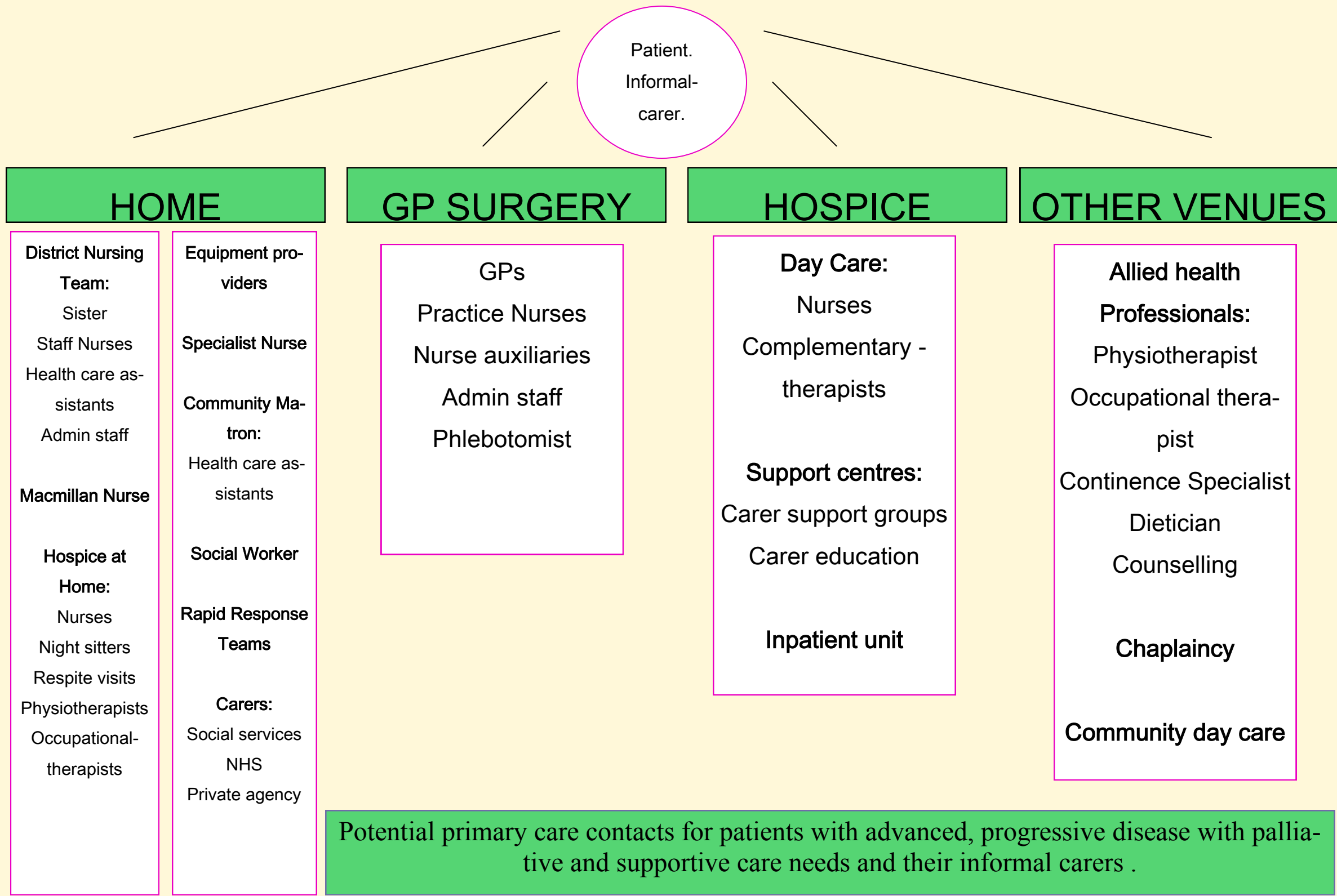
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Primary care palliative and supportive care services:
Experiences and perceptions of patients with advanced progressive disease
and their informal carers. A project summary.
PhD Research–Beth Hardy. Supervisors–Prof. Nigel King, Jan Firth, Alison Rodriguez.



Palliative care can be defined as the active, holistic care of patients with advanced progressive illness, and incorporates symptom management with psychological, social and spiritual care (WHO, 1990). Palliative care is for patients in the advanced stages of illness.

