



# OPENEHR IN SWEDEN AND BEYOND

Thomas Beale, Lund 3 Nov 2010

What *open*EHR offers - the  
big picture

*open*EHR and process

# Our basis

- Clinical healthcare is a 1) rational scientific 2) problem-solving 3) process used to generate decisions
- Decisions require evidence and evaluation of evidence
- But real healthcare is messy
  - GPs may prescribe without diagnosing
  - Patients and nurses administer with no order
  - Many exceptions, e.g. reactions to drugs
  - Experienced doctors correctly diagnose without 'following the book'

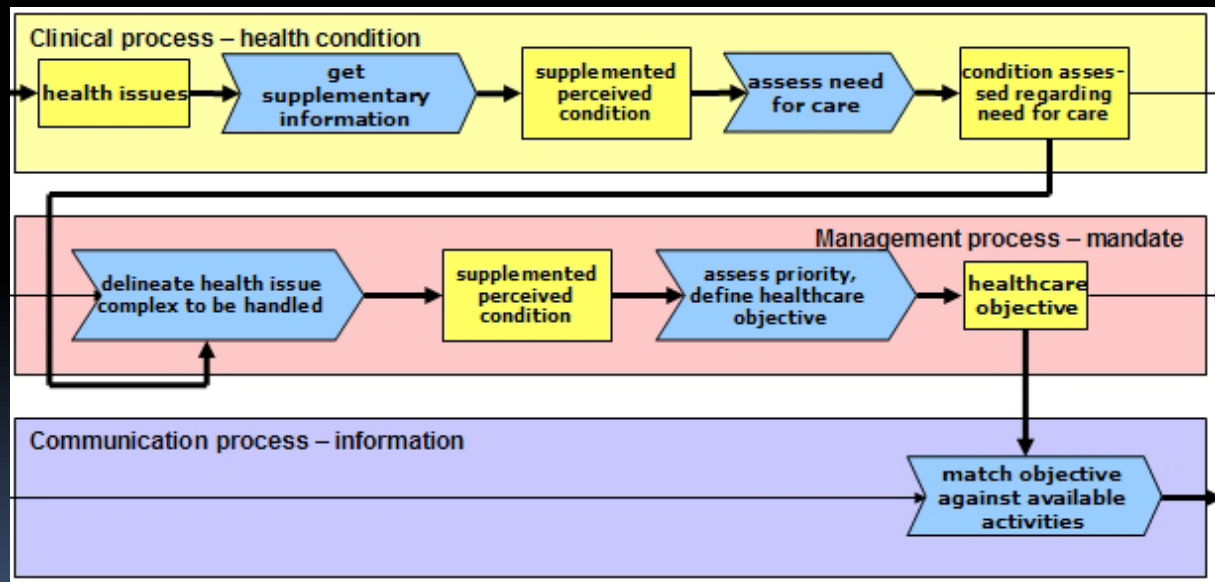
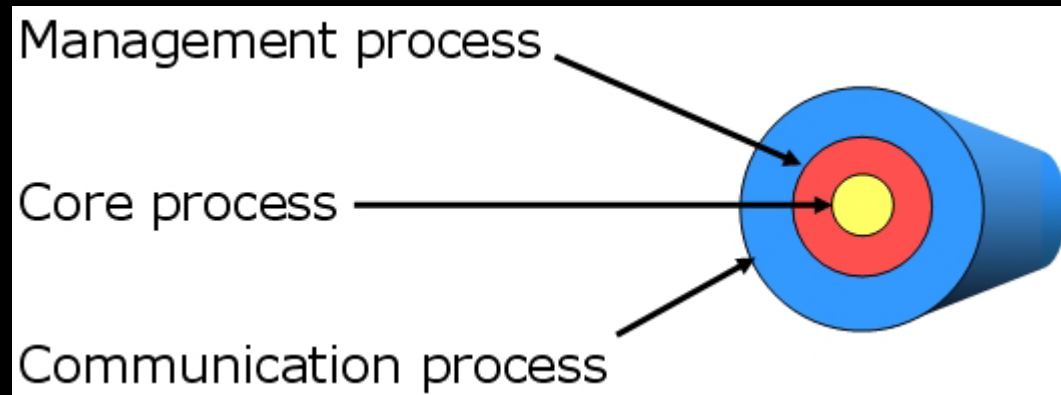
# History of Solutions

- Paper records – little internal organisation
- Weed's POMR – SOAP organisation of information – hard to implement
- Elstein 'hypothetico-deductive' model of clinical reasoning – diagnosis-focussed
- Rector *et al* - PEN&PAD – how to record what we said, what was thought and what should be done about it

# History of Solutions – Danish G-EPJ



# History of Solutions - Samba



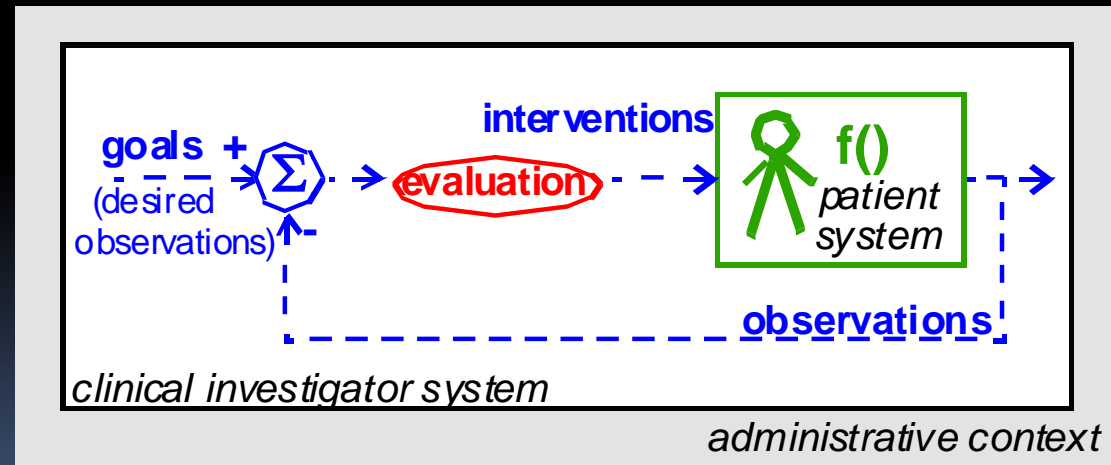
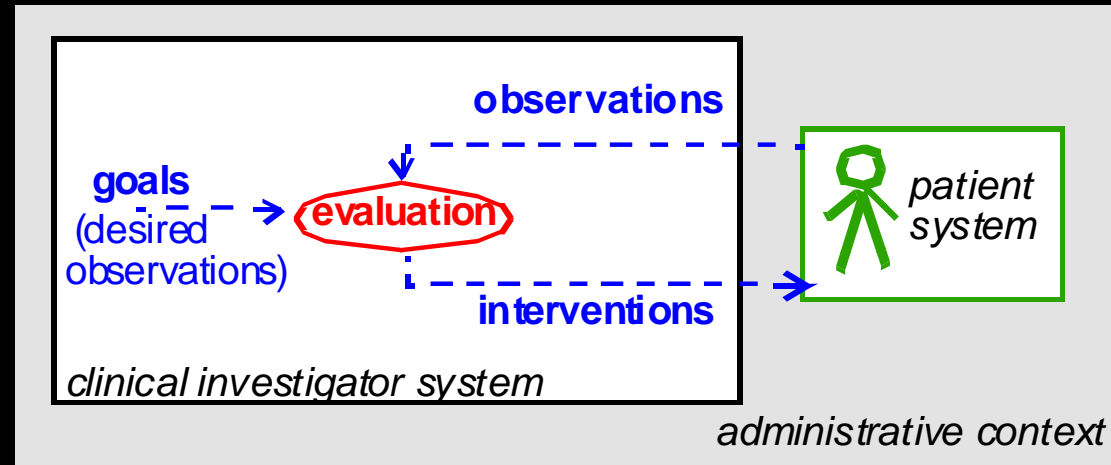
# History of Solutions – Act-based

- Includes
  - RICHE
  - HL7v3 RIM
  - Many others
- Problems
  - everything is an act – good for tracking business process steps, but not natural to physicians
  - Hard to model typical clinical recordings



