

**Inter professional collaborative
practice (IPC):
Role of an Internist**

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What do we mean by inter professional Collaboration (IPC)?

- ❑ Inter professional collaboration (IPC) is the process in which different professional groups work together to positively impact health care.**
- ❑ IPC involves a negotiated agreement between professionals which values the expertise and contributions that various healthcare professionals bring to patient care.**

Breach in IPC: Sweden experience

Study on inter professional teams in Sweden found that healthcare professionals identified problems with IPC as having a negative impact on patient care and service.

(Kvarnstrom 2008)

Breach in IPC: US, Canada experience

Studies in the U.S. and Canada have documented a negative impact of poor IPC on patient safety and management.

(Lingard 2004; Williams 2007).

Impact of IPC in patient care

Inter professional collaboration enhances

- ❖ Quality of care**
- ❖ Patient safety**
- ❖ Patient-based comprehensive care**

(McCallin, 2001), (Baker et al., 2006)

Role of an Internist in IPC



Who is an internist?

- ❖ The term *internal medicine* originates from the German term *Innere Medizin*, popularized in Germany in the late 19th century
- ❖ Many early-20th-century American physicians studied medicine in Germany and brought this medical field to the US.
- ❖ Thus, the name "internal medicine" was adopted in imitation of the existing German term.

What is the role of an Internist?

- Internal Medicine is the core medical discipline that is responsible for the care of adults with one or **more complex, acute, or chronic illnesses**, both in the **hospital and in the community**.
- It is **patient-centred, scientifically based and committed to ethical, scientific and holistic principles of care**.

Evolution of Sub Specialty

From early 70s a group of Internists with specialized skill started to train their next generation specialists in a specific field of Internal medicine .

These specialists wanted the recognition of their skills.

American Board started to give certification for their specific skill as Sub specialty.

Industry started to patronize the sub specialties as they identified billion \$ business opportunity

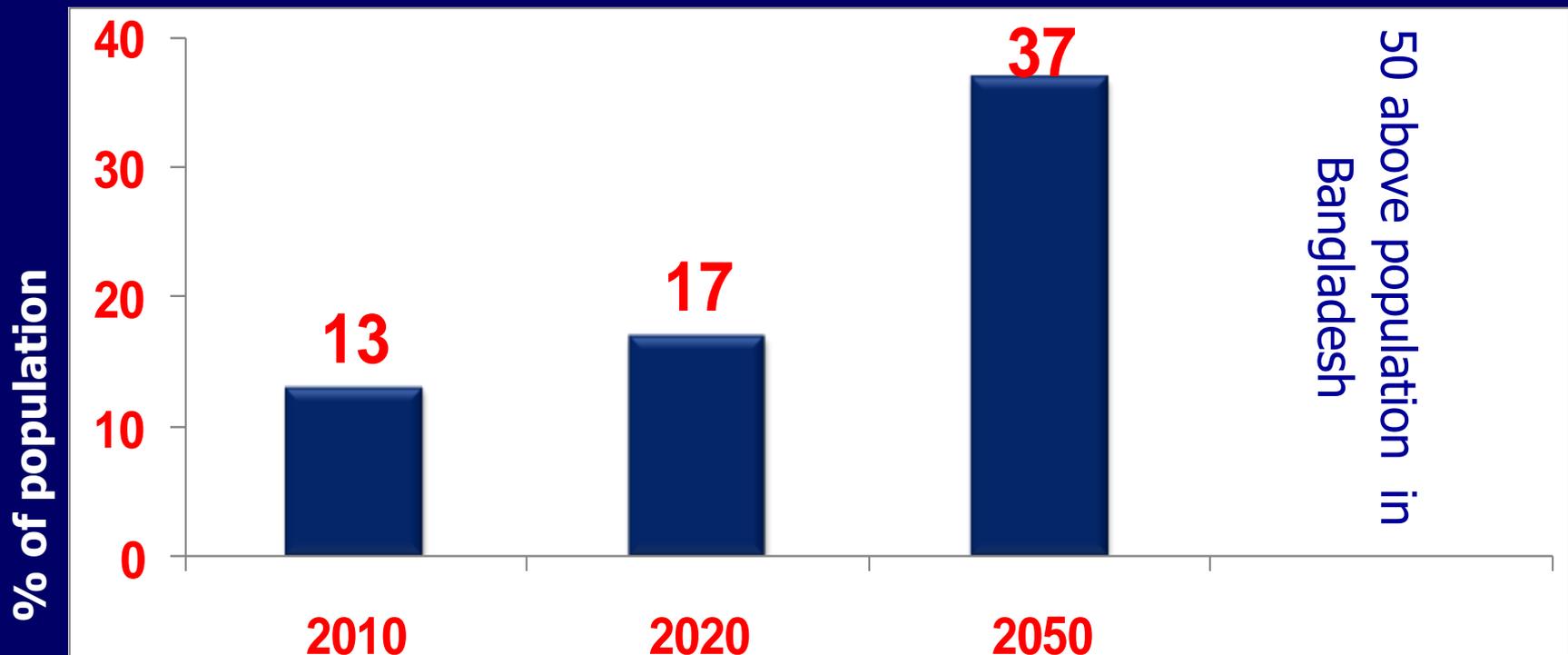
Consequences of emergence of Sub specialty