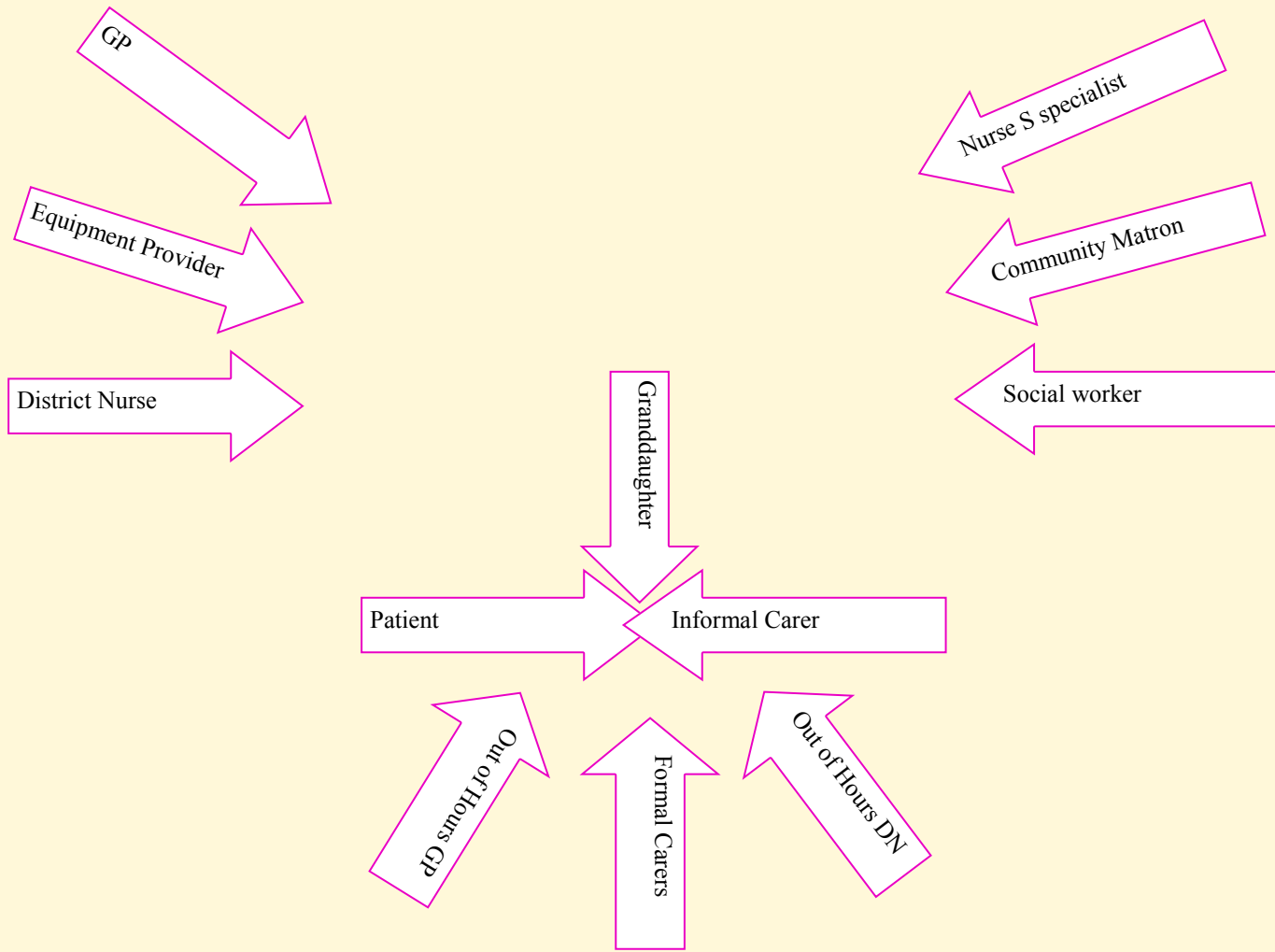
Supportive care follows people throughout the process of their disease, from pre-diagnosis, treatment, cure, continuing illness, death and into bereavement. The aim of supportive care is to maximise benefits of treatment and help people to live as well as possible with a disease (NCHSPCS, 2002).

The majority of palliative/supportive care is delivered in primary care, and up to 90% of people spend most of their last year of life at home (Aoun et al, 2005).

Palliative services were initially only available for cancer sufferers, however recent policy proclaims that palliative and supportive care services should be available to all, regardless of diagnosis (DoH, 2008) and a plethora of services now exist to meet these needs.

This research will take a interpretive phenomenological methodology to explore the experience of receiving these services from the perspectives of patients and their informal carers,

Example Pictor diagram done by a district nurse describing a case study of a patient with COPD in the last hours of life, and receiving care in the home environment.



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