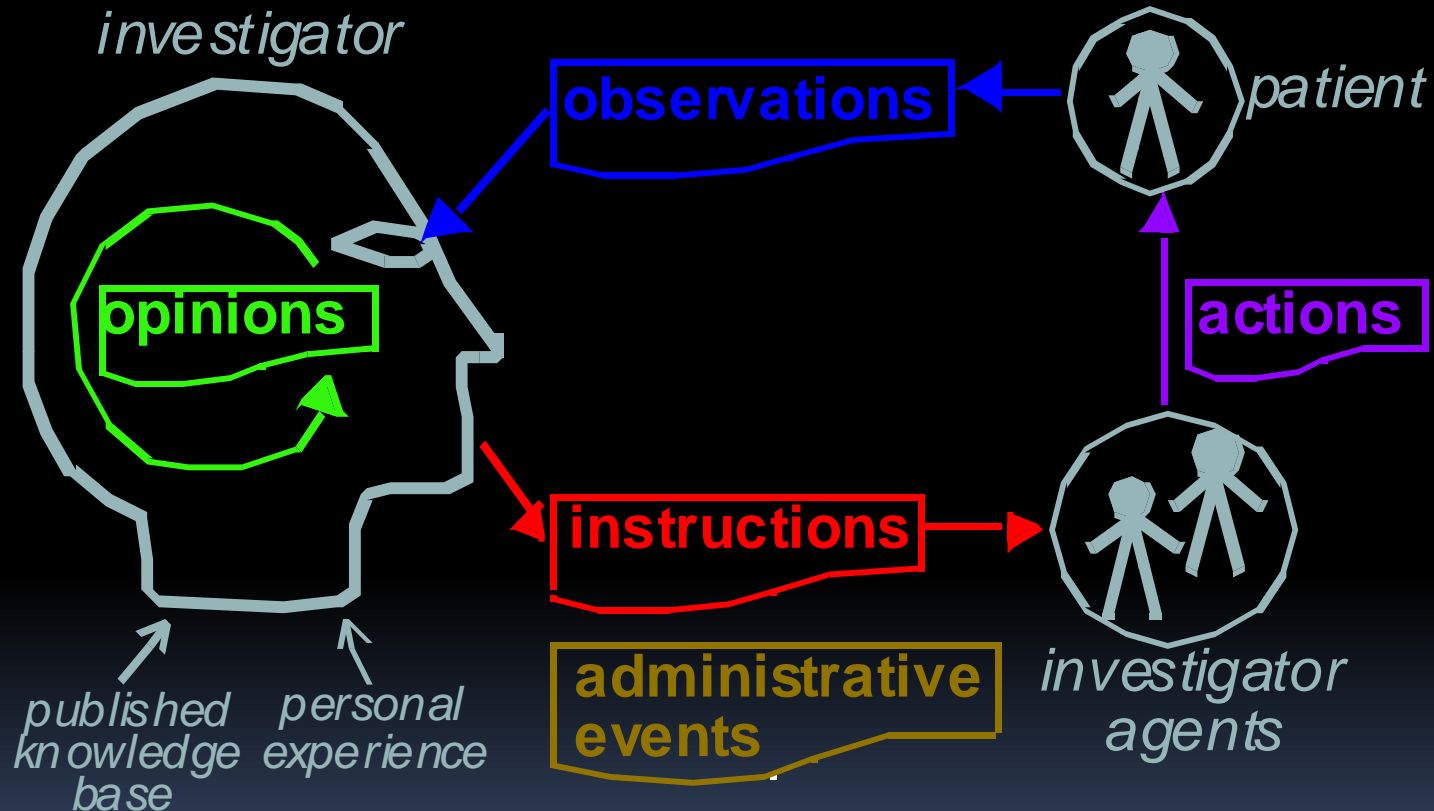
# Our approach – ‘Clinical Investigator’