- ❖ Patient care became fragmented.
- ❖ Put a threat on domains of Internal Medicine.
- ❖ Health care became very expensive.
- ❖ Unnecessary use of Sub Specialty skills and devices when it was not indicated.
- ❖ Patients are not getting comprehensive specialty management.

Patients with multiple comorbidity

- Increasing.
- Becoming burden for health care.
- Putting stress on national expenditure.
- Uncoordinated specialty interventions/technology utilization.
- Excess expenditure which could have been avoided.

Aging people are growing with multiple co morbidities



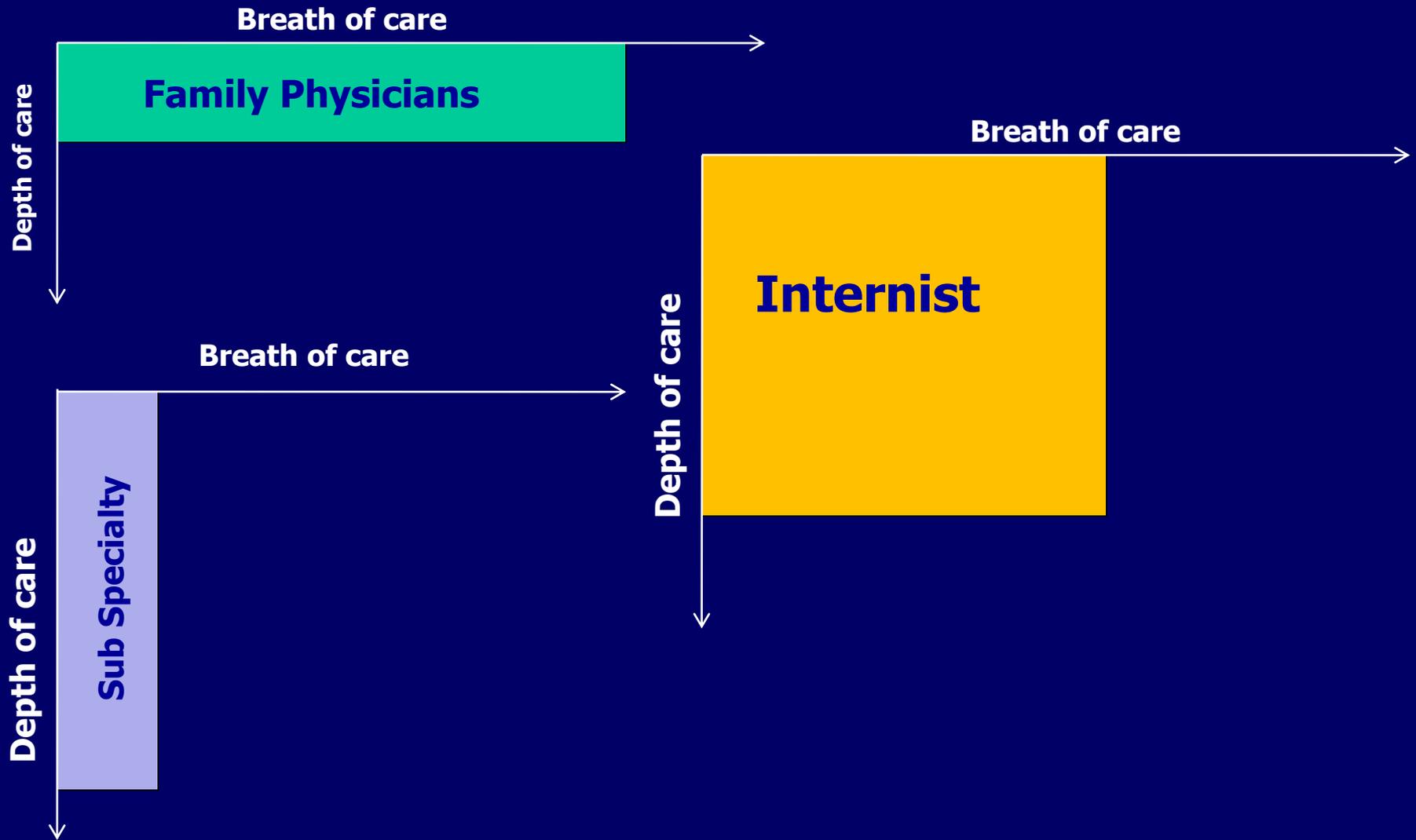
Roles of internists in patients with comorbidities

- Undifferentiated symptoms or known disease states,
- A single active problem in the face of multiple stable comorbidities
- Multiple active comorbidities requiring concurrent management.

