



TeleMedIBD



Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)

A model of non-fatal inflammatory chronic disabling disease

- IBD (Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis) is a chronic inflammatory disease, affecting about 150.000 patients in Italy, age peak between 15-45 years
- Disease course relapsing-intermittent, with remission and activity phases alternating
- IBD is not associated to significantly increased mortality, but major clinical events are likely:
 - 30% Crohn's and 13% UC patients undergo surgery (within 7-years)¹
 - 15-20% hospitalized yearly²
 - Costs of IBD estimated \$2.8 billion (\approx \$12,000 per IBD patient); indirect costs \$1.6 billion, dominated by long-term work losses (\$979 million)³

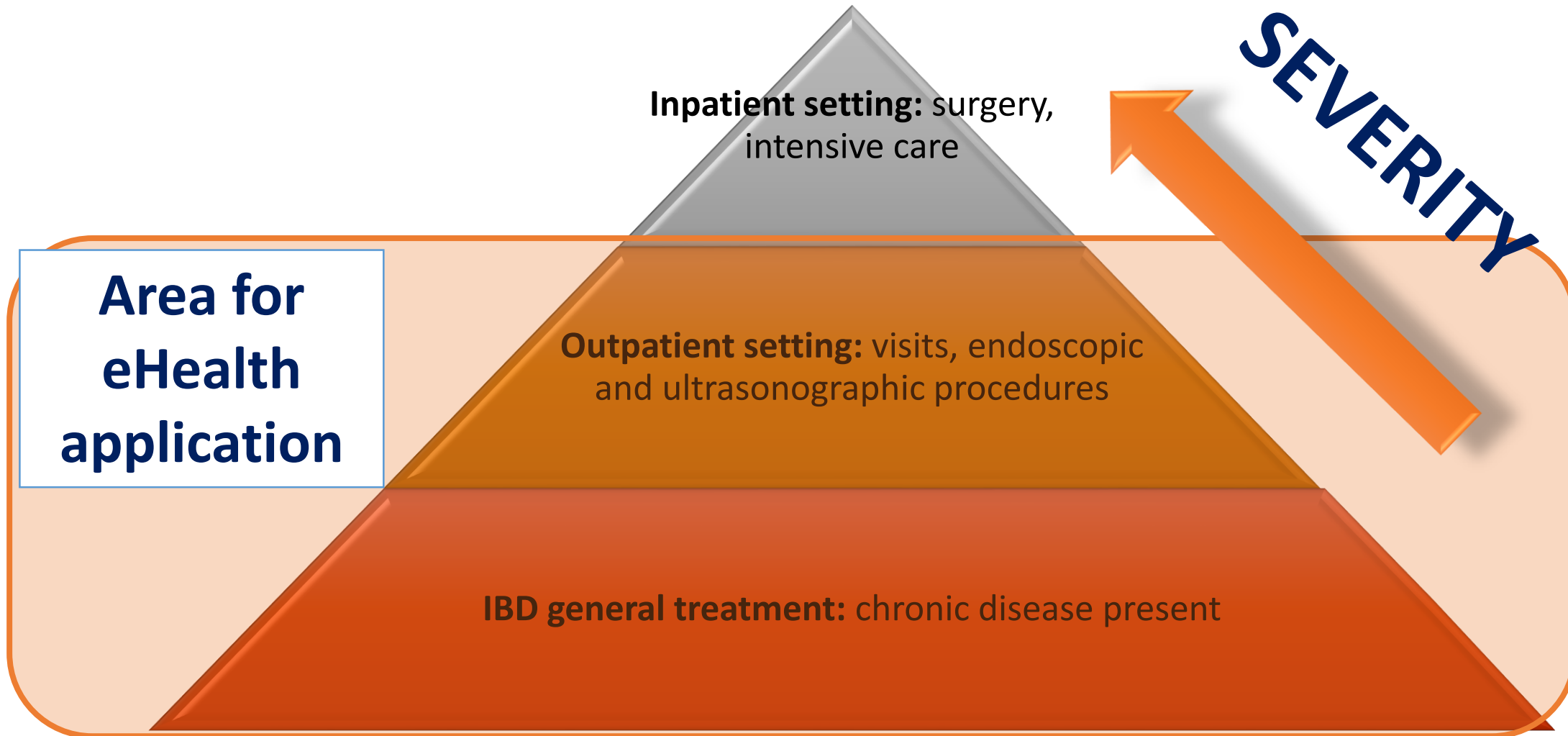
1. Vester-Andersen MK. Am J Gastroenterol 2014; *online*