- Based on clinical process



b) control system metaphor

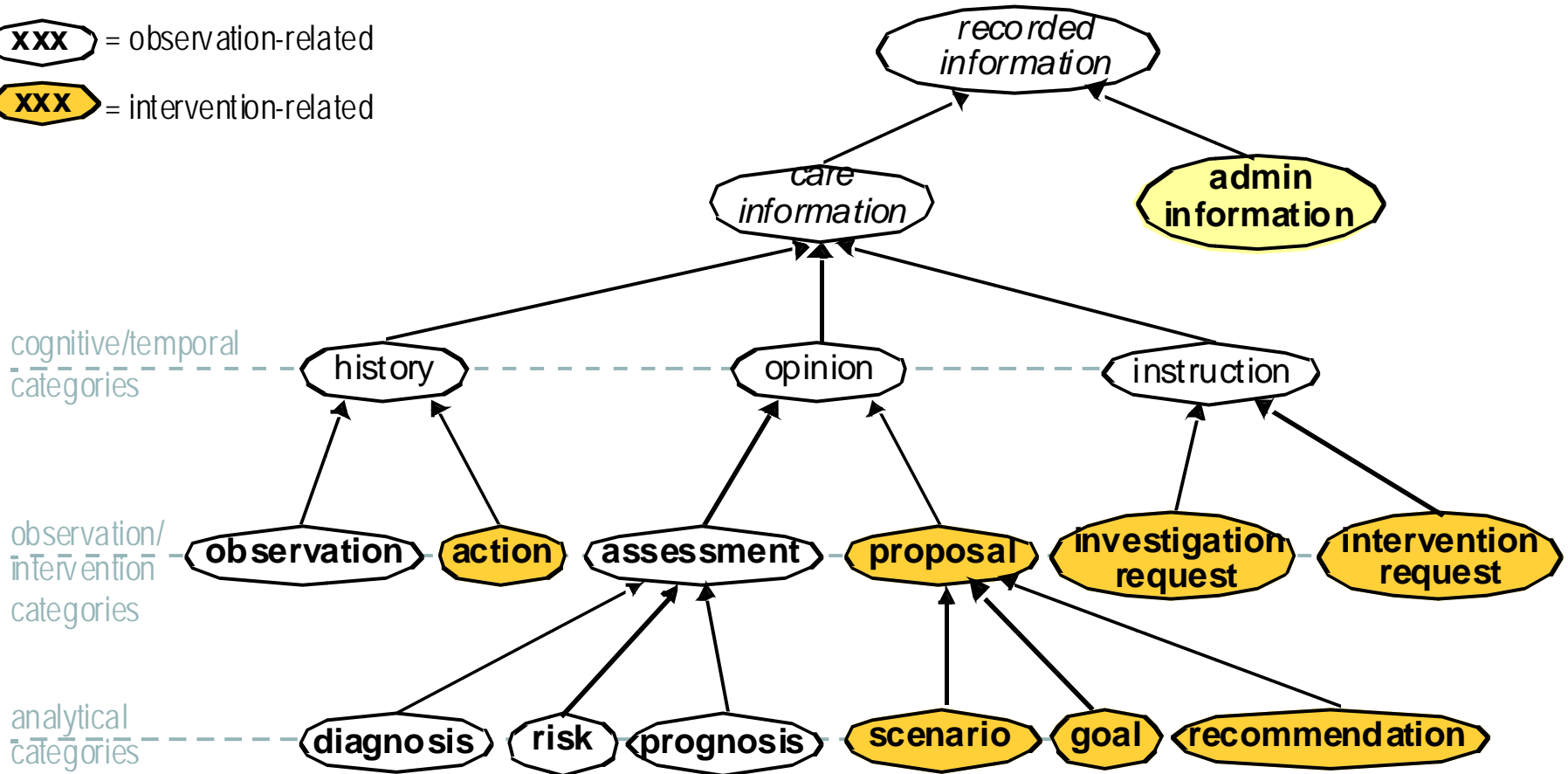
# Leading to Types of Information



# Leading to an Ontology

**xxx** = observation-related

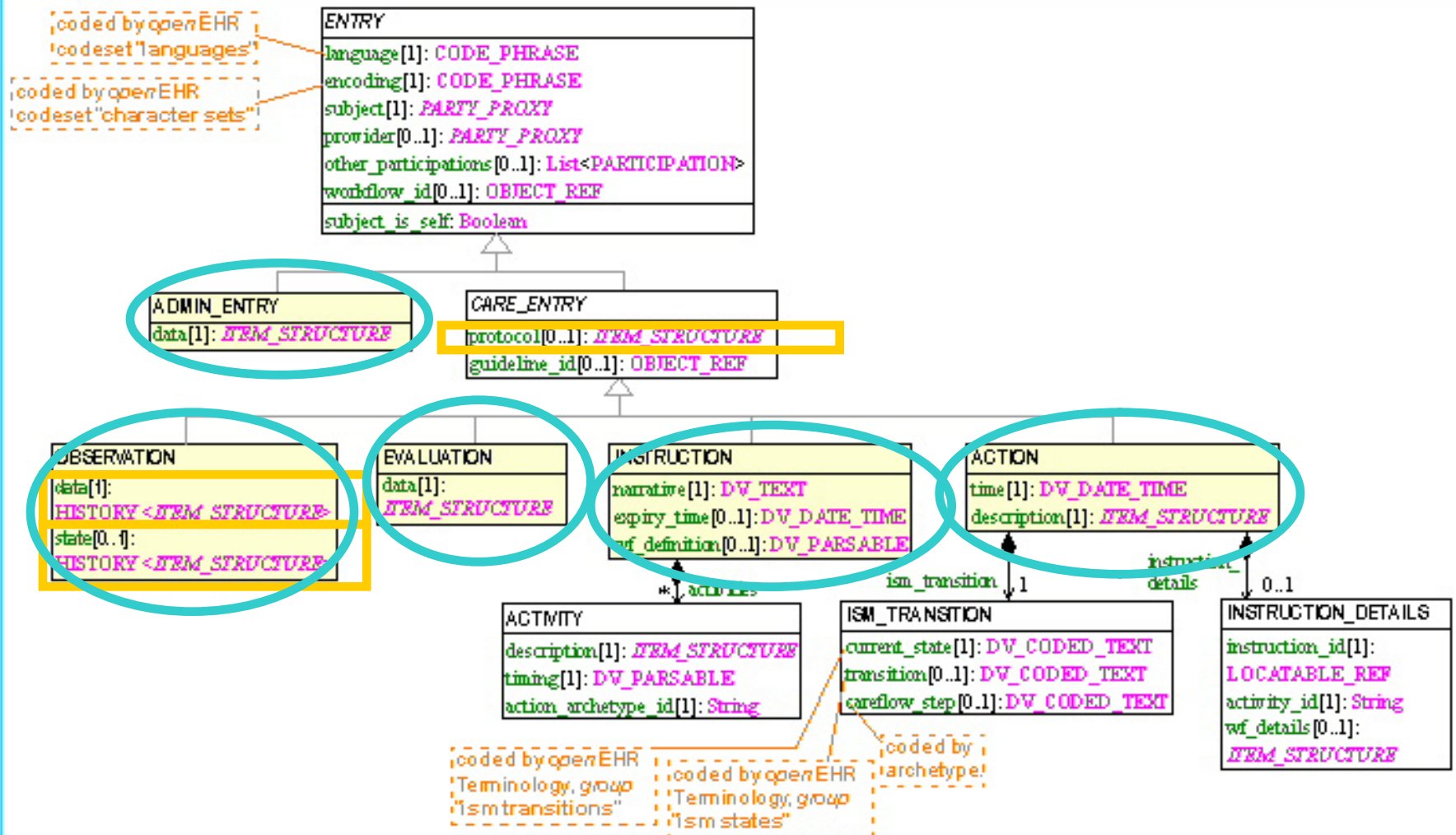
**xxx** = intervention-related



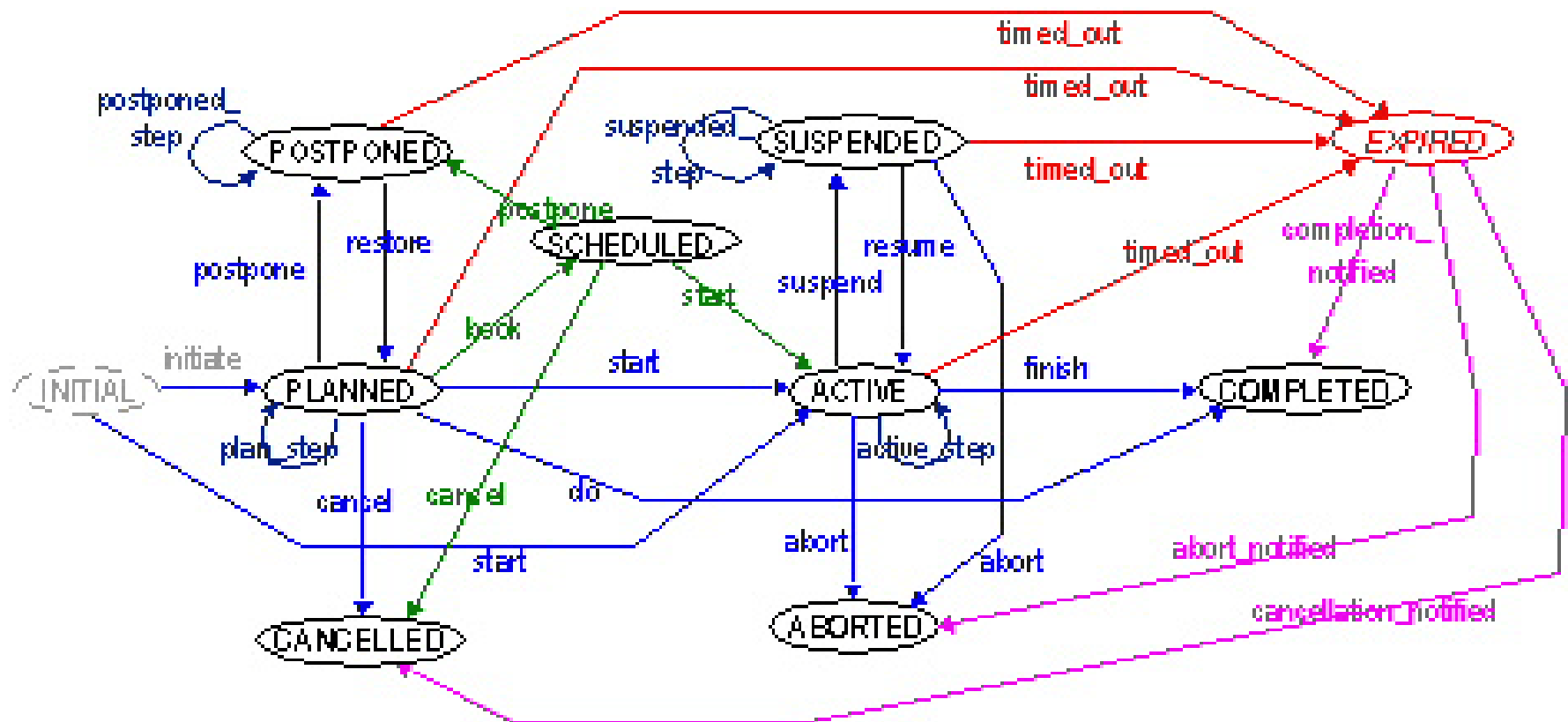
# Leading to an Information Model

(Entry part shown here)

## entry



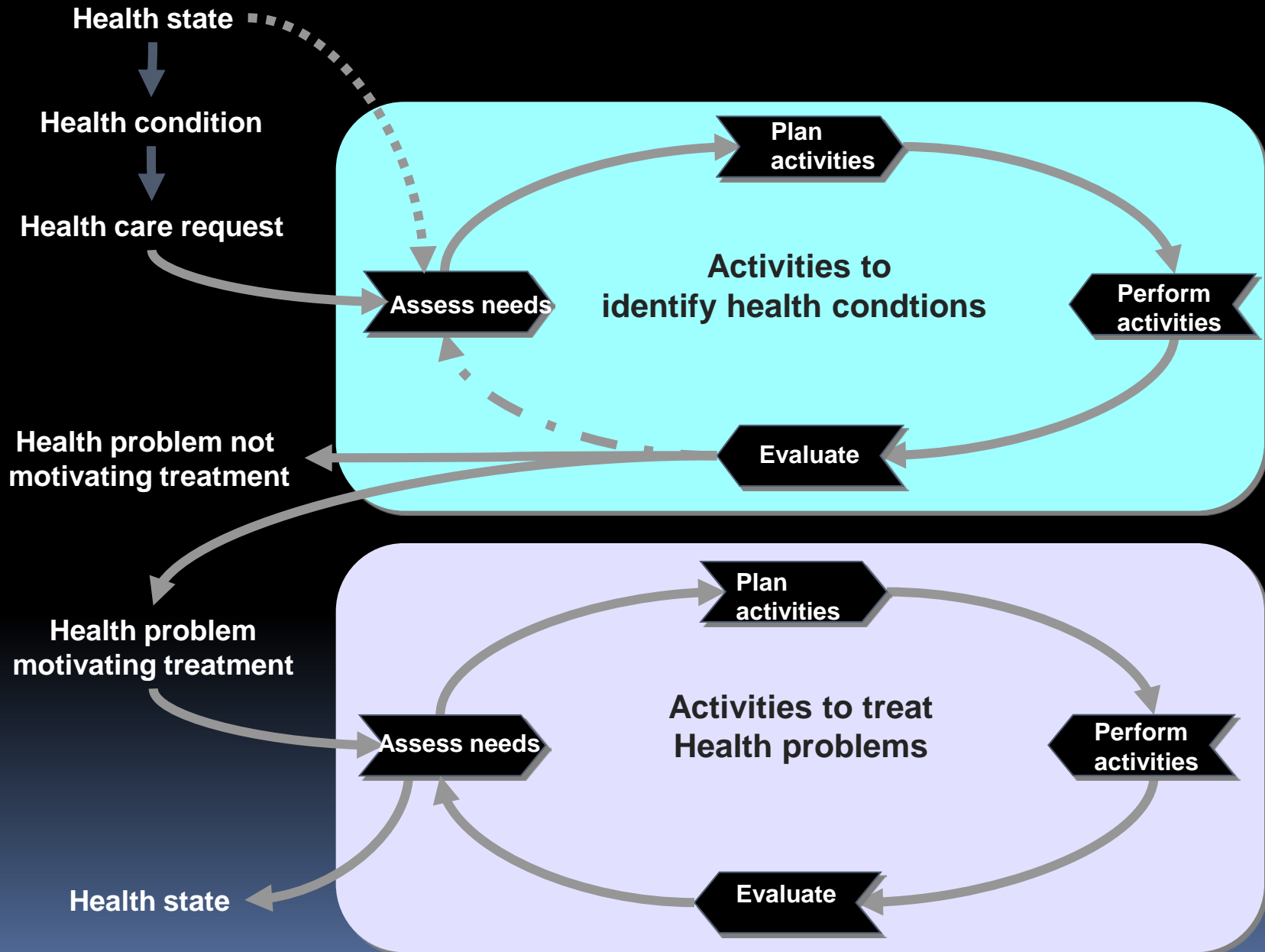
# State machine – Instructions and Actions



## Transition legend

blue: normal state changing event	red: time-out event
dark blue: normal non-state changing event	magenta: post time-out event
green: scheduling-related transitions	

