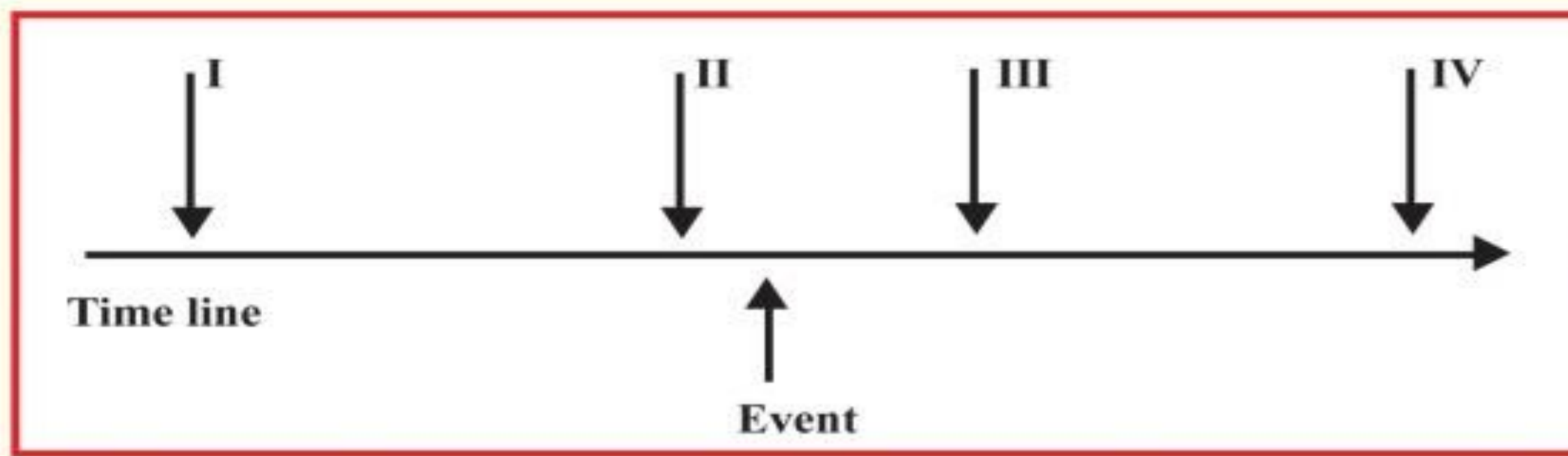


# Quaternary prevention,

## a GP/FM construct based on doctor-patient relationships.

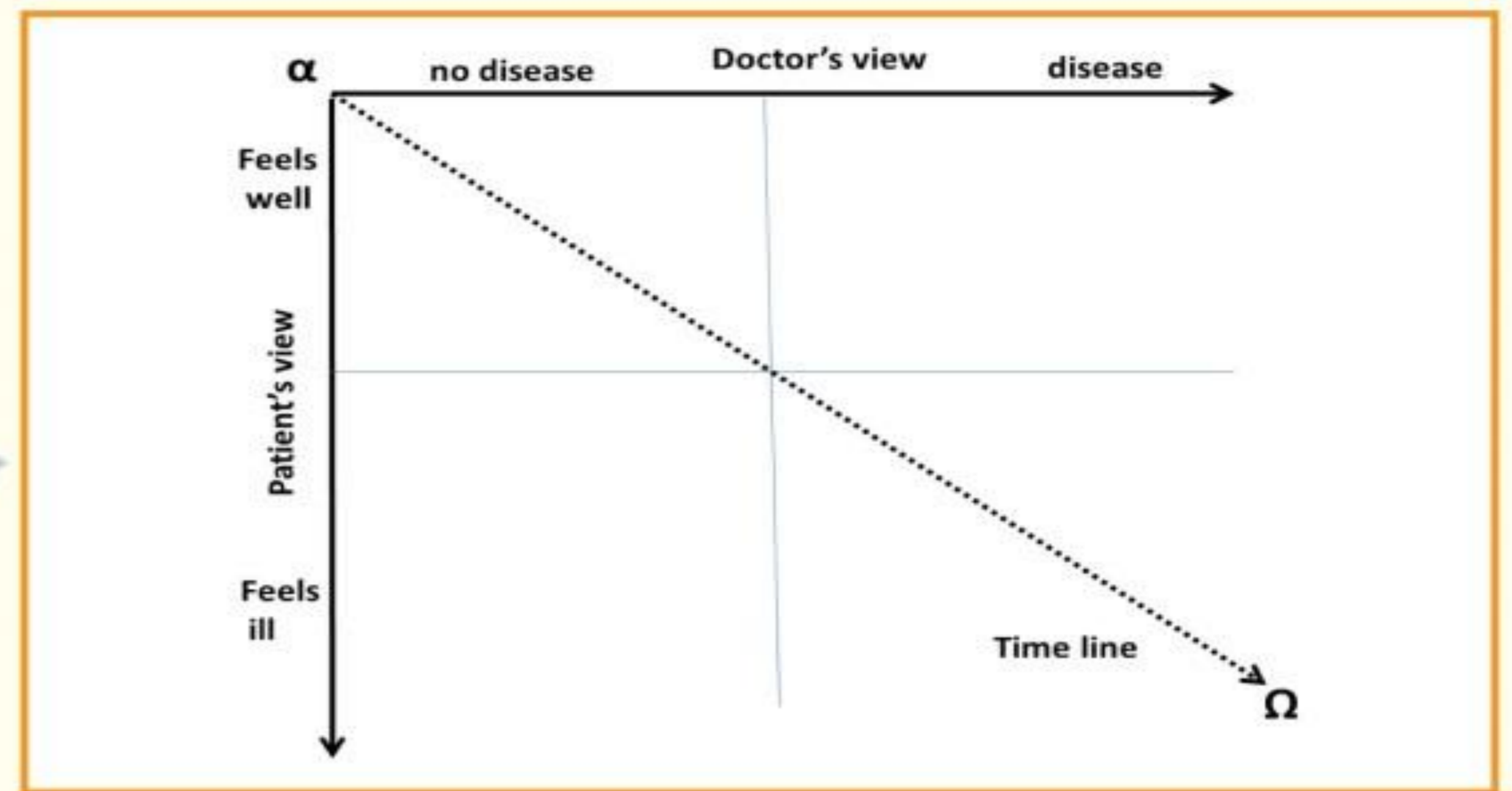
### From Wonca world Hong Kong 1995 to Wonca APR Taipei 2015

