



# Closing the circle

Creating a **clinically relevant** data model for pathology

Laszlo Igali - RCPATH and PRSB





# Closing the loop

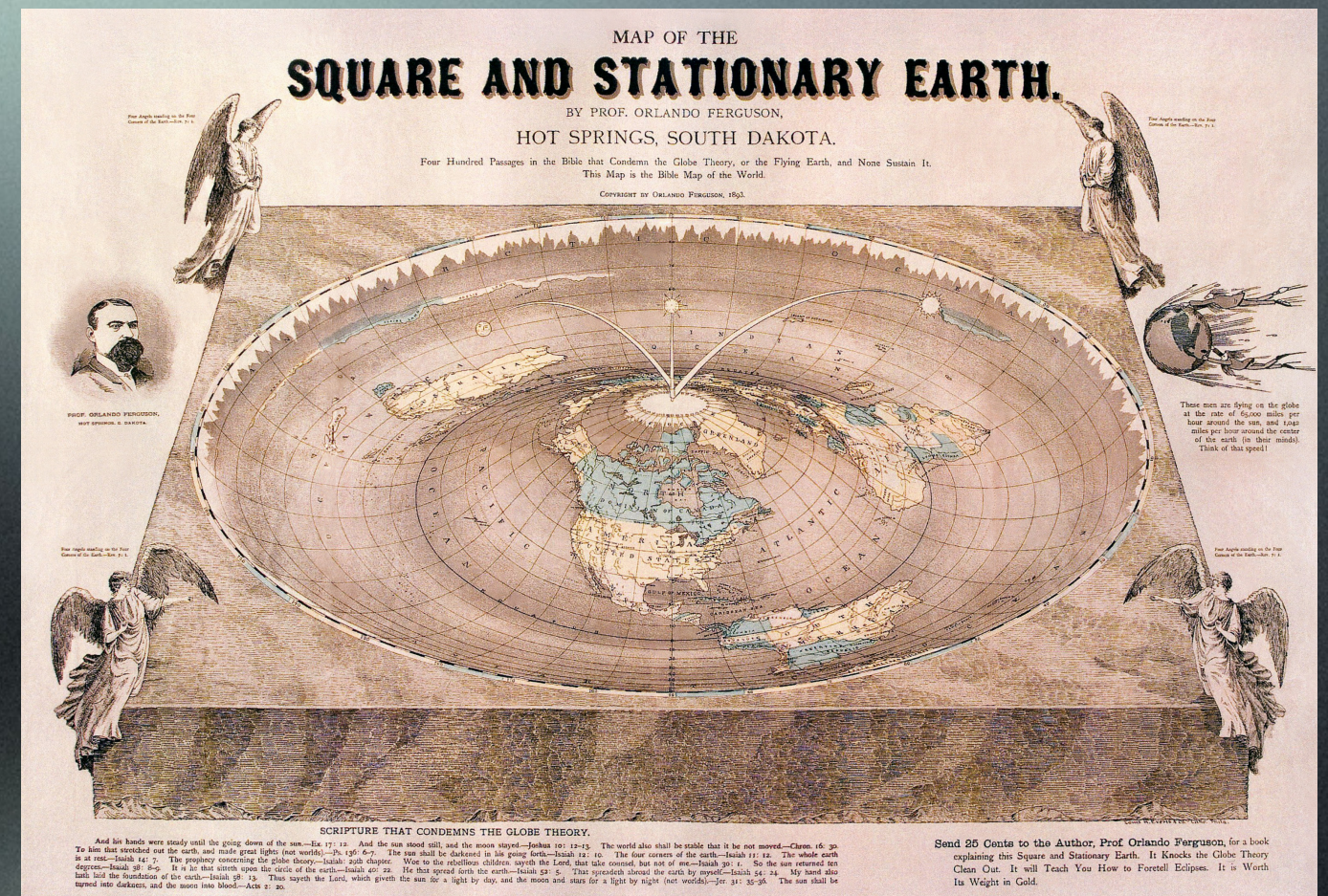
Creating a **clinically relevant** data model for pathology

Laszlo Igali - RCPATH and PRSB



PREVIOUSLY

PATHOLOGY CODING AND MESSAGING WAS A  
SIMPLE AFFAIR: REQUEST FOLLOWED BY RESULT





NOW

LIFE IS MORE COMPLICATED – ACCESS FOR PATIENTS, KPIS, TATs, DASHBOARDS ETC.







WE HAVE SNOMED CT, JOB DONE – THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION...



WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

TO FIND A CONTEMPORARY DATA/INFORMATION/MESSAGING MODEL WHICH REFLECTS LIFE  
BETTER





# ELEMENTS

CODING

COMMUNICATION/MESSAGING

PATIENT AND LABORATORY DATA FRAMEWORK(S) – EHR/  
LIMS

INTERPRETATION OF DATA

(DECISION SUPPORT/AI/AUI)



# The story so far – UK pathology coding history



**NLMC**

the proposed new code ecosystem to address the shortcomings of the PBCL

for **requesting** and **reporting** - same code set

developed by RCPATH and X-Lab

taken over by the HSCIC in summer 2015



**PBCL**

the **pathology bounded code list** established in 1997 - as EDIFACT messaging product for PMIP (path messaging implementation project)

linear code system with (limited) translation to CTV3 and SNOMED

not suitable for all pathology disciplines (microbiology, genetics, cell path)

retired and



# coding choices



## PRE-COORDINATED

specific test items with detailed specification

numerous codes – in mainly linear list - not so good for microbiology, genetics and cell path



## POST-COORDINATED

leaner code system, but with many codes

requires “grammar”

not well suited for lab tests

vendors not ready for ontology - yet



# pre vs post coordination

## HUNGARIAN

**settenkedik** - moving stealthily in the shadows behind to avoid detection, usually in the dark

**lopakodik** - moving quietly in the background, to avoid detection, the emphasis on quiet approach

**mögéoson**- moving behind someone swiftly and stealthily, to avoid detection

## ENGLISH

sneak/ creep upon etc but with more qualifiers... see other column...



# LOINC

## PRE COORDINATED SYSTEM

component (analyte e.g. sodium)

property measured (e.g. substrate concentration)

timing (e.g. a point in time)

system/specimen (e.g. serum or plasma)

scale (e.g. quantitative mmol/l)

method used (e.g. ISE - used only when different methods have different results)



# SNOMED CT

## POST COORDINATED SYSTEM

concepts - joined in hierarchical order (ontology)

needs 'grammar' - joining the concepts to express the same amount of information

gives better understanding for the pathologists if the tests requested with clinical info attached

technical preview of LOINC-SNCT cooperation - but limited scope, never took off

SNOMED CT Oct 2017 GA decided – seek to review of non-duplication agreement - UK can develop LOINC-type concepts - observable entities containing precoordinated elements



# further issues...

## ADDITIONAL THINGS TO CONSIDER

clinical context - diseases, gender, age, pregnancy etc.

grouped results - 'batteries' or test sets

reflex testing

urgency

differences in methods - portability/combinability of results

expected action based on the report

handover of info/chain of custody



# further issues...

## ADDITIONAL THINGS TO CONSIDER

users do not like complicated selection – UI has to be simple yet should provide a granular choice

the question is often simple - the tests to decide may be complex/not the one originally intended