# Swedish view



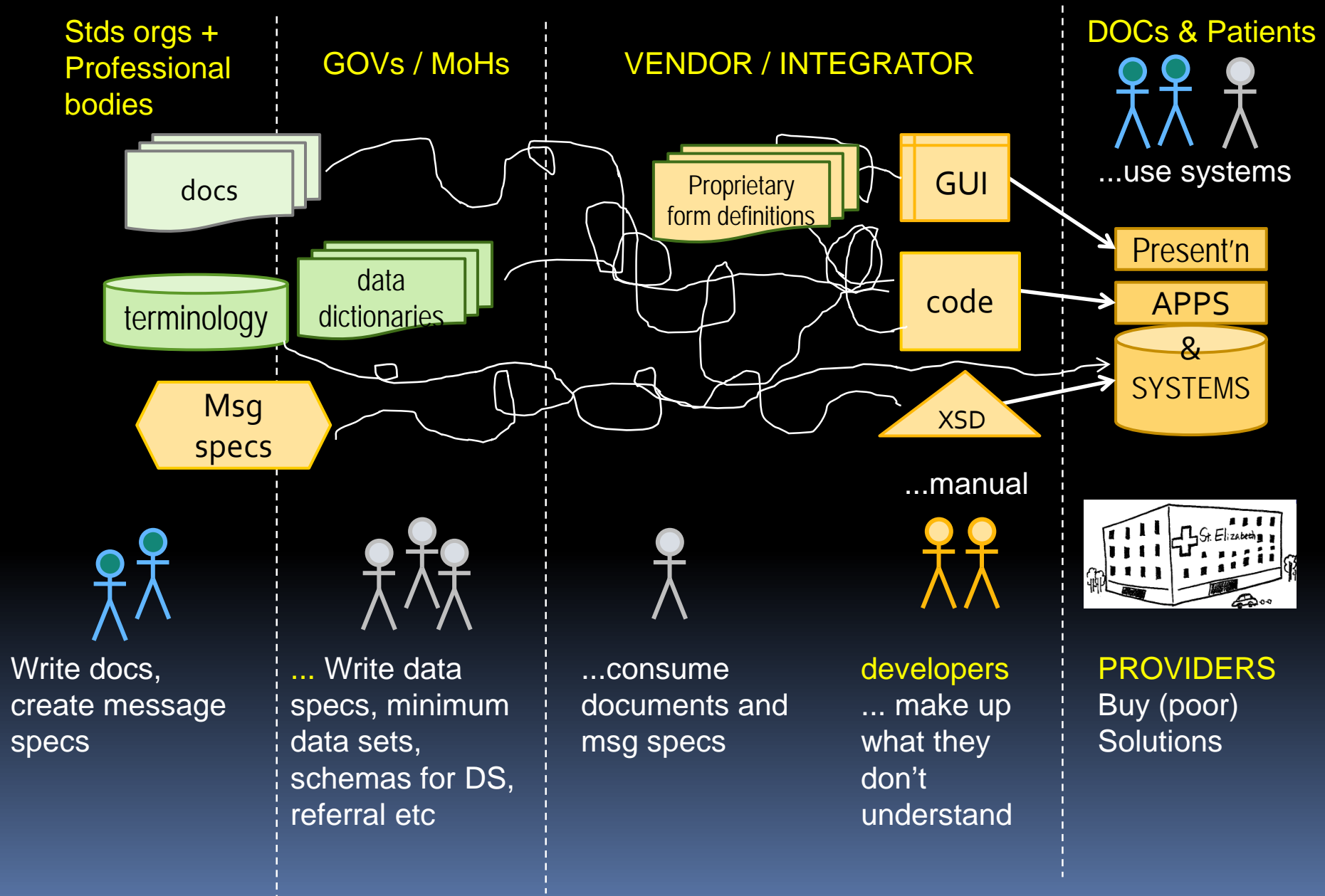
# Conclusions

- Information types modelled
- LINKs, DV\_EHR\_URI type allow process-based referencing
- But controlling this with archetypes still not completely understood...
- What information structures do we want in the clinical data repository?
- SEE:  
[http://www.openehr.org/publications/health\\_ict/MedInfo2007-BealeHeard.pdf](http://www.openehr.org/publications/health_ict/MedInfo2007-BealeHeard.pdf)