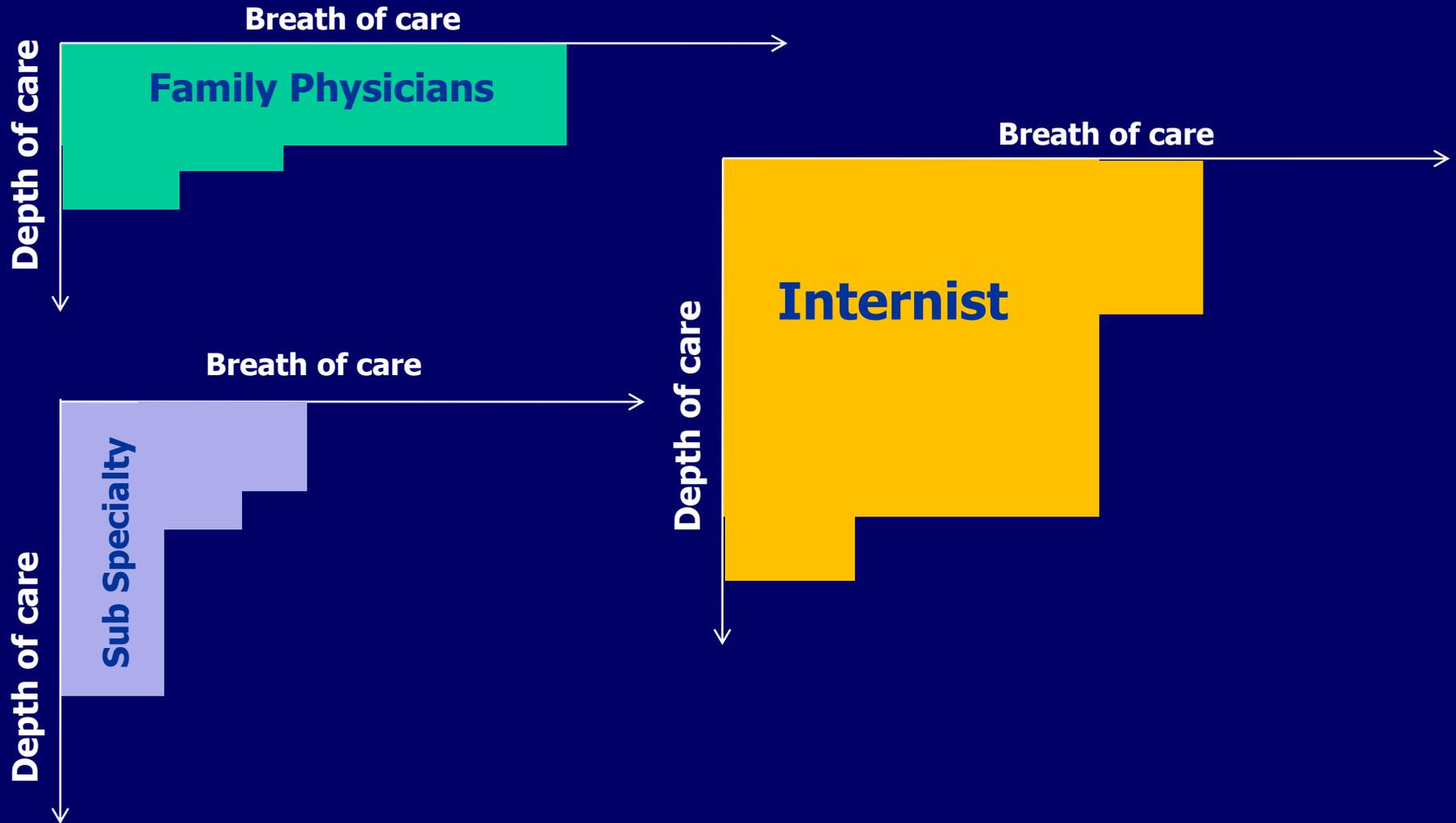
3 sets of professionals are in practice of medicine

- Primary care GP
- Internal Medicine
- Sub-Specialists

Competence in 3 sets of professionals **in Theory**



Competence in 3 sets of professionals **in Practice**



The role of internists can be divided in following set-ups

- Primary care specialty practice (acute and chronic conditions)
- Hospital
 - Acute care
 - Academic practice
 - Chronic care (mainly outpatient)

IPC in Primary practice

- ❖ All internists manages a large number of patients in this setting.
- ❖ For best cost effective and efficient management internists should have very strong inter professional collaboration.