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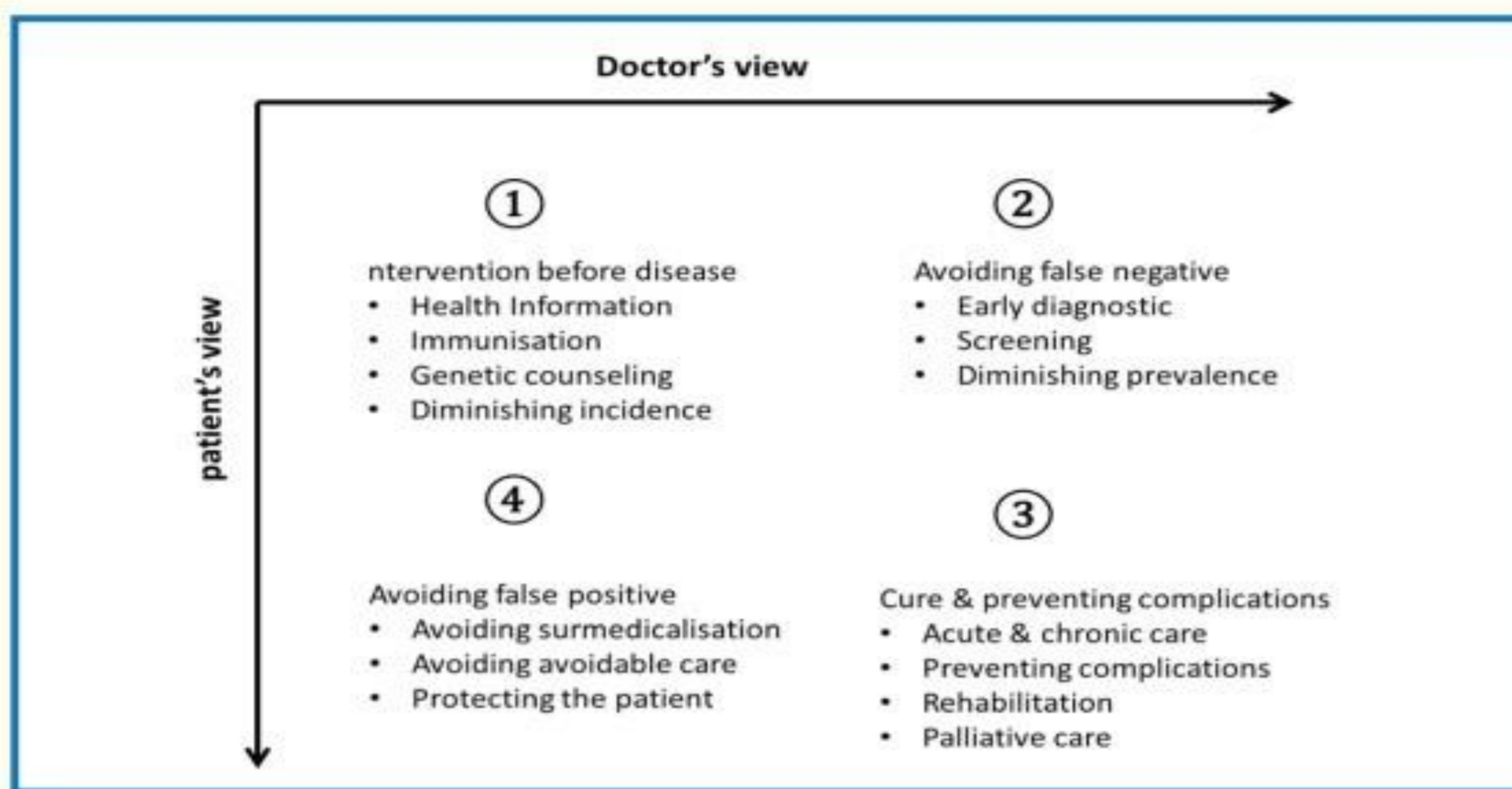