The ecosystem



# Historical Industry Structure



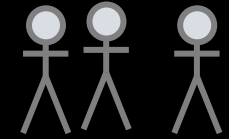
# Historical Industry Structure

Std's orgs +  
Professional  
bodies

GOVs / MoHs

VENDOR / INTEGRATOR

DOCs & Patients



...use systems

**Chaotic,**

**Expensive,**

**non-computable**



Write docs,  
create message  
specs

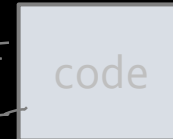


... Write data  
specs, minimum  
data sets,  
schemas for DS,  
referral etc



**Lock-in**

**Ad hoc**



...manual



...consume  
documents and  
msg specs



... make up  
what they  
don't  
understand

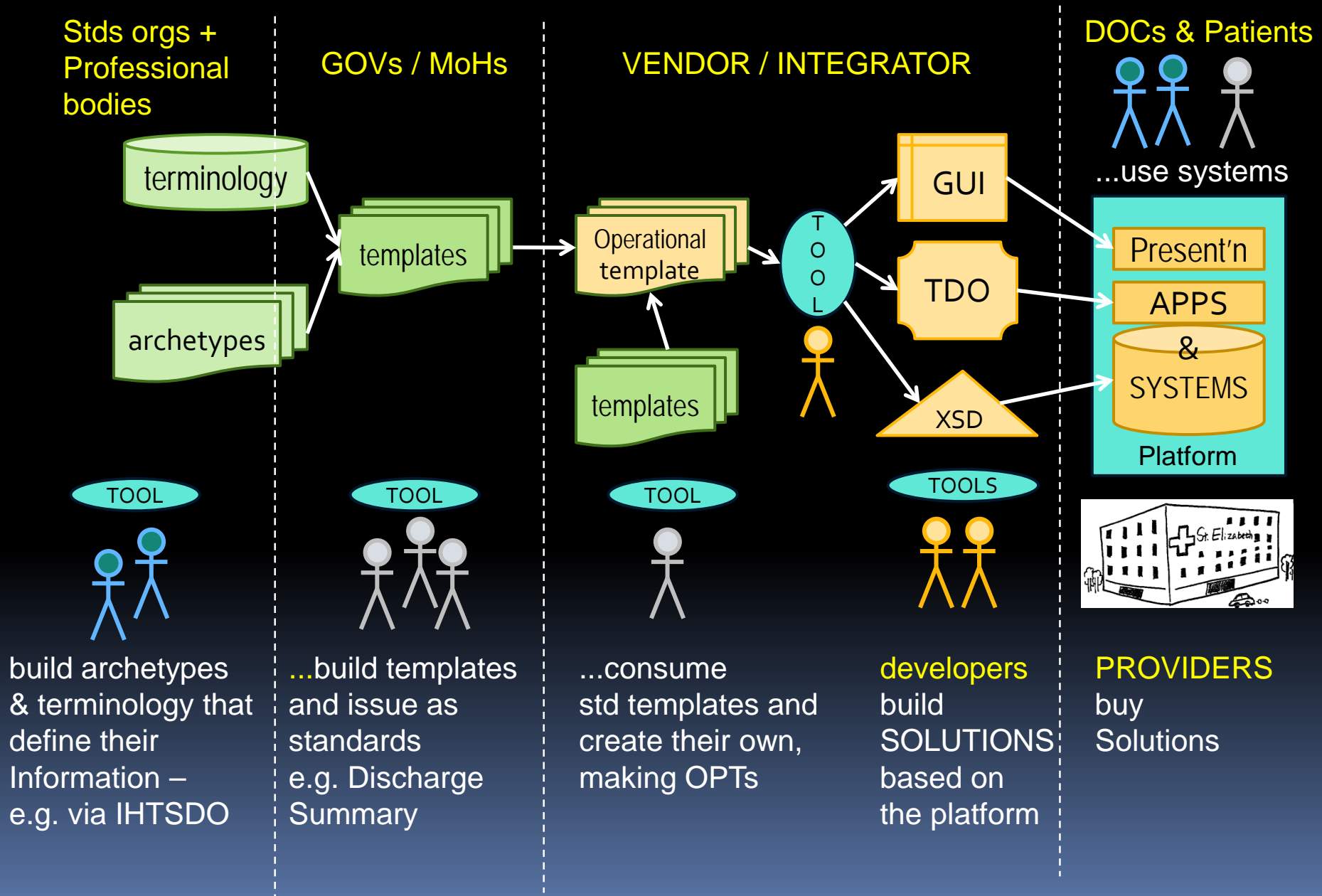


**Poor  
interoperability**

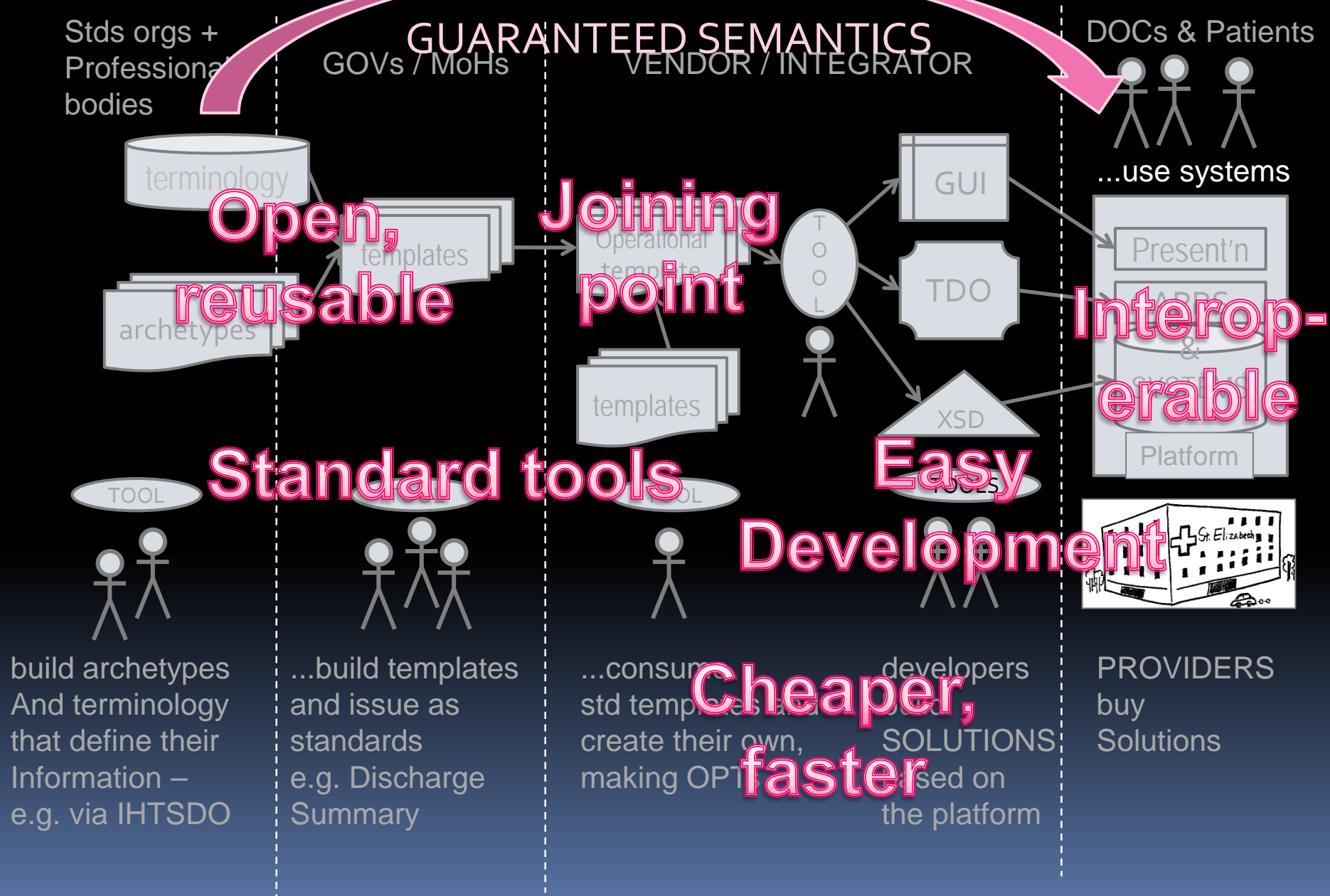


PROVIDERS  
Buy (poor)  
Solutions

# openEHR approach



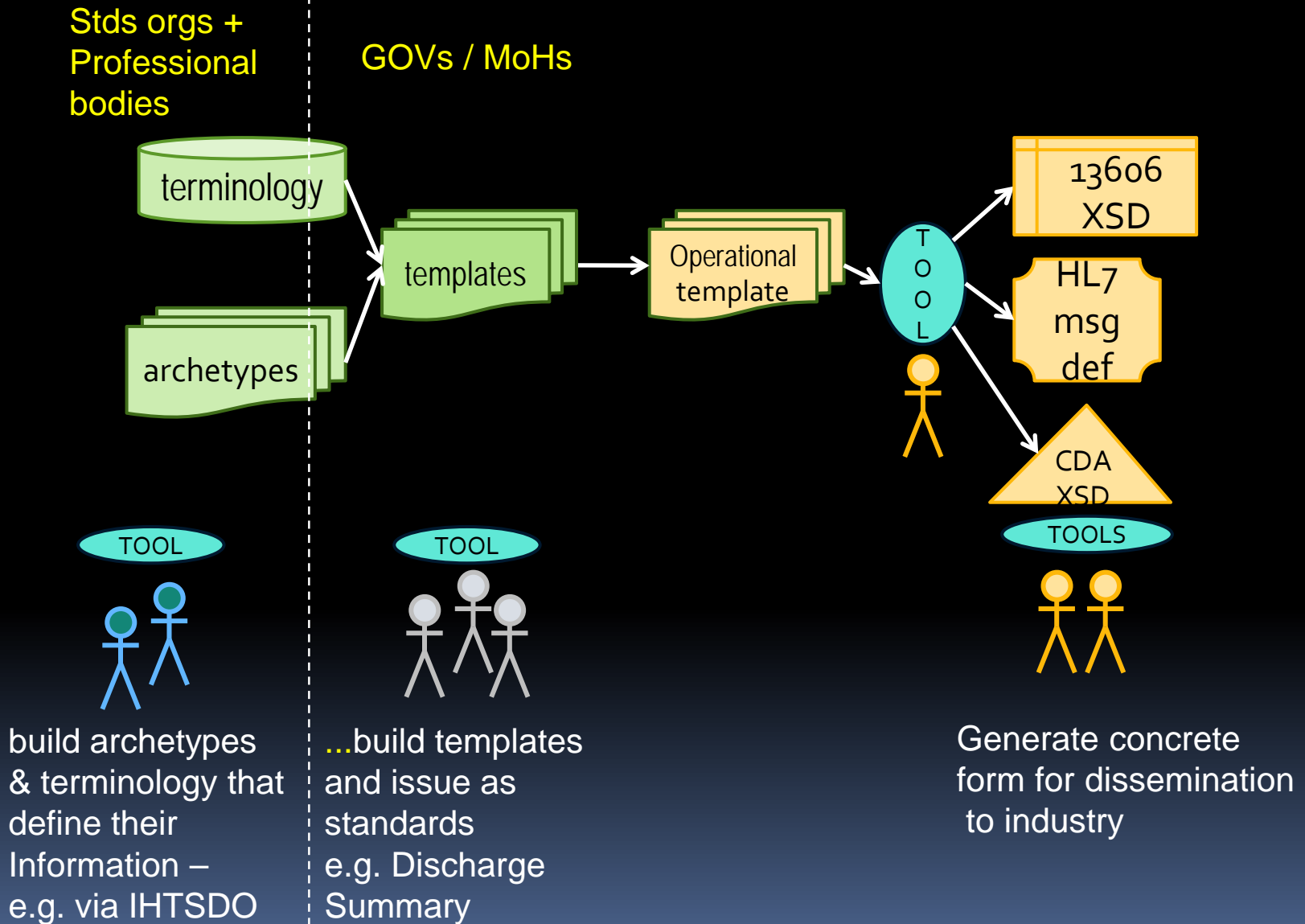
# openEHR approach



# The key....

- Is the operational template (OPT) – this is the joining point between the semantic specifications and deployable software artefacts that can be used by normal developers

# Approach to standards



# Key Outcomes

- Normal developers can engage – *openEHR* + Snomed become economic and ~quick
- Semantic connection exists between definitions and implementations
  - → now we know what the meaning of data are, and DS and BI can work...
- Concrete standards like HL7 message definitions, CDA schemas, standard UI formats are DOWNSTREAM generations of operational templates

# Key Requirements

- Operational Template is joining point; Tooling is key
- Portable querying language is available; also needs more tooling



# Lessons from SKL modelling

# Reuse versus local authoring

- The 'known' needs:
  - To reuse & adapt existing archetypes (CKM, DK, ...)
    - → archetypes + archetype specialisation
  - To create locally specific data-set definitions
    - → templates (in ADL 1.5: template is an archetype)
  - ... So far so good
- What the SKL experience has identified:
  - The need to 'mix-in' locally defined but widely applicable constraints... Mostly process-related
    - This is not easy in the current archetype formalism
    - And has led to 'reference archetypes' approach



archetyped

Attributes which need to be archetyped

data

ActivityChangingEventID

RequestID

This may be handled by generic archetypes

ActivityID

Local ID of the Activity i.e Instruction/Activity generating this Action

Activity Type

Local Swedish Activity type code

Activity Code

Local Swedish activity code (may be handled by generic archetype)

Relation to care time guarantee



? Wrong class

Attributes that I don't think really belong in this V-TIM class at all

Links

Health condition links

type = EN13696 "Process link"

Requirement [Condition which is a pre-requirement for the Action]

meaning = D3 "has pre-condition"

Result [Condition resulting from the action]

meaning = D1 "Outcome"

Target condition [Addresses the target condition]

meaning = "addresses"

Interrupting condition [Condition which interrupts the Action]

meaning = D3 "has pre-condition"

Complicating condition [Unintended complication arising from the Action]

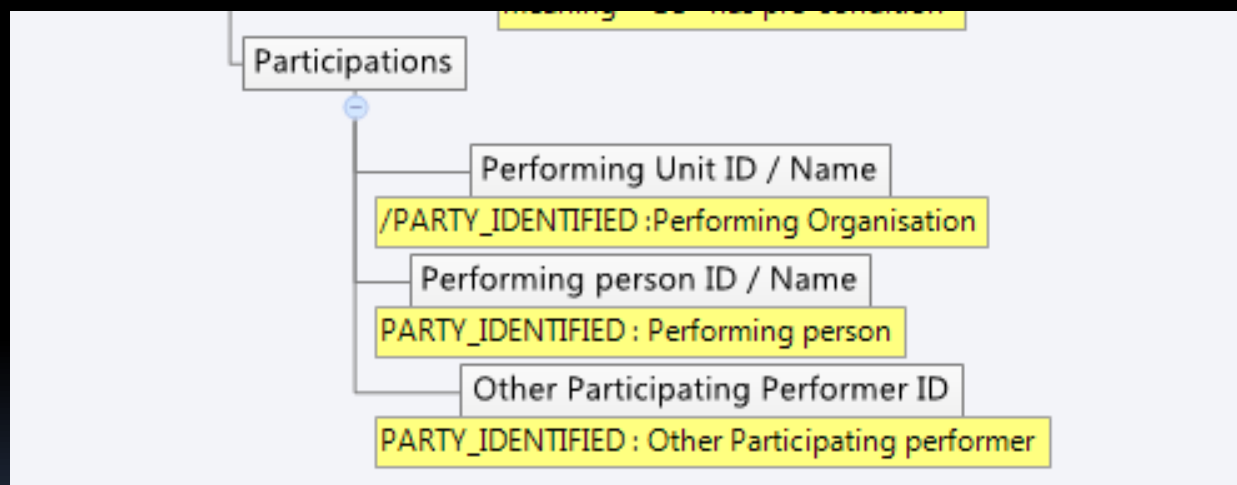
meaning = C9 "is sequel"

Resource links

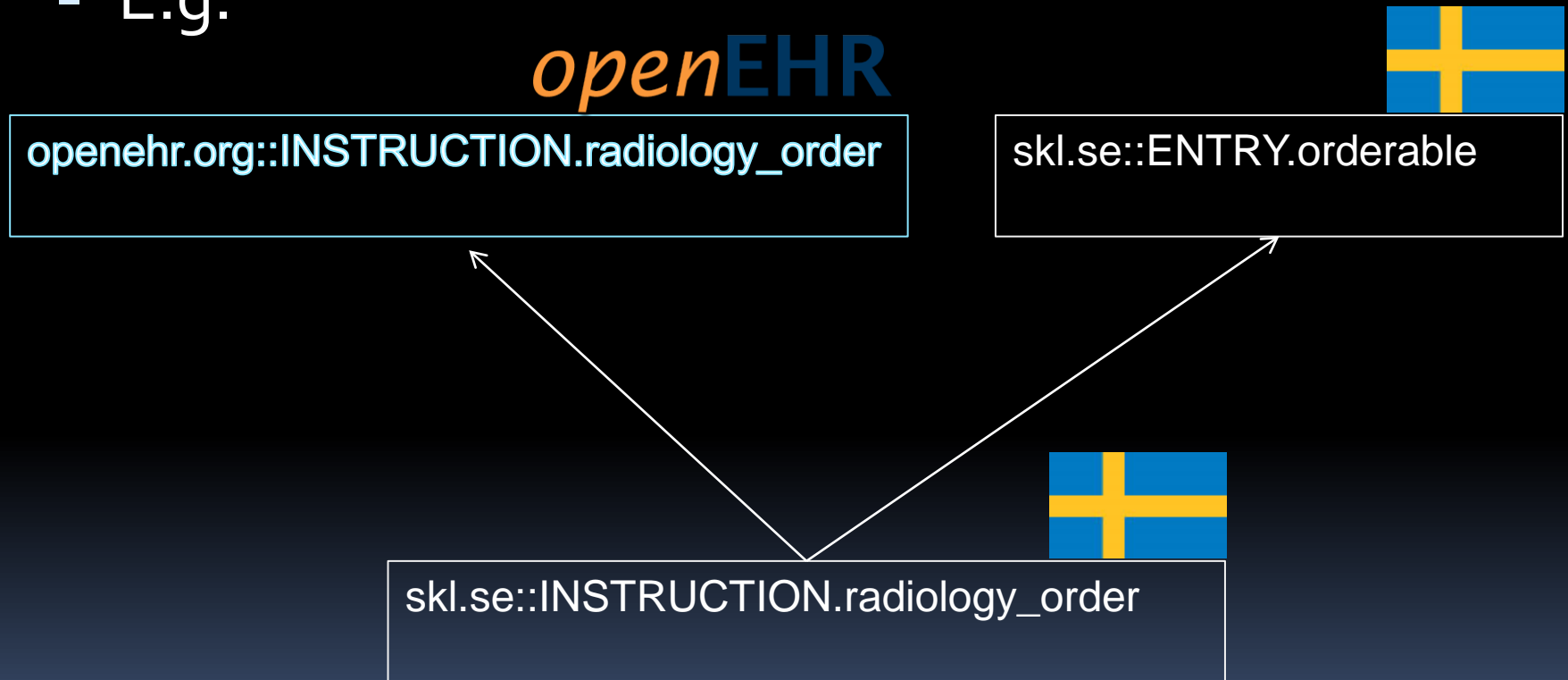
type = D0 "Process link"

? Resource required

meaning = D3 "has pre-condition"



- The need is to define such an archetype once, and to 'inherit' it into e.g. All 'orderable' archetypes.
- E.g.



