

Why Telehealth?

- Access: Time, Travel, Expense, Information
- Health Provider Collaboration
- Enhanced Communications
- TV & Computer Applications common and non-threatening
- Improved professional education

Participants in the telehealth interaction

- The nature of the communication in health can be
 - Patient with practitioner
 - Practitioner with Practitioner (Teleradiology)
 - Patient with patient (social support group like PatientlikeMe)
 - Practitioner or patient accessing educational material (that is, source of health information)

Participants in the telehealth interaction

- The nature of the communication in health can be
 - Patient with practitioner
 - Telepsychiatry is a common telehealth application usually performed by videoconferencing
 - An evaluation of Telepsychiatry services in Alberta, Canada, showed that it was acceptable to users and there were significant cost savings from avoided travel by psychiatrists and patients

Participants in the telehealth interaction

- The nature of the communication in health can be
 - Patient with patient (that is, mutual support)
 - Support groups : communication between people who have similar conditions,
 - A study of the use of audio conferencing by breast cancer patients in rural Newfoundland showed that it provided valuable mutual support, despite the distances.
 - Website like PatientslikeMe provide both synchronous and asynchronous telehealth

Telehealth/Telemedicine Settings

- Rural area
- Schools
- Clinics
- Hospitals
- Prisons
- Assisted living

Driving Forces of Telehealth

- Quality
- Access
- Cost

Driving Forces of Telehealth

- Quality of Care
 - Provide diagnostics
 - New mode of treatment
 - Improve patient satisfaction (early treatment, higher frequency of encounter)

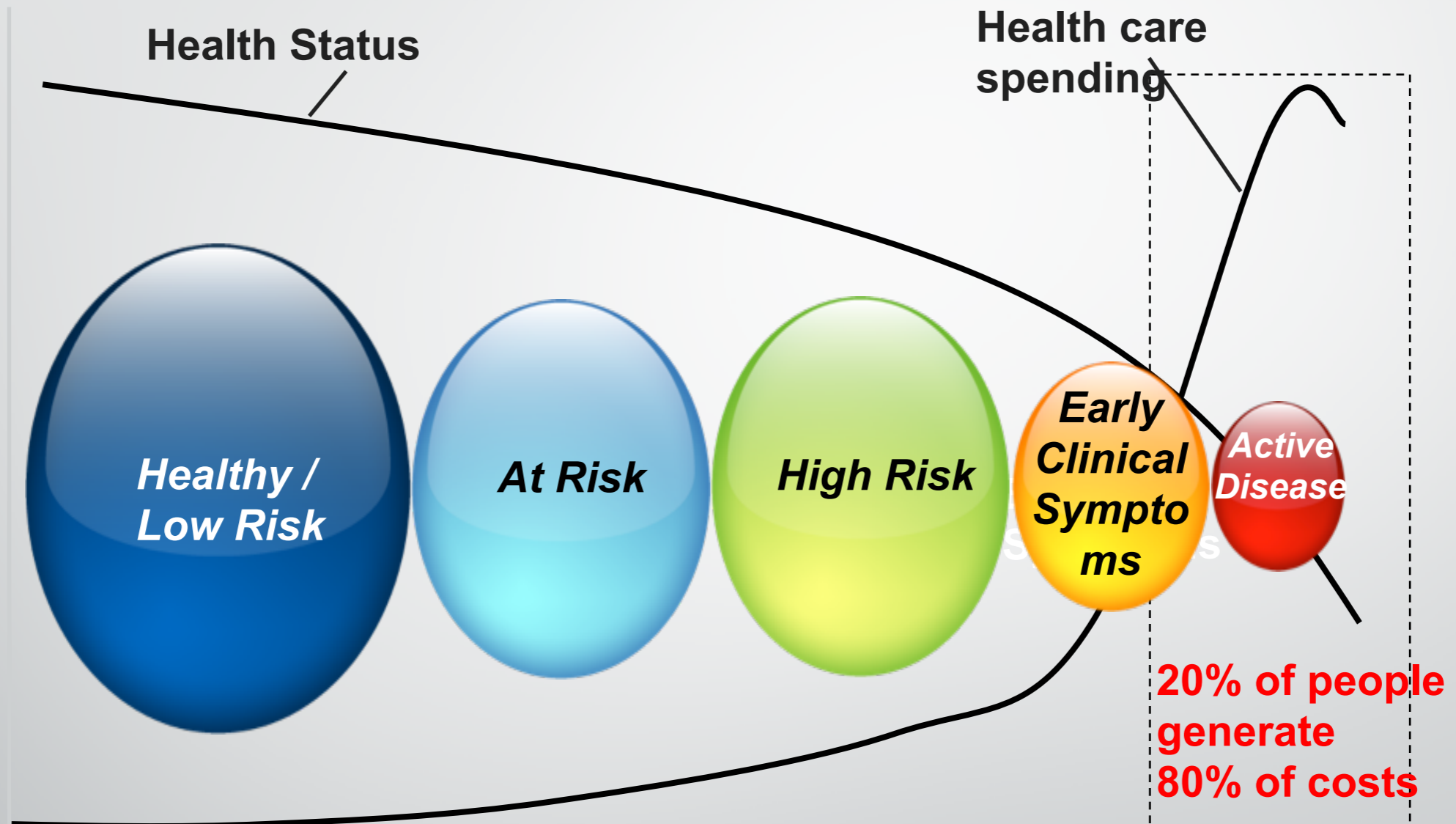
Driving Forces of Telehealth

- Access to Care
 - Access for people with situational limitations (physical disabilities, elderly, etc)
 - Minimize distance of travel for people in hard to reach/ isolated locations
 - Not limited by time/place

Driving Forces of Telehealth

- Cost of Care
 - Prevent/early treatment of disease = lower cost of care (both to provider and society)
 - Lower cost from travel

Is “At the Point of Care” Too Late?



- Early detection of at-risk patients
- Provide **personalized** evidence to enable pro-active decisions