2. Burisch J. Inflamm Bowel Dis 2014C;20(1):36-46

3. Rocchi A. Can J Gastroenterol 2012;26(11):811-7

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Different levels of care involved



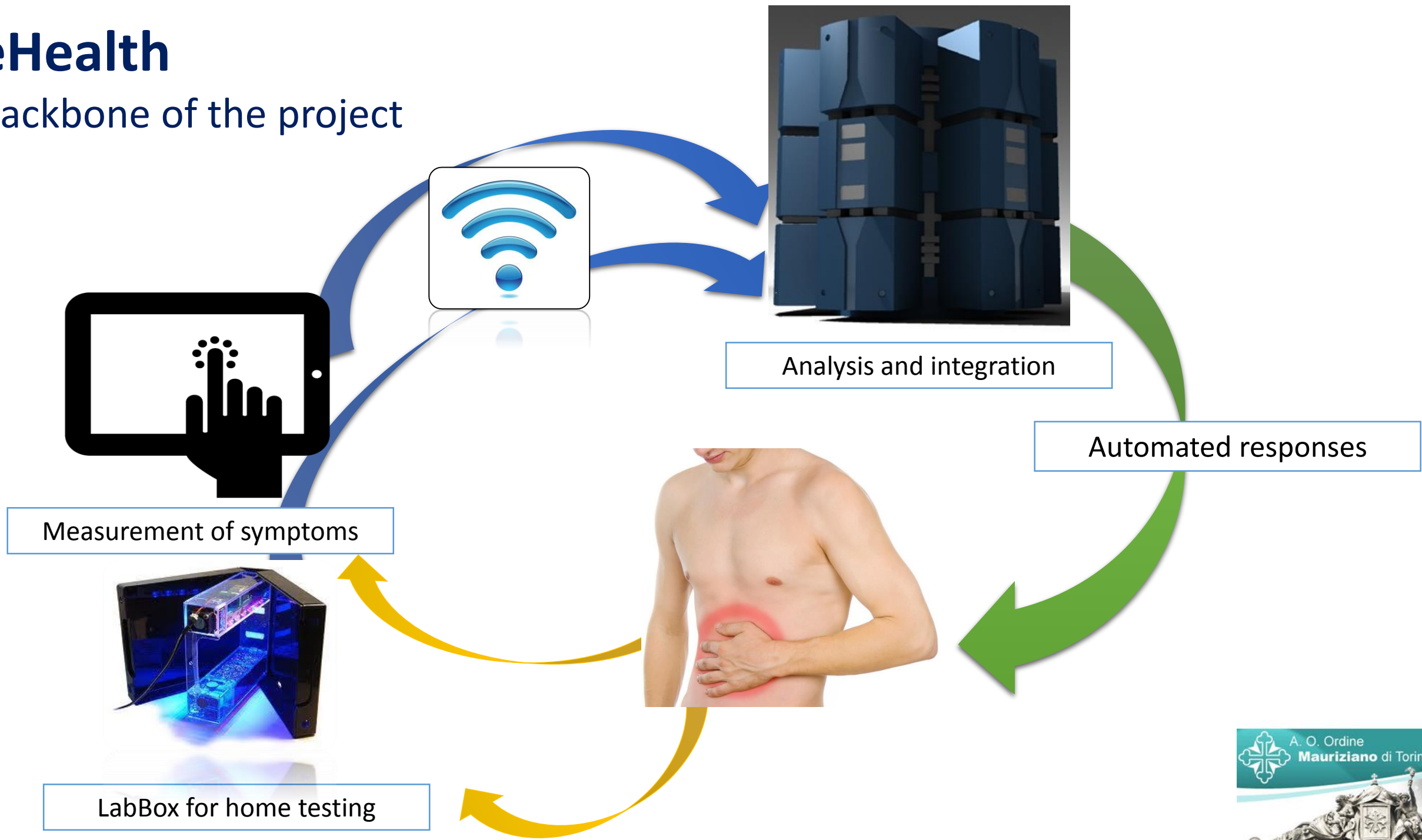
Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)

Role of biomarkers

- Objective measurement of disease activity is not easy, requires integration of:
 - Symptoms and clinimetry
 - Quality of life measures
 - Blood tests (CRP, blood cell count ...)
 - Feacal tests (calprotectin)
- Non-invasive tests are surrogate markers of more invasive diagnostic tests:
 - Ileocolonoscopy
 - MRI and/or US scan
 - Exploration under anaesthesia

eHealth

Backbone of the project



eHealth

Backbone of the project



Patient networking



Prioritized access to care levels

eHealth

A technology far in the future?

“It is an amazing invention, but who would ever want to use one”

Rutherford Hayes, 1882

on the using **telephone** for the first time