# However . . .

- This would require multiple inheritance
  - ▣ Initial investigations show that this would be possible, and indeed not hard, for the future
- However, not in current archetype formalism
- We don't know enough about the information requirements

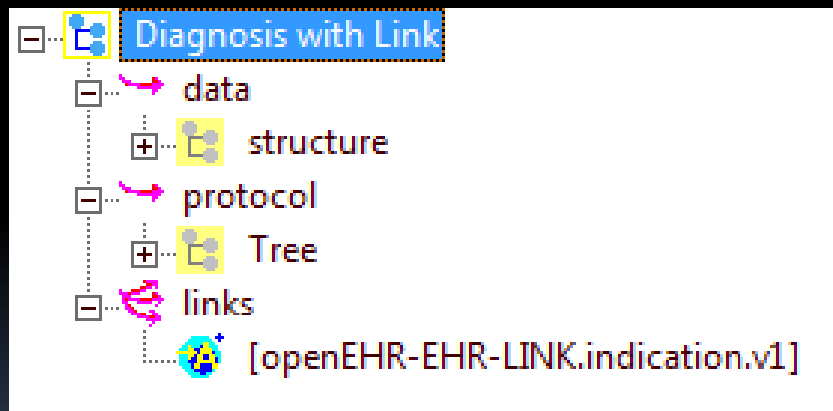
# What can we do today?

1. 'proper' LINK archetypes to provide logical connections between e.g. OBS, Dx, Rx etc
2. Instruction index – a generalised way of tracking INSTRUCTION and ACTIONS within a Care plan structure
3. INSTRUCTION.context archotyping – recording of Request / Order ids

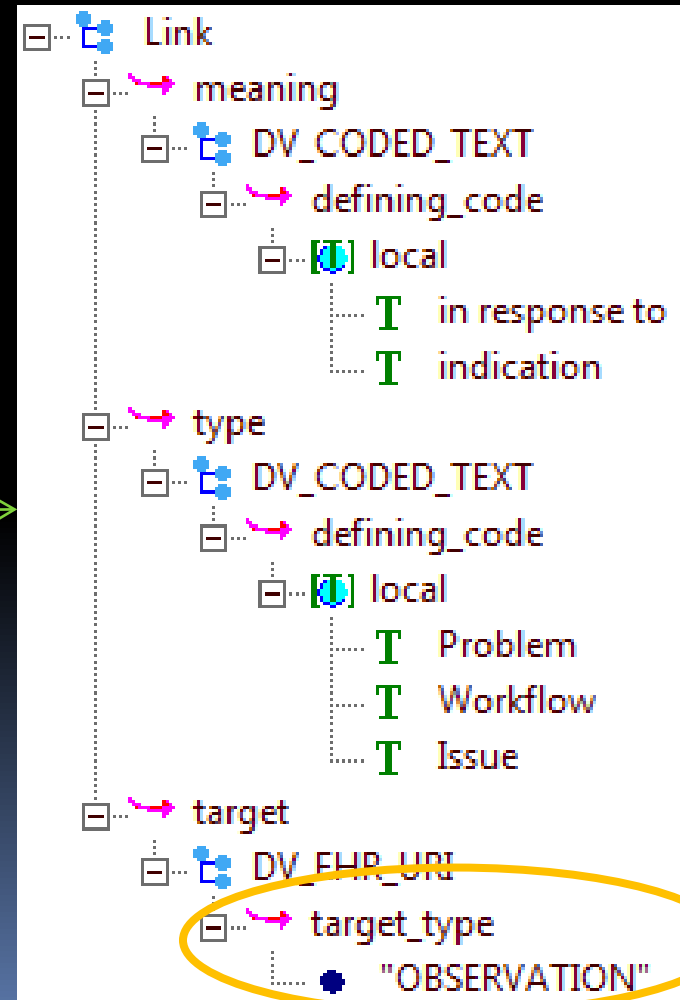
# 1. LINKs

Repeat for each archetype  
needing SKL local constraints...