Traditionally, clinical prevention is conceptualized as a medical activity before or after the occurrence of a condition. Primary prevention is used before any problem arises and encompass health education and promotion.

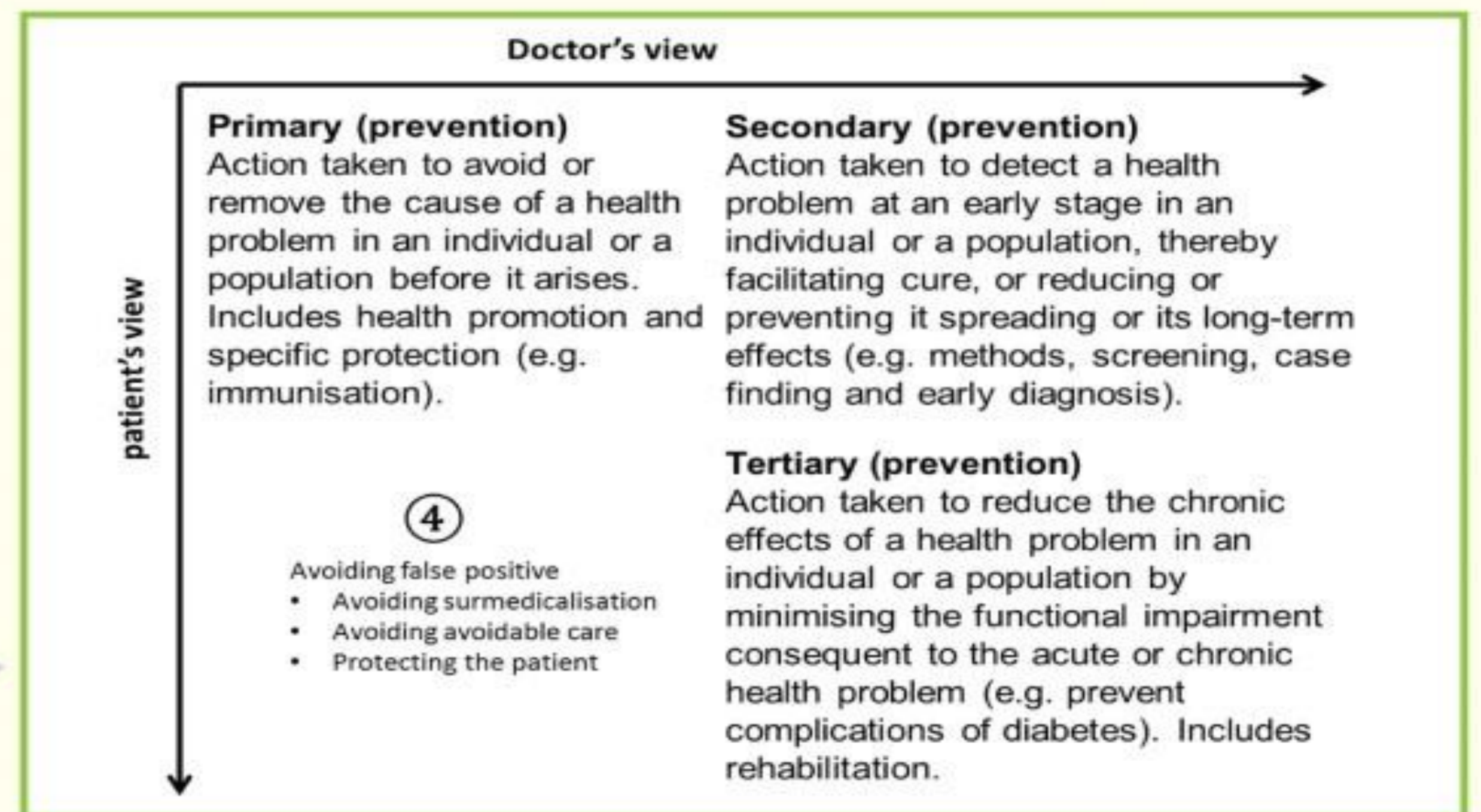
The place of secondary prevention is unclear, sometimes used by cardiologists as prevention after an event. Tertiary is not really in use and quaternary has been proposed for palliative care. In this view, the patient is the object of care along time line. The condition is central.