IPC in Primary practice

- Patient does not know how to choose a sub specialist and when to go to them.
- Study showed that more than 90% of patients consult their GP (family physician) or to their internists to choose a specialist.

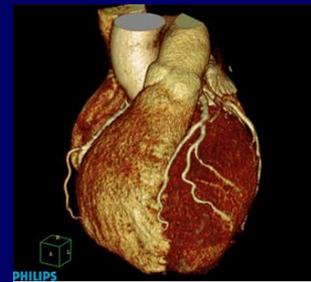
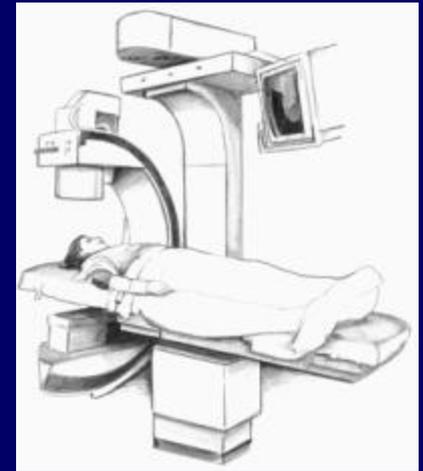
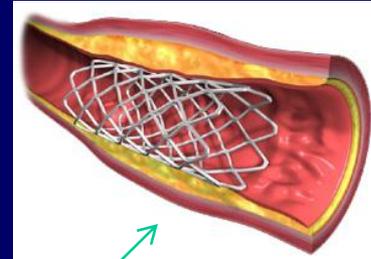
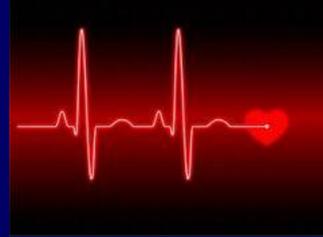
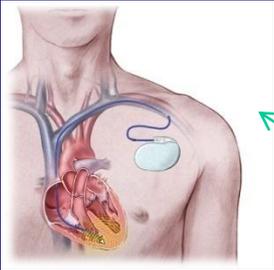
What are the roles of an Internists in Inter professional referral

- ❖ Strong liaison with all sub specialists at different levels of care. This should be mutually respectful and professional
- ❖ A clear understanding among them regarding referral of patients.
- ❖ Decide when a patient is going to be referred and to whom.
- ❖ Guide the sub specialists and also the patient regarding objective of referral and financial ability of the patient.

What are the roles of an Internists in Inter professional referral

- Each internists should have easy access and good liaison with private and public hospitals of his city.
 - Low cost
 - Medium cost and
 - High cost hospitals.
- Depending on the financial ability a patient should be referred to a specific hospital yet best specialists care should be provided.

A cardiac patient may require referral for any of the followings



Result of long trusted confidence in Internists

- It is not surprising that a patient may depend on your decision to choose
 - A gynecologist,
 - Take a decision on surgery
 - Cardiac intervention.
- Only an internist has this privilege and earns it over years of confidence he builds.

In Hospital academic activities

Internists must play leading role and involve all professionals in following activities.

- Academic/Teaching
- Grand Round
- Journal Clubs
- Research

IN HOSPITAL IPC

- In hospitals best patient management depends on key role played by internists who are in charge of ward/unit.
- In ward management internist must develop a team work attitude among
 - ❖ **Nurses.** At least once in a week the internists should sit with nurses to keep them motivated and focused on their goal.
 - ❖ Every day short session with **in house doctors** to discuss about ward and patient management.
 - ❖ A good understanding with all **sub specialty units** of that hospital regarding in-house consultation and also referral to different units.

Dilemma of Bread & Butter

- ❖ A personalized mutually respectful understanding among professional colleagues is very important.
- ❖ The key role is played by internists.
- ❖ Build confidence that you are not taking away his **bread and butter** but you are a source of it.

Conclusion

- IPC improves quality of patient care.
- Internists must play key role in implementing IPC.
- IPC is also beneficial for patients in the long run and reduces the cost of care.
- IPC can reduce the unnecessary patient load which can be well managed by an internist.
- IPC can improve comprehensive patient management rather than **organ specific care.**

Internist are orchestrators



Thank You!