openEHR-EHR-EVALUATION  
.diagnosis\_sweden.v1

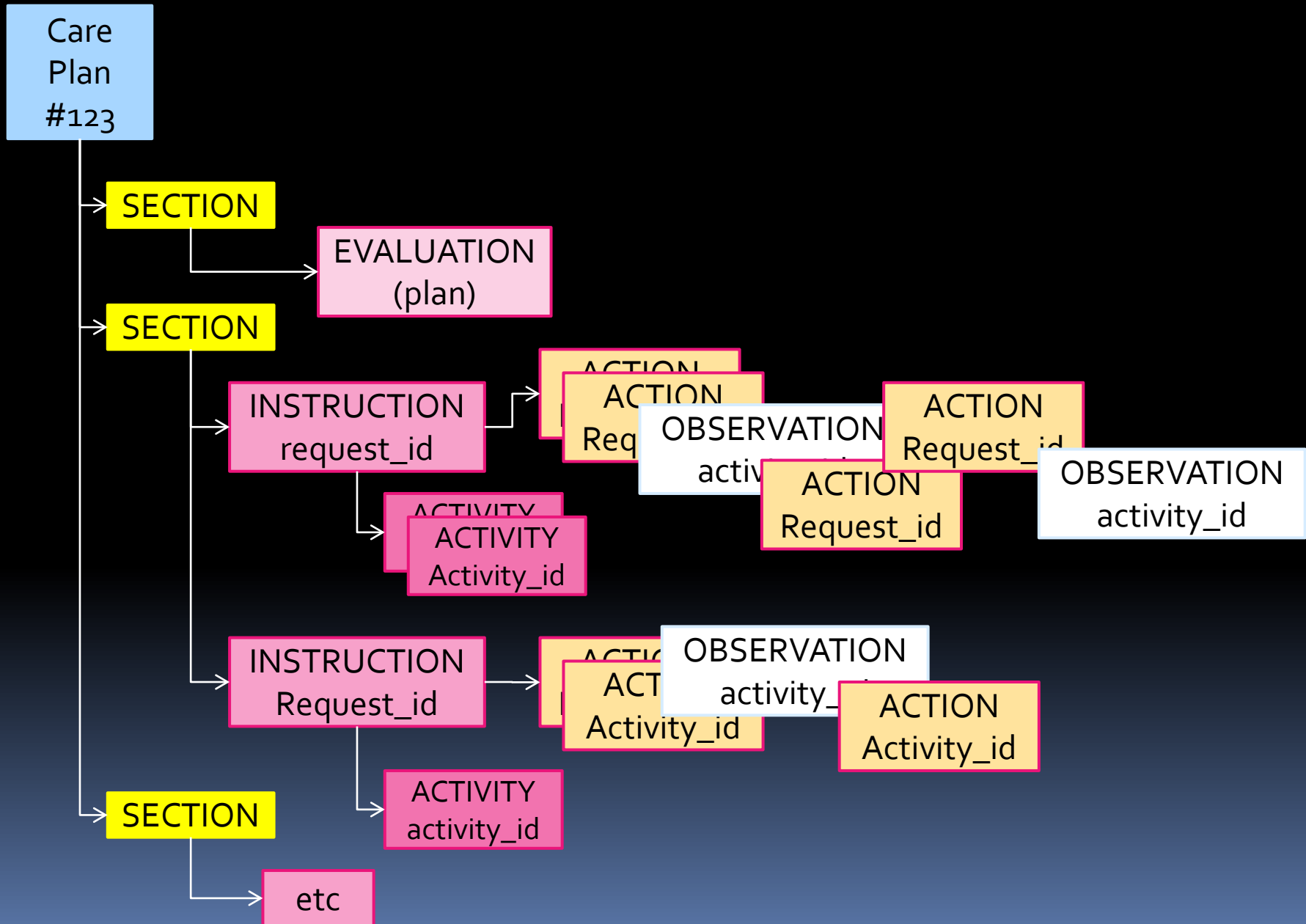


openEHR-EHR-LINK.  
indication.v1





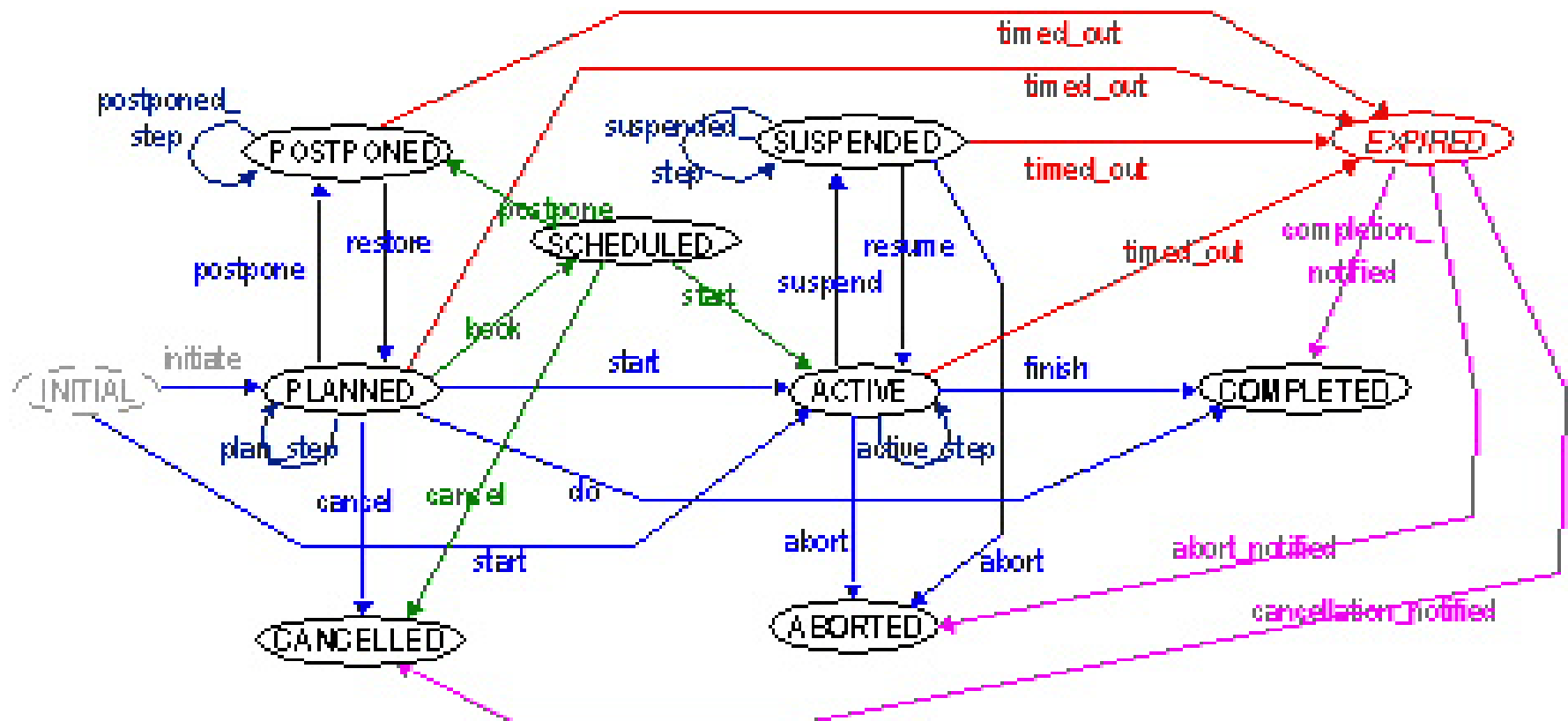
## 2. Instruction Index



# How does it work?

- Implemented as an *openEHR* persistent COMPOSITION
- Created by rules that match content (at least activity/request\_ids)
- Can query state of any INSTRUCTION
- Can query state of whole Care Plan (algorithm to derive state based on pieces)
- Add a business Service API layer for easy use
- High performance retrieval

# State machine – Instructions and Actions



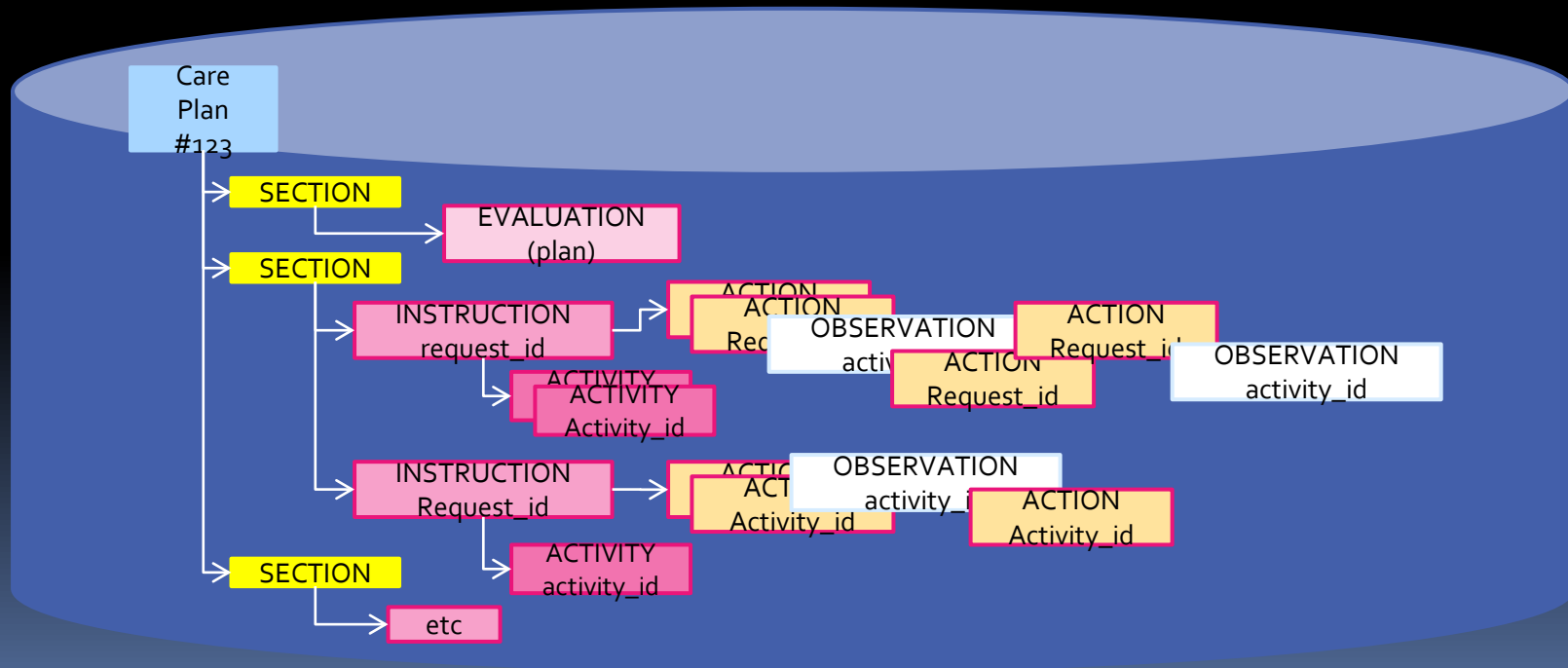
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APPLICATION

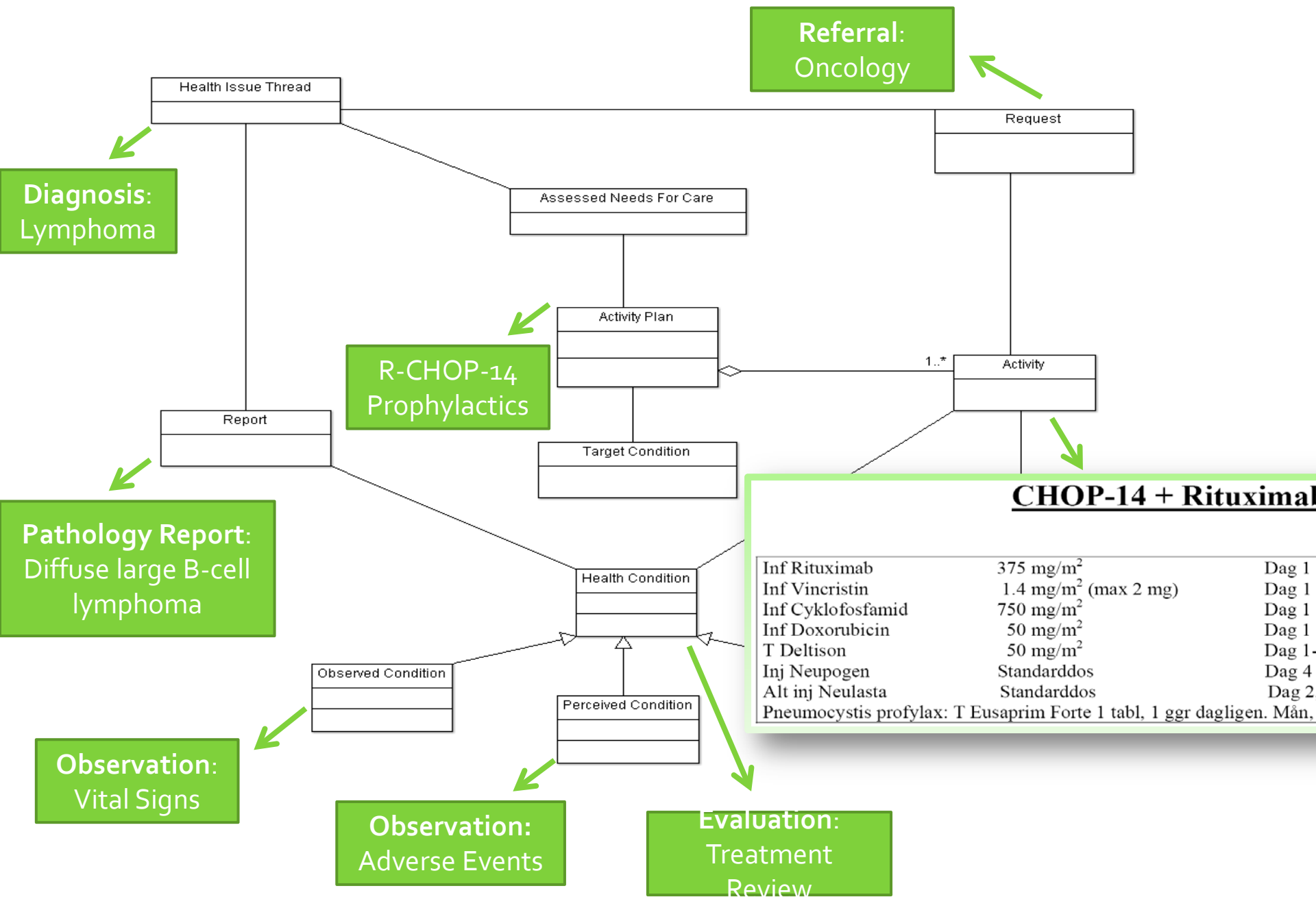
APPLICATION

Service API: create, add, query, etc



# Is it enough?

- So far, yes, in SOME circumstances
- If more than a request\_id/activity\_id is required, NO,
  - we need more data, either more data fields in the same Entry (needs more sophisticated archetypes)
  - AND/OR
  - We need to use LINKs to other ENTRYs
- In general, we may need to design other ENTRYs according to e.g. a MIXED process and information model