In this model, built on the 2x2 crosstab model, prevention is presented as the result of the relationships between patient and doctor. The doctor is looking for disease while the patient will feel sick one day. The 2x2 crosstab model allows representing 4 fields of activities along the time line which includes traditional preventive ones. In this view, time line cross the two folds table. Working along the time line, called also prevention, is the bread and butter of family doctor along the life of the patients and patients and doctors will meet at the end, suffering and dying together (point Ω)

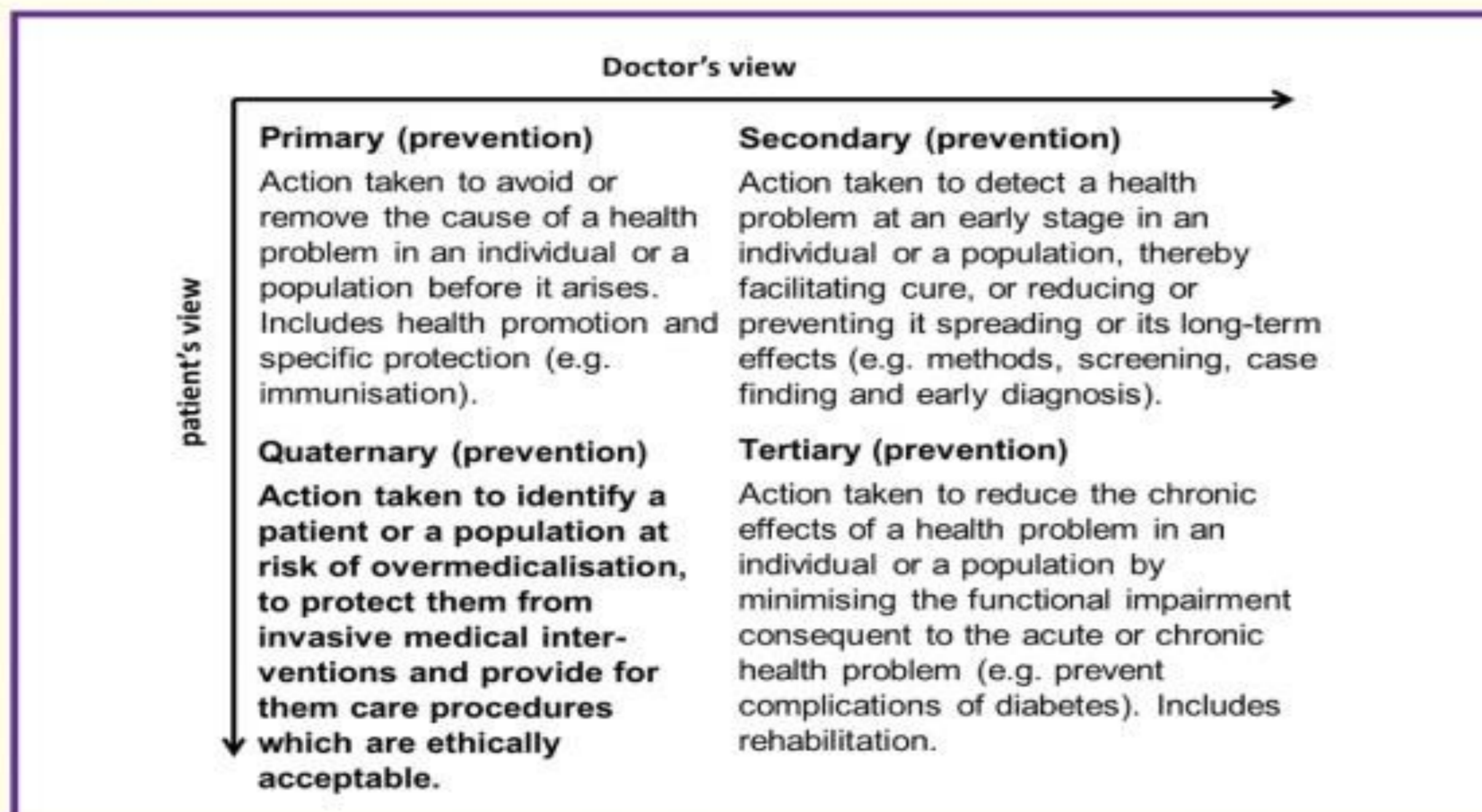


Presented at Hong Kong Wonca world 1995, the 2x2 crosstab model, built on the patient doctor relationships, allows to define four fields of activities in GP/FM including also preventive activities along the time line.



The 3 definitions of Primary, Secondary and Tertiary prevention already published in 1995 in the Wonca glossary of GP/FM fit perfectly in the 2x2 crosstab model.

The definition of the missing field, the fourth one, called Quaternary Prevention, proposed at the Durham WICC meeting has been endorsed by the whole WICC group by standing ovation and edited in the Wonca dictionary of GP/FM in 2003



Quaternary prevention is more than a factual activity. It's a way of thinking about the job which applies in the other fields too (as shown by the arrow), covering such items as overmedicalisation by overinformation, overscreening, overdiagnosis, overtreatment, as well as avoidable care, protection of the patient and more generally the limits of medical care. Implicitly, patients and populations deprived of care are also in this field which covers undermedicalisation too.

P4 challenges also such strange diagnostics as « No disease disease - Medically unexplained symptoms - Worried well - Difficult patient - Functional somatic syndromes - Somatoform disorder - Abnormal illness behaviour (unlimited list)



#### A quick growing P4 network

- WICC <http://www.ph3c.org/p4> Quaternary prevention rubric
- Argentina <http://prevencion4.com.ar/>
- Belgium [prevencion-cuaternaria@gruposyahoo.com.ar](mailto:prevencion-cuaternaria@gruposyahoo.com.ar)
- Biblio P4 [http://docpatient.net/mj/P4\\_citations.htm](http://docpatient.net/mj/P4_citations.htm)
- Brazil <http://www.mendeley.com/groups/1711385/quaternary-prevention/papers/>
- Uruguay [groups.google.com/forum/gtprevencaoquaternaria/](http://groups.google.com/forum/gtprevencaoquaternaria/)  
[gtprevencaoquaternaria@gmail.com](mailto:gtprevencaoquaternaria@gmail.com)  
 Twitter @prevquaternaria  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Prevencao-Quaternaria/](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Prevencao-Quaternaria/)
- Iran <http://earthcitizenshealth.blogspot.com>
- Spain [SIAP2011@yahoogroups.com](mailto:SIAP2011@yahoogroups.com)
- UK [overdiagnosis-group@googlegroups.com](mailto:overdiagnosis-group@googlegroups.com)
- Uruguay [www.facebook.com/pages/Prevenccion-Cuaternaria/](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Prevenccion-Cuaternaria/)

#### Main citations

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- Wonca International Classification Committee. An international glossary for general/family practice. WONCA Classification Committee. Family Practice, 12(3), 341-369. 1995
- Jamouille M, Roland M. Quaternary prevention. WICC annual workshop Hong Kong: Wonca congress proceedings. 1995
- Bentzen N. Wonca Dictionary of General/Family Practice. Maanedsskr. Copenhagen.2003

#### Quaternary prevention concept is spreading worldwide

- 2008 Adopted by European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO)
- 2009 Workshop at Basel Wonca Europe congress
- 2010 Conference at Brazilia
- 2010 Conference at French congress of GP/FM, Nice (fr)
- 2011 SIAP Seminar by Equipo Cesca at Barcelona (sp)
- 2012 Seminars at Buenos Aires, Mendoza & Rio de la Plata (ar)
- 2013 Seminars at Harvard (us), Lausanne (ch) & Paris (fr)
- 2013 Opening session of the annual congress of SBMFC, Belem (br) & APMGF, Covilhã (po)
- 2013 Workshop at Prague Wonca world congress
- 2014 Workshop at Lisbon Wonca European Congress
- 2015 Special day on P4 at the Wonca CIMF South America congress, Montevideo