# NLMC logic

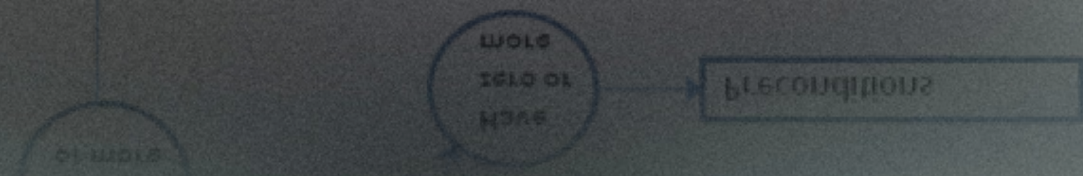
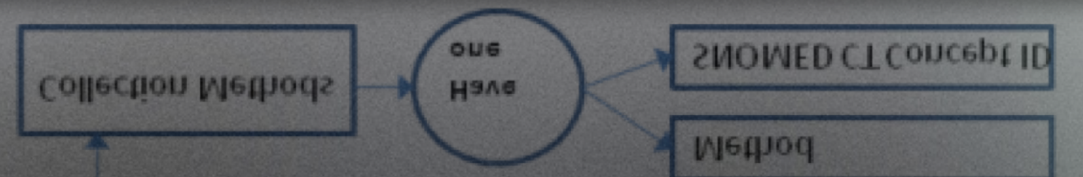
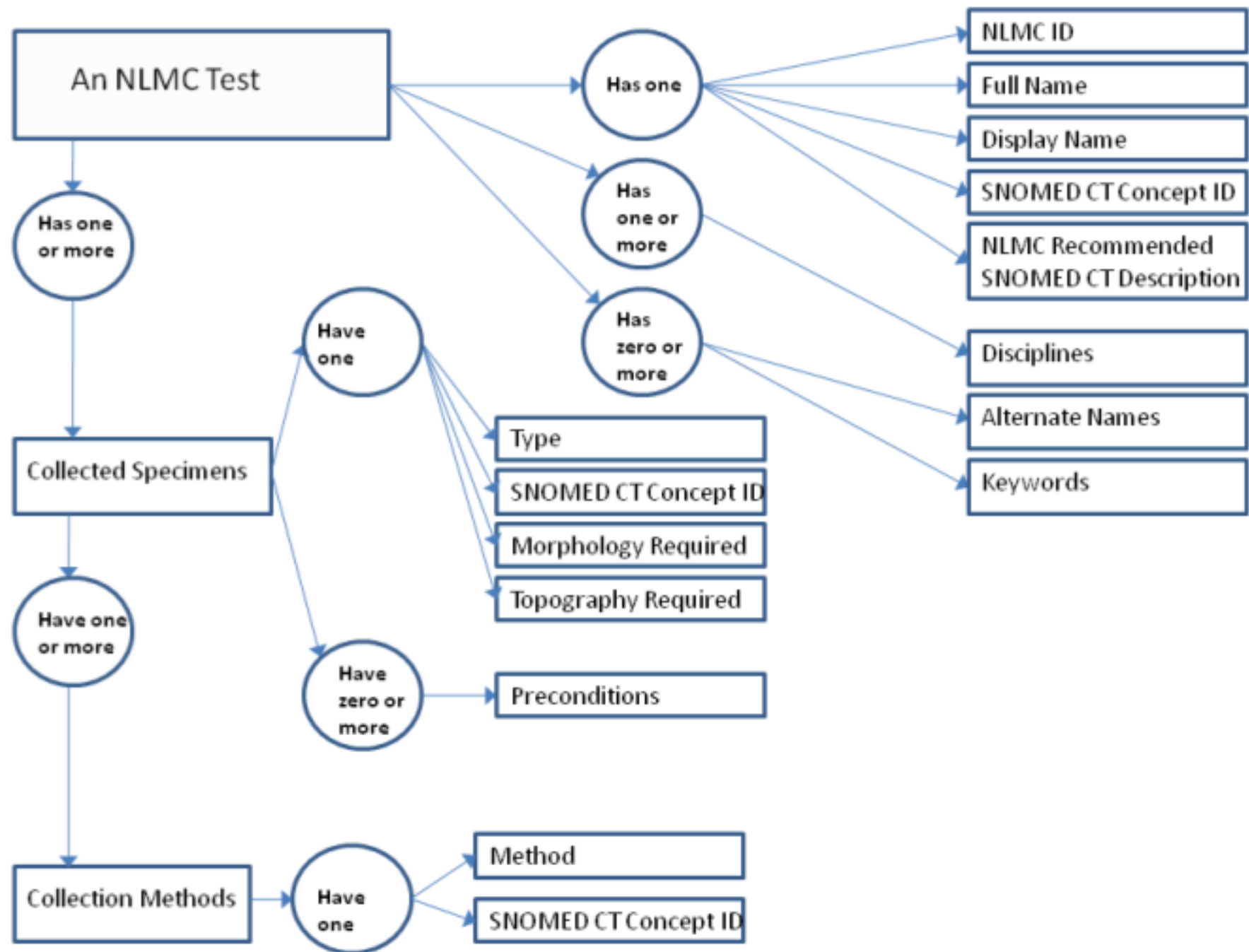
Results – requests

Direction of basic structure –expansion based on clinical need

Existed as a necessary middleware – to plug in SNOMED CT's previous difficulty to code lab results simply (see SNOMED – LOINC tech preview)

Logical predecessor of the observable model







**Problem:** linear code systems cannot express the complexities of pathology examinations



# new data model

## PRINCIPLES

driven by **clinical needs**

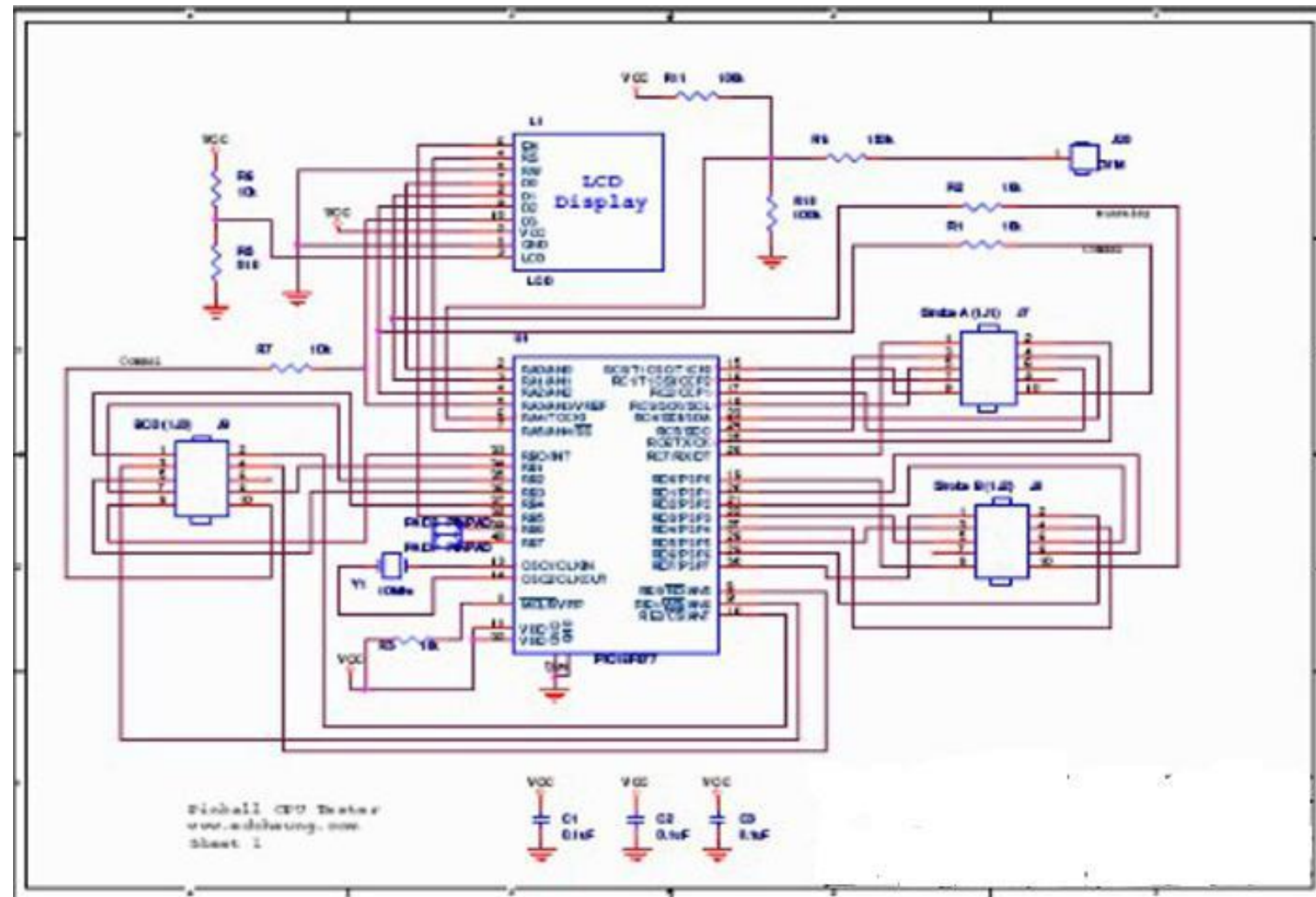
**mirrors** clinical **processes**

covers the whole cycle from **request** through  
**report** to **action** – new element

can be **fully expressed** in SNOMED CT



# understanding SNOMED CT inside

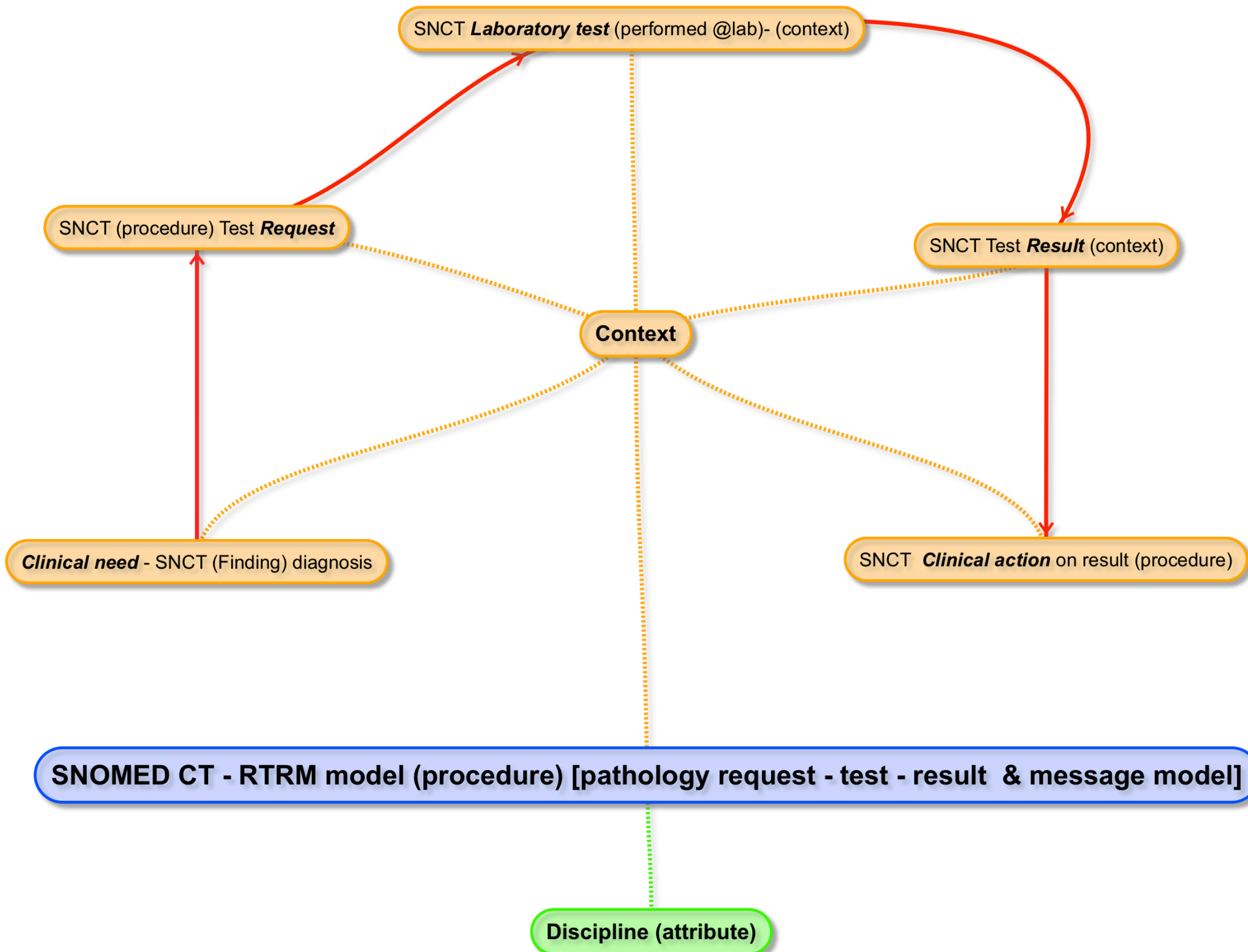






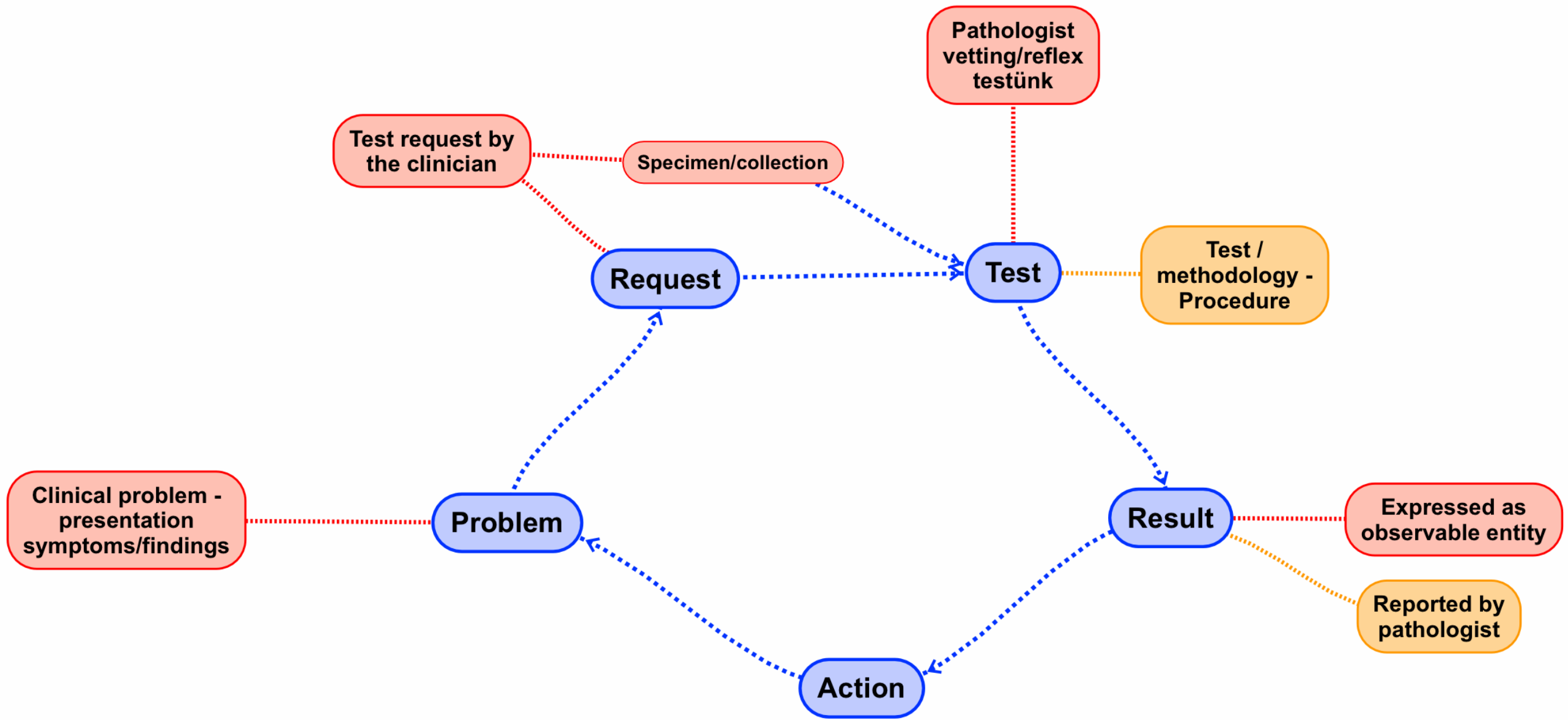


new data  
model  
1<sup>st</sup>  
iteration





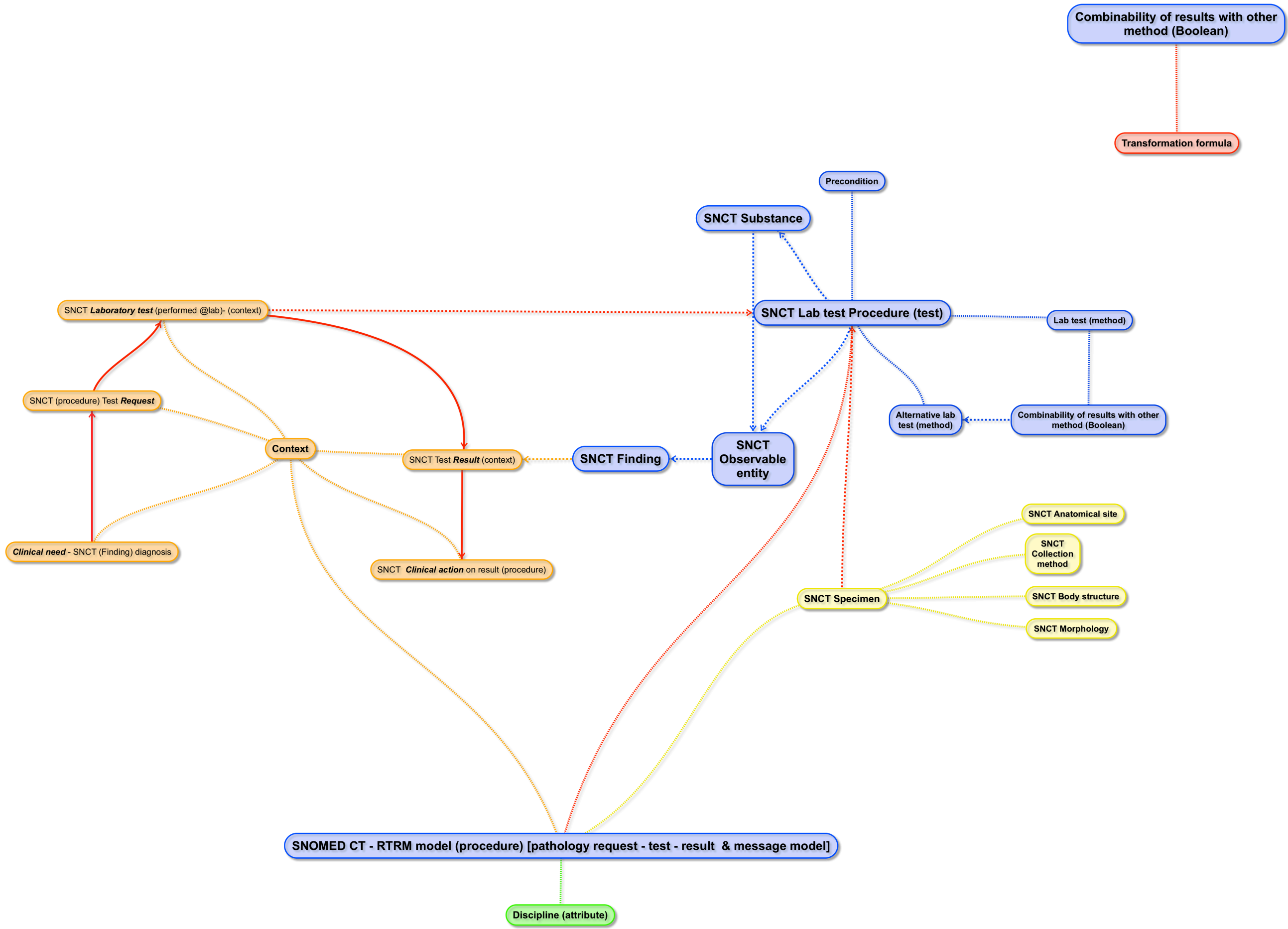
Conceptual model of pathology information - workflow



new  
data  
model  
current

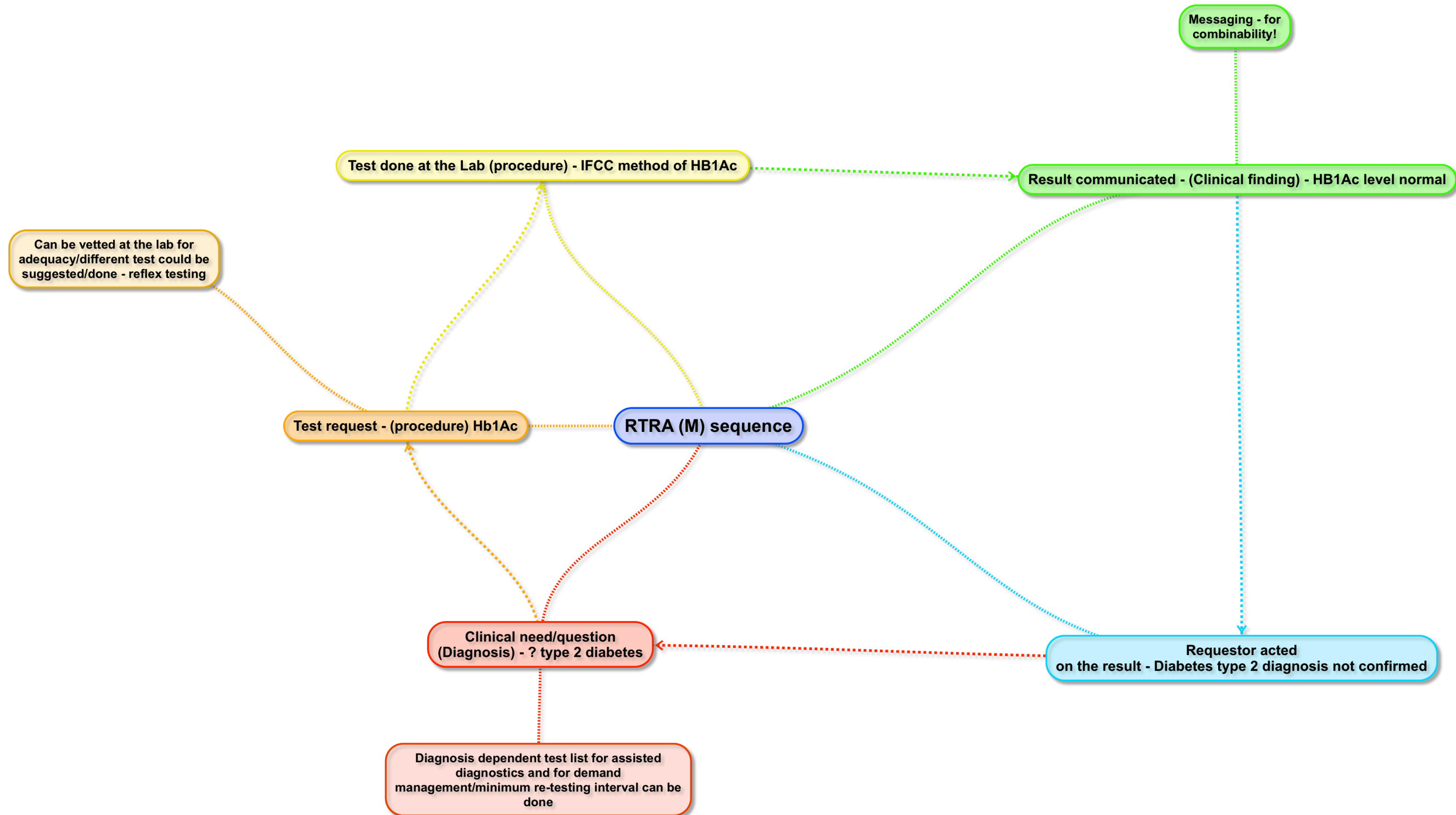


# new data model



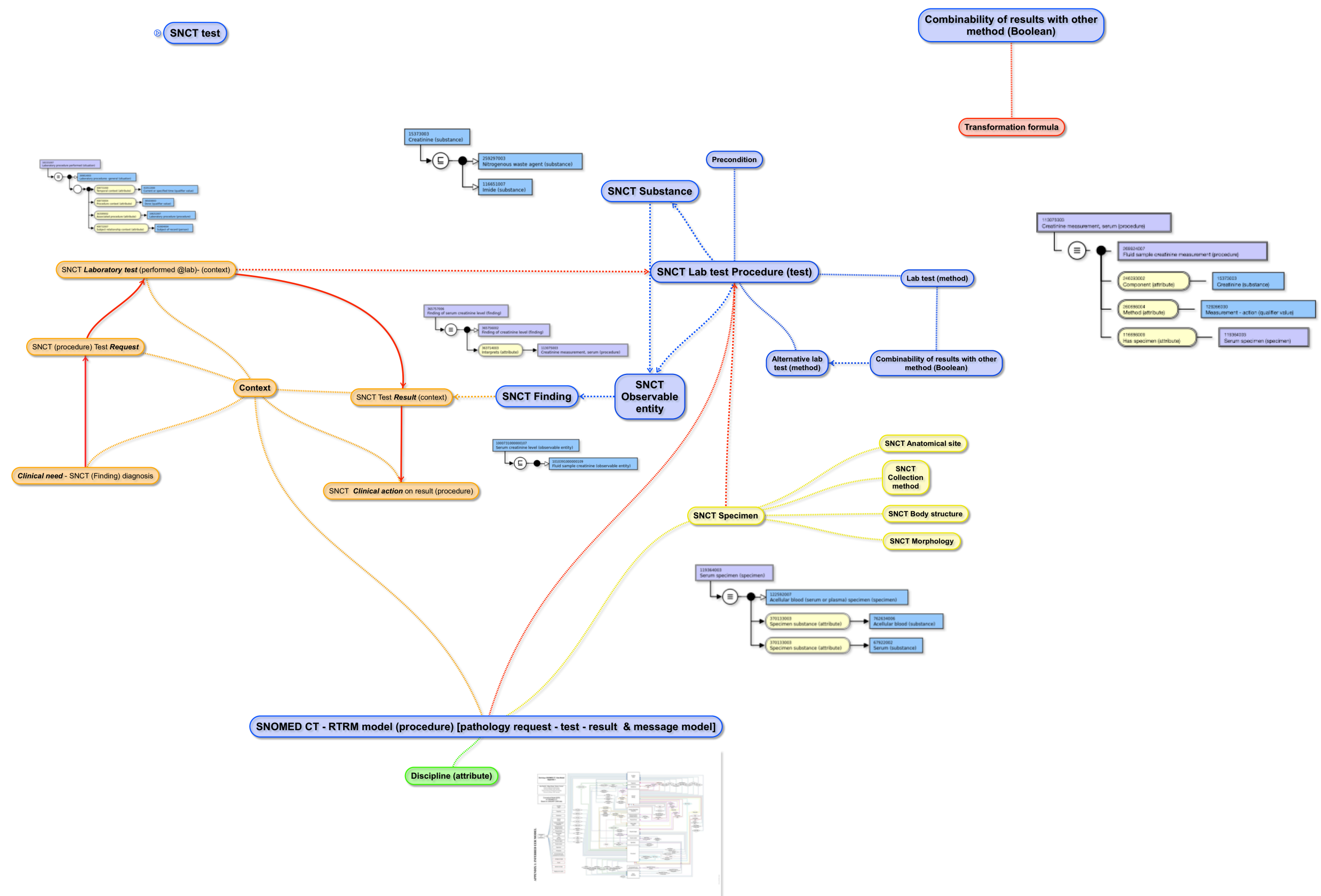


# new data/flow model

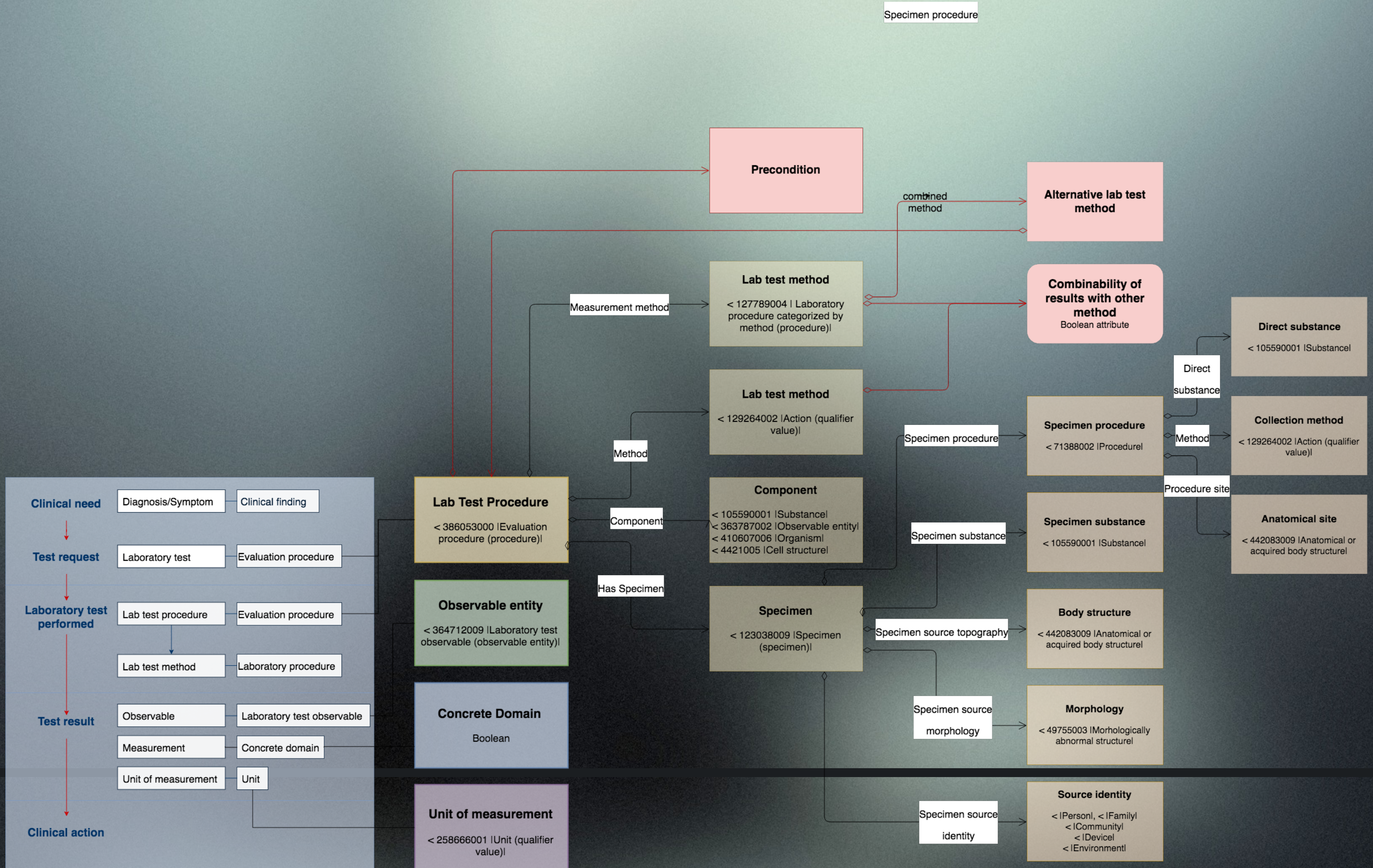




# new data model





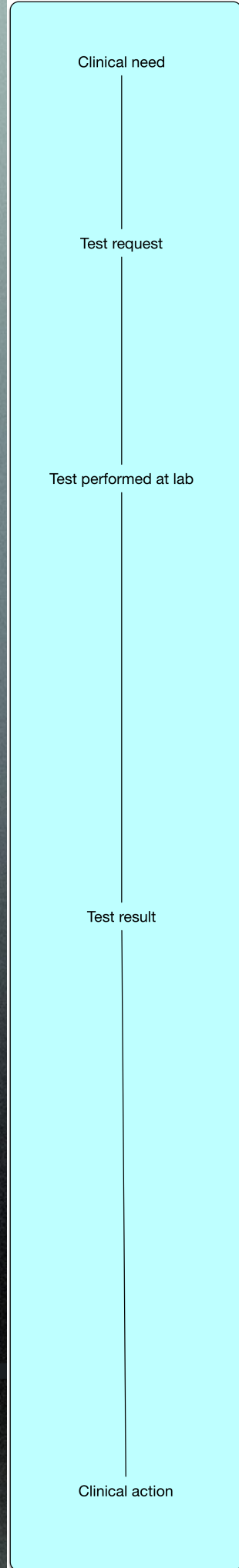




# patient vignette

Michael Kay, a 58 year old man, attends an oncology outpatient clinic at Lingfield Royal Infirmary. The consultant, Dr Ibrahim Khan, gives Michael a blood test form for a **PSA** test and asks him to attend the hospital phlebotomy department. On the same day, Michael attends the appointment with the blood form and has blood taken and sent to the laboratory based in the hospital. The test results are sent back electronically to the hospital's EPR system and the GP practice system [single request, single result]





**Diagnosis -finding**

**Diagnosis/finding**

Name: Suspected prostate cancer (situation)

Code: 315268008

**Test order**

**Test Order**

Name: Prostate specific antigen measurement (procedure)

Code: 63476009

**Test Requested**

Name: Blood test requested (situation)

Code: 413672003

**Test procedure(s)**

**Test Procedure**

Name: Quantitative measurement of mass concentration of prostate specific antigen in serum or plasma specimen (procedure)

Code: 443969004

443969004 Quantitative measurement of mass concentration of prostate specific antigen in serum or plasma specimen (procedure)

- 62476009 Prostate specific antigen measurement (procedure)
- 43341002 Measurement of substance in specimen (procedure)
- 11668009 Has specimen (attribute)
  - 12252007 Acellular blood (serum or plasma) specimen (specimen)
- 17013000 Property (attribute)
  - 11813907 Mass concentration (property) (qualifier value)
- 26068004 Method (attribute)
  - 129266000 Measurement - action (qualifier value)
- 24609002 Component (attribute)
  - 102487007 Prostate specific antigen (substance)
- 170132008 Scale type (attribute)
  - 30766002 Quantitative (qualifier value)

**Test result(s)**

**Result - observable entity**

Name: Prostate specific antigen level (observable entity)

Code: 1030791000000100

Value: 5.0

**UoM**

Name: Nanogram/milliliter (qualifier value)

Code: 258806002

**Analysed specimen**

Name: Serum (substance)

Code: 67922002

**Age range**

Name: Age group (qualifier value)

Code: 720431000000100

**Relation to Reference range**

Name: Measurement finding outside reference range

Code: 442096005

**Timeliness**

Name: Single point in time (qualifier value)

Code: 123029007

1030791000000100 Prostate specific antigen level (observable entity)

- 1032021000000100 Protein level (observable entity)
- 1014601000000100 Tumour marker levels (observable entity)

**Clinical action**

**Clinical action**

Name: Referral to urology service for elevated prostate specific antigen (procedure)

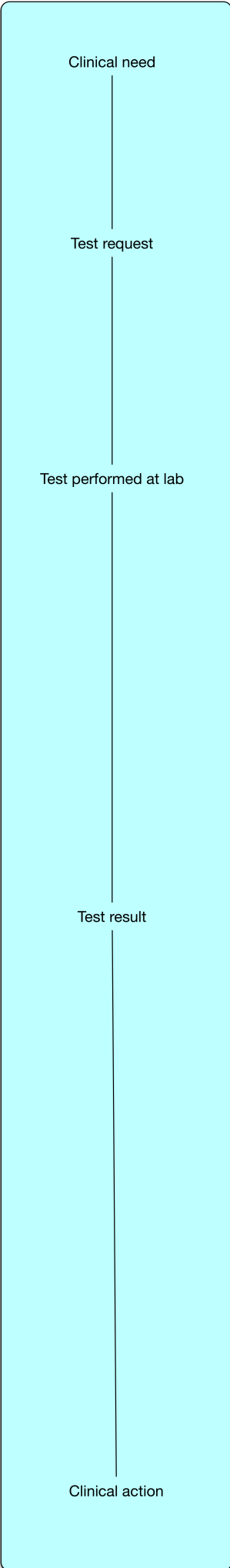
Code: 896151003



# patient vignette

Sarah Smith, a midwife sees a 5 day old baby Jane Archer with jaundice and requests a ***total bilirubin*** and a ***conjugated bilirubin*** which is sent using a paper test request form to the laboratory based in the local hospital, St John's Infirmary. The result is phoned to the midwife and reported electronically to primary care (using an order comms system) and the secondary care EPR system. Jane is admitted to the Special Care Baby Unit at the hospital for phototherapy. **[two tests requested, two results reported]**





**Diagnosis -finding**

**Diagnosis/finding**  
 Name: Hypertensive disorder, systemic arterial (disorder)  
 Code: 38341003

**Test order**

**Test Order**  
 Name: Urea and electrolytes (procedure)  
 Code: 33476009

**Test Requested**  
 Name: Blood test requested (situation)  
 Code: 413672003

252167001 Urea and electrolytes (procedure)

79301108 Electrolytes measurement (procedure)

105512007 Urea measurement (procedure)

246093002 Component (attribute) → 86355000 Electrolyte (substance)

260686004 Method (attribute) → 129266000 Measurement - action (qualifier value)

246093002 Component (attribute) → 267092000 Urea (substance)

**Test procedure(s)**

**Test Procedure**  
 Name: Measurement of urea, sodium, potassium, chloride, bicarbonate and creatinine (procedure)(procedure)  
 Code: 444164000

Measurement of urea, sodium, potassium, chloride, bicarbonate and creatinine (procedure)

- Sodium measurement procedure
- Potassium measurement procedure
- Bicarbonate measurement procedure
- Urea measurement procedure
- Chloride measurement procedure
- Creatinine measurement procedure

Component (attribute) → Sodium (substance)

Component (attribute) → Potassium (substance)

Component (attribute) → Bicarbonate (substance)

Component (attribute) → Urea (substance)

Component (attribute) → Chloride (substance)

Component (attribute) → Creatinine (substance)

Measurement - action (qualifier value)

**Test result(s)**

**Result - observable entity**  
 Name: Urea and electrolytes level (observable entity)  
 Code: 1000971000000107

**Analysed specimen**  
 Name: Serum (substance)  
 Code: 57922002

**Timeliness**  
 Name: Single point in time (qualifier value)  
 Code: 123029007

**Relation to Reference range**  
 Name: Normal Serum test findings (finding)  
 Code: 414878005

**Age range**  
 Name: Age group (qualifier value)  
 Code: 720431000000109

1000971000000107 Urea and electrolytes level (observable entity)

996581000000109 Electrolytes level (observable entity)

**SodiumValue**  
139

**UoM - Sodium**  
 Name: Millimole/liter (qualifier value)  
 Code: 258813002

**PotassiumValue**  
5.0

**UoM - Potassium**  
 Name: Millimole/liter (qualifier value)  
 Code: 258813002

**Urea Value**  
4.8

**UoM - Urea**  
 Name: Millimole/liter (qualifier value)  
 Code: 258813002

**BicarbonateValue**  
27

**UoM - Bicarbonate**  
 Name: Millimole/liter (qualifier value)  
 Code: 258813002

**Chloride Value**  
102

**UoM - Chloride**  
 Name: Millimole/liter (qualifier value)  
 Code: 258813002

**Creatinine value**  
80

**UoM - Creatinine**  
 Name: Micromole/liter (qualifier value)  
 Code: 258814008

**Clinical action**

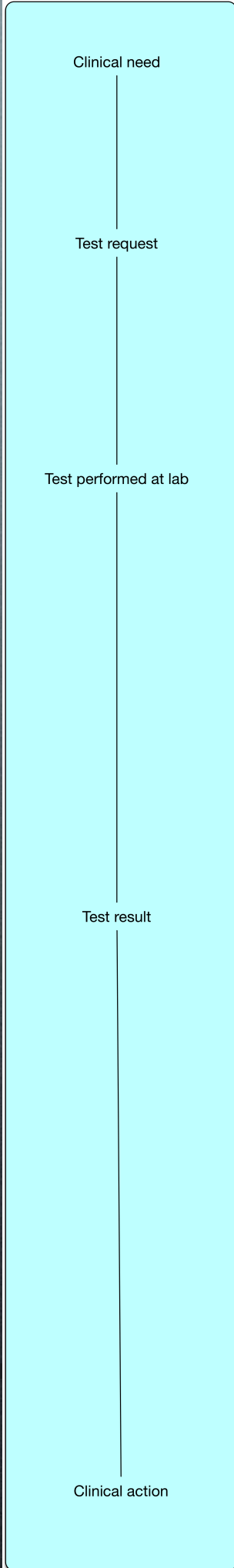
**Clinical action**  
 Name: Medical follow-up - normal (record artifact)  
 Code: 748901000000108



# patient vignette

Lisa Stanner, a 60 year old woman, attends Manor GP Practice for monitoring her ***hypertension***. Lisa's GP, Dr Jane Green, requests renal function tests (***electrolytes*** and ***creatinine*** or ***Urea and creatinine (U&E)***). The request is sent electronically using an order comms systems to the pathology laboratory based in the local hospital, Midtown District Hospital. Dr Green books an appointment with the practice nurse, Alice Jones. Lisa attends the appointment the following day where the blood sample is taken and sent to the laboratory. The test results are sent back electronically to the GP practice system. **[one profile requested, multiple results sent back]**





**Diagnosis -finding**

**Diagnosis/finding**

Name: Hypertensive disorder, systemic arterial (disorder)

Code: 38341003

**Test order**

**Test Order**

Name: Urea and electrolytes (procedure)

Code: 63476009

**Test Requested**

Name: Blood test requested (situation)

Code: 413672003

OR

**Test Order**

Name: Measurement of urea, sodium, potassium, chloride, bicarbonate and creatinine (procedure)

Code: 444164000

**Test procedure(s)**

<b>Test Procedure</b> Name: Electrolytes measurement (procedure) Code: 79301008	<b>Test Procedure</b> Name: Urea measurement (procedure) Code: 105010007	<b>Test Procedure</b> Name: Creatinine measurement (procedure) Code: 70901006
<b>Test Procedure</b> Name: Chloride measurement, blood (procedure) Code: 104589004	<b>Test Procedure</b> Name: Blood urea measurement (procedure) Code: 250623007	<b>Test Procedure</b> Name: Corrected serum creatinine measurement (procedure) Code: 313822004
<b>Test Procedure</b> Name: Blood sodium measurement (procedure) Code: 312469006		
<b>Test Procedure</b> Name: Blood potassium measurement (procedure) Code: 312468003		
<b>Test Procedure</b> Name: Bicarbonate measurement (procedure) Code: 88645003		

**Test result(s)**

the tests' relationship to request can be handled through their parent concept...

**Result - observable entity**

Name: Serum sodium level (observable entity)  
Code: 1000661000000107

**Analysed specimen**

Name: Serum (substance)  
Code: 67922002

**Timeliness**

Name: Single point in time (qualifier value)  
Code: 123029007

**UoM - Sodium**

Name: Millimole/liter (qualifier value)  
Code: 258813002

**SodiumValue**

139

**Relation to Reference range**

Name: Normal Serum test findings (finding)  
Code: 414878005

**Age range**

Name: Age group (qualifier value)  
Code: 720431000000109

**Result - observable entity**

Name: Serum potassium level (observable entity)  
Code: 1000651000000109

**Analysed specimen**

Name: Serum (substance)  
Code: 67922002

**Timeliness**

Name: Single point in time (qualifier value)  
Code: 123029007

**UoM - Potassium**

Name: Millimole/liter (qualifier value)  
Code: 258813002

**PotassiumValue**

5.0

**Relation to Reference range**

Name: Normal Serum test findings (finding)  
Code: 414878005

**Age range**

Name: Age group (qualifier value)  
Code: 720431000000109

**Result - observable entity**

Name: Serum urea level (observable entity)  
Code: 1000951000000103

**Analysed specimen**

Name: Serum (substance)  
Code: 67922002

**Timeliness**

Name: Single point in time (qualifier value)  
Code: 123029007

**UoM - Urea**

Name: Millimole/liter (qualifier value)  
Code: 258813002

**Urea Value**

4.8

**Relation to Reference range**

Name: Normal Serum test findings (finding)  
Code: 414878005

**Age range**

Name: Age group (qualifier value)  
Code: 720431000000109

**Result - observable entity**

Name: Serum bicarbonate level (observable entity)  
Code: 1000681000000100

**Analysed specimen**

Name: Serum (substance)  
Code: 67922002

**Timeliness**

Name: Single point in time (qualifier value)  
Code: 123029007

**UoM - Bicarbonate**

Name: Millimole/liter (qualifier value)  
Code: 258813002

**BicarbonateValue**

27

**Relation to Reference range**

Name: Normal Serum test findings (finding)  
Code: 414878005

**Age range**

Name: Age group (qualifier value)  
Code: 720431000000109

**Result - observable entity**

Name: Serum chloride level (observable entity)  
Code: 1000671000000100

**Analysed specimen**

Name: Serum (substance)  
Code: 67922002

**Timeliness**

Name: Single point in time (qualifier value)  
Code: 123029007

**UoM - Chloride**

Name: Millimole/liter (qualifier value)  
Code: 258813002

**Chloride Value**

102

**Relation to Reference range**

Name: Normal Serum test findings (finding)  
Code: 414878005

**Age range**

Name: Age group (qualifier value)  
Code: 720431000000109

**Result - observable entity**

Name: Serum creatinine level (observable entity)  
Code: 1000731000000107

**Analysed specimen**

Name: Serum (substance)  
Code: 67922002

**Timeliness**

Name: Single point in time (qualifier value)  
Code: 123029007

**UoM - Creatinine**

Name: Micromole/liter (qualifier value)  
Code: 258814008

**Creatinine value**

80

**Relation to Reference range**

Name: Normal Serum test findings (finding)  
Code: 414878005

**Age range**

Name: Age group (qualifier value)  
Code: 720431000000109

**Clinical action**

**Clinical action**

Name: Medical follow-up - normal (record artifact)  
Code: 748901000000108



# what are we trying to achieve

Interoperable

Unambiguous

Simple and granular

Flexible and adaptable model for the disciplines

Reflects clinical practice



# disciplines involved

- lab medicine
- immunology
- haematology
- cellular pathology
- microbiology
- blood transfusion
- ?genetics



# LEVELS OF INTEROPERABILITY

“**Foundational**” interoperability develops the building blocks of information exchange between disparate systems by establishing the inter-connectivity requirements needed for one **system or application** to **share data with** and **receive data from another**. It does not outline the ability for the receiving information technology system to interpret the data without interventions from the end user or other technologies.

“**Structural**” interoperability defines the **structure or format of data exchange** (i.e., the message format standards) where there is uniform movement of healthcare data from one system to another such that the clinical or operational purpose and meaning of the data is preserved and unaltered. Structural interoperability defines the syntax of the data exchange. It ensures that data exchanges between information technology systems can be interpreted at the data field level.

“**Semantic**” interoperability is the **ability of two or more systems** to **exchange** information and to **interpret** and **use that information**. Semantic interoperability takes advantage of both the structuring of the data exchange and the codification of the data, including standard, publicly available vocabulary, so that the receiving information management systems can interpret the data. Semantic interoperability supports the electronic exchange of patient data and information among authorized parties via potentially disparate health information and technology systems and products to improve quality, costs, safety, efficiency, experience and efficacy of healthcare delivery.

“**Organizational**” interoperability encompasses the **technical components** as well as clear **policy, social and organizational components**. These components facilitate the secure, seamless and timely communication and use of data within and between organizations and individuals. Inclusion of these non-technical considerations enables interoperability that is integrated into end-user processes and workflows in a manner that supports efficiencies, relationships and overall health and wellness through cooperative use of shared data both across and within organizational boundaries. source: **HIMMS**



# PRACTICAL INTEROPERABILITY

pathology codes sent and received

access/link to various laboratory information systems

access/translate between various code systems/interpretations/variations

experience with code maintenance and governance

access to code transmission to visualise through dashboard - “Atlas of variations” live

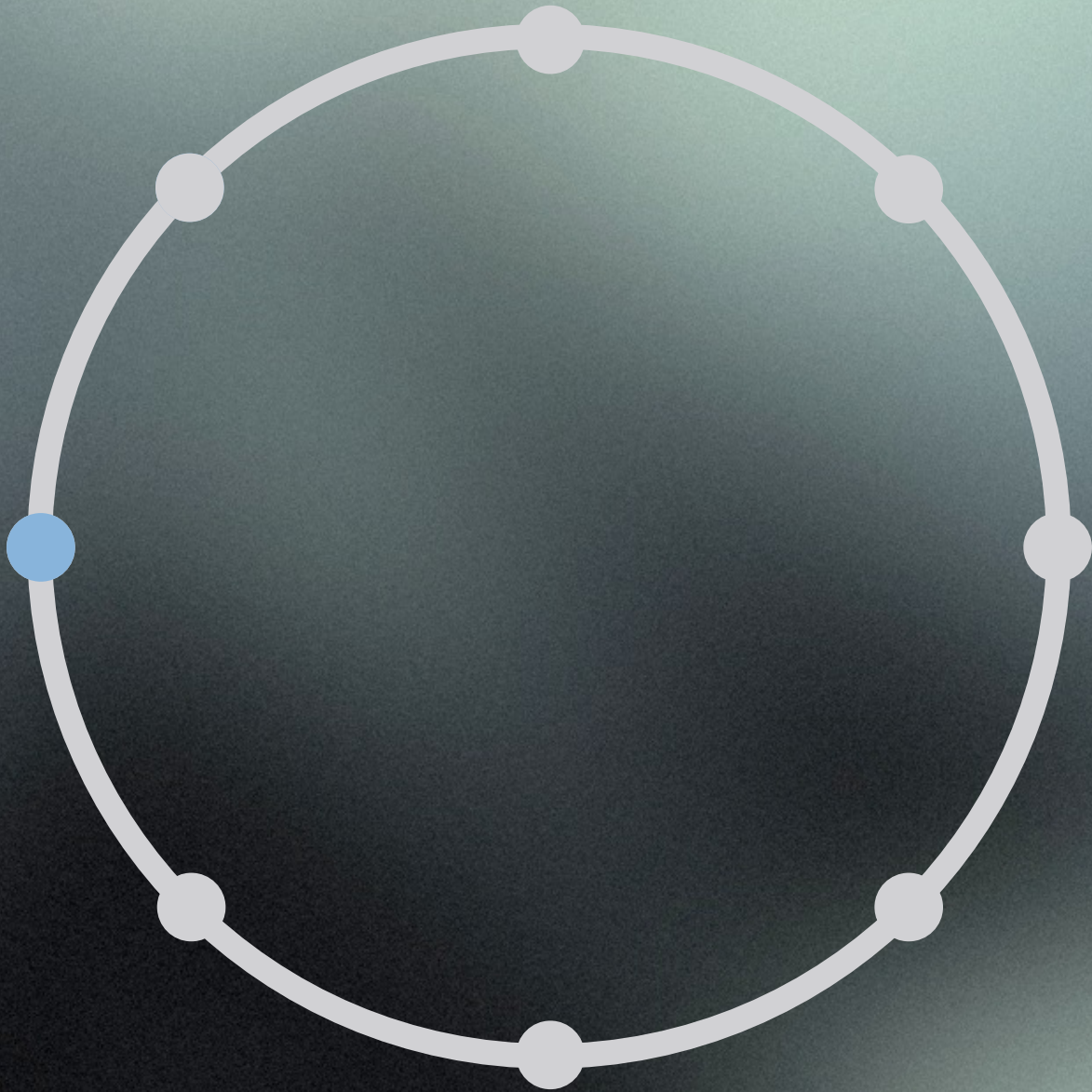




based on...



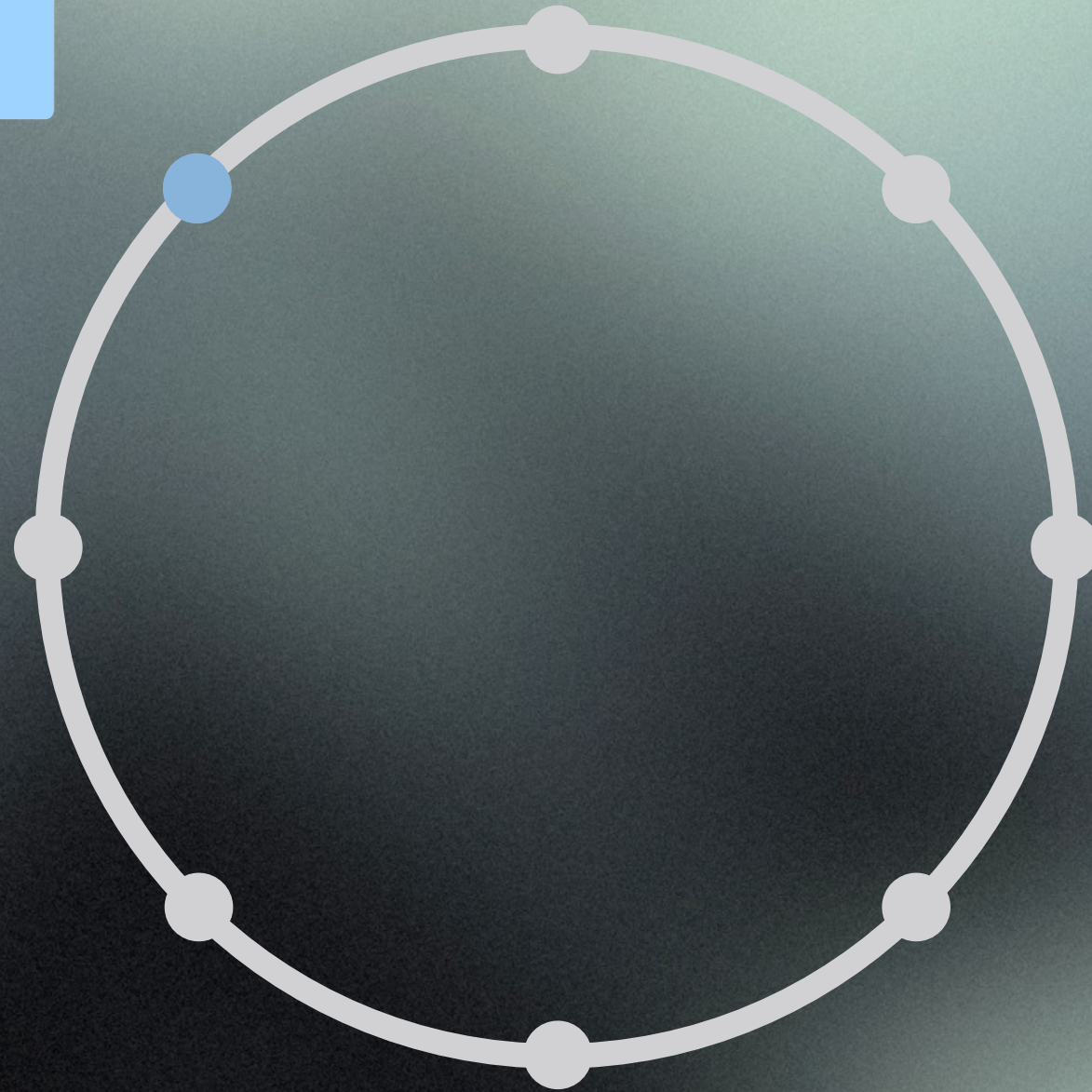
PATIENT PRESENTING





CLINICAL PROBLEM

PATIENT PRESENTING

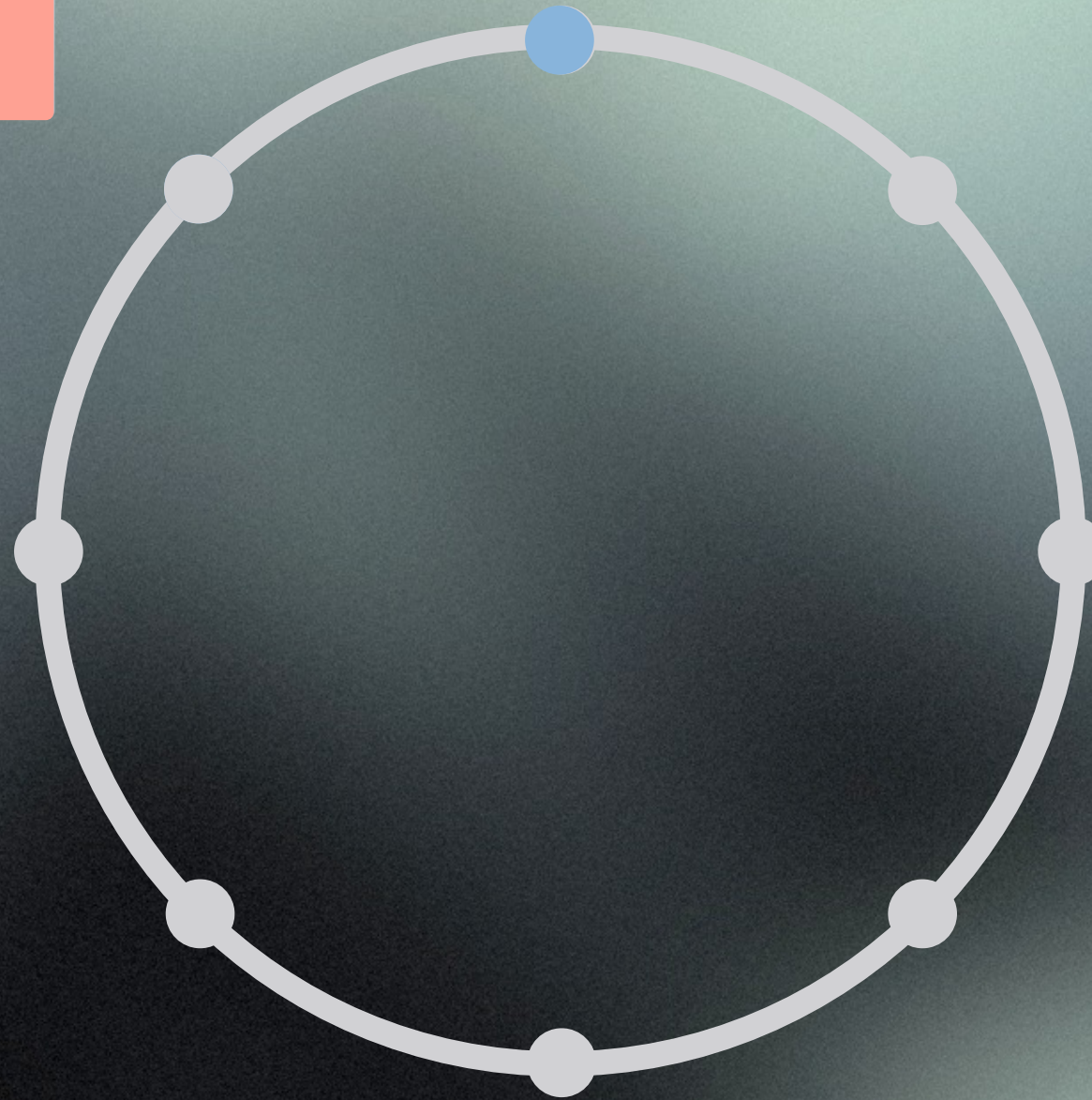