# Stepping back: more analysis is needed

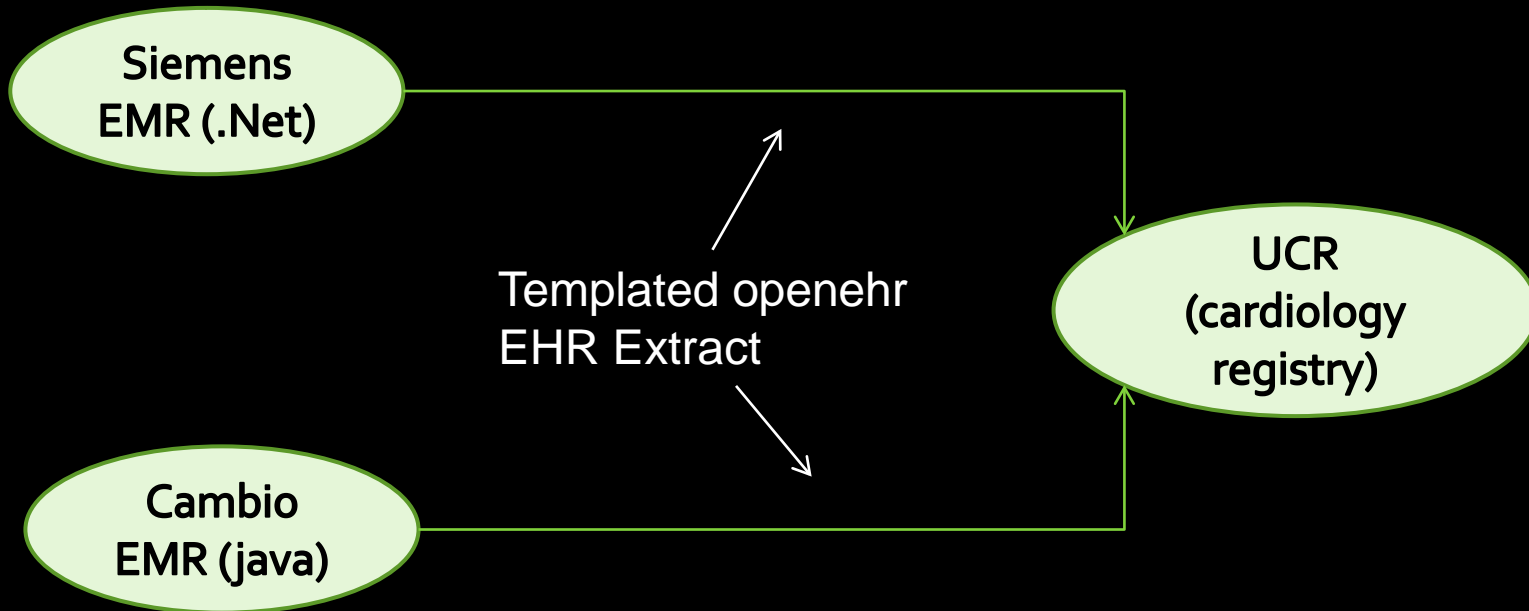
- What eventual information structures are required?
- What links / indexing is required?
- What querying is required...
- What is the 'model of use'?
  - Is it Entries with multiple 'flavours of information'?
  - Is it Clinical Entries LINKed with process Entries with process engine behind?
  - Is it some kind of indexing structure?
  - Is it a combination?

- CKM archetypes implement globally typical clinical & demographic content
- SKL's 'general content' is nearly all process-related
- Other experience in e.g. Slovenia shows need for 'nursing view', i.e. Task list: todo/done/...
- ➔ at least 3 dimensions
  - (Clinical) information
  - Process / orders
  - Tasks / work done



# Lessons from IFK2

# Requirement



Template:

- Swedish language;
- some SNOMED CT coding;
- 100 data points

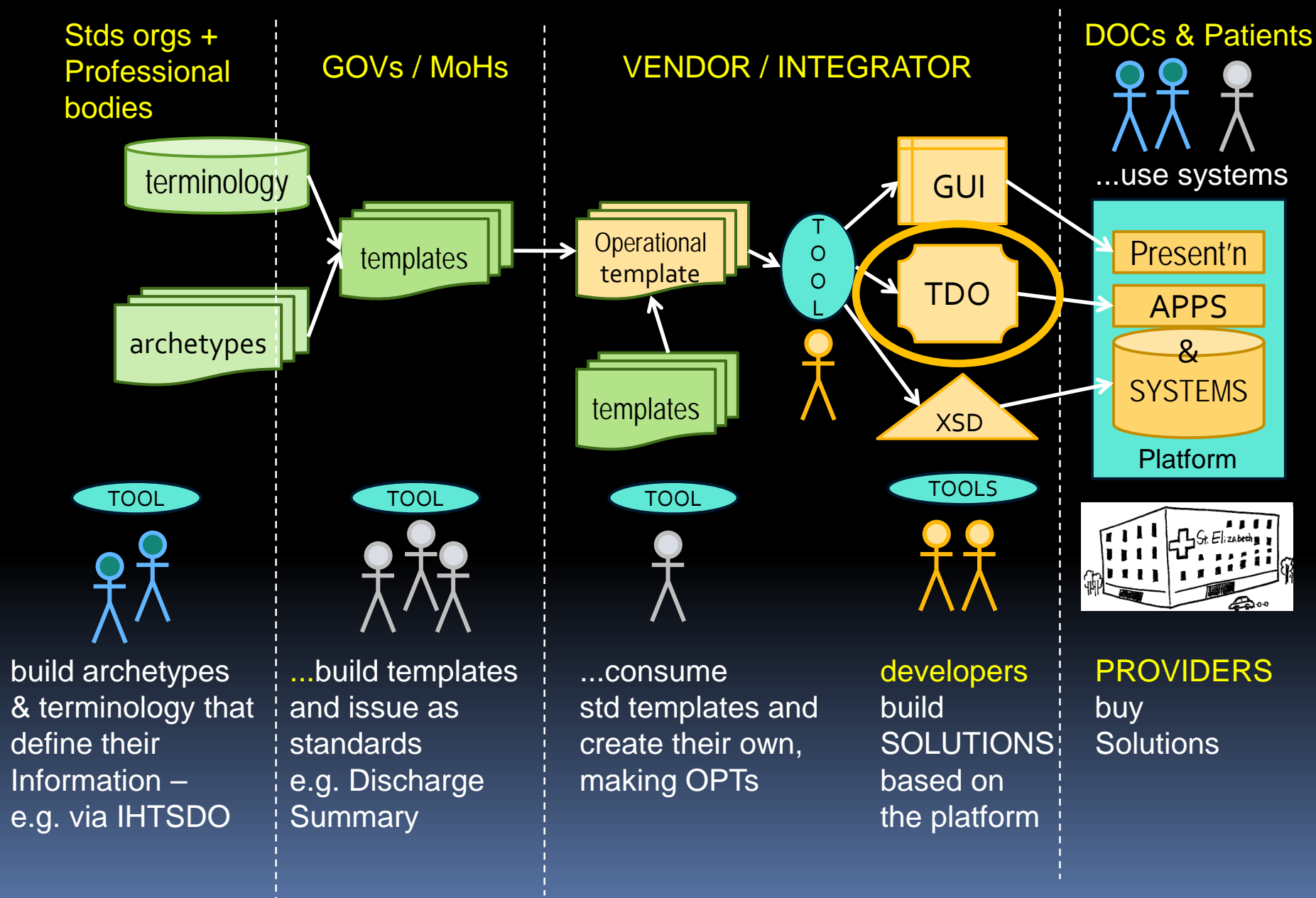
# The content

- About 75 archetypes in the IFK2- RiksVikt Secondary Care template
- About 66 in the IFK2- RIKSVikt primary care template

# What we learned...

- It was somewhat painful – various details were incorrect
  - Now both .Net and Java generated Extracts accepted at UCR end
- 'TDO' approach works
- TDO spec will be offered to *openEHR.org*
- Generalised approach: generate TDO from template; calls to TDO will generate correct data, e.g. EHR Extract

# openEHR approach



*open*EHR 2.0 – some ideas

# General concept

- The EHR is no longer just clinical, but a generalised health information resource
- 'Clinical' EHR is one view
- Clinicians need to *choose* what data needs to go into permanent lists
- → don't put e.g. Task tracking in own DB
- → need some performance improvements
- → need active rules
- → need notification capability

# Entry index

- Already in use in Australia
- As Entries are created, rules are invoked to find matches, e.g. Any lab result containing 'MRSA' (flesh-eating bug)
- If fired, add this content (or a ref) to a fast 'index' Composition with the EHR
- Entry indexes can be created, destroyed, recreated
- Good for time-based data being graphed
- Spec will be offered to *openEHR* Q1 2011



# Archetype multiple inheritance?

- Deal with multiple 'dimensions', e.g.
  - Information
  - Process / orders
  - Tasks
- More research needed

# Order support in RM

- Addition of order / filler ids
  - Needs to be done carefully
  - Needs to handle multiple ids
  - Messy real world situations

# Task list support

- Assignment of task
- Record completion or step
- Overdue alerts
- Notification of task complete

# Careplan support

- Careplan is a kind of Entry Index, with other features
- See work of Rong Chen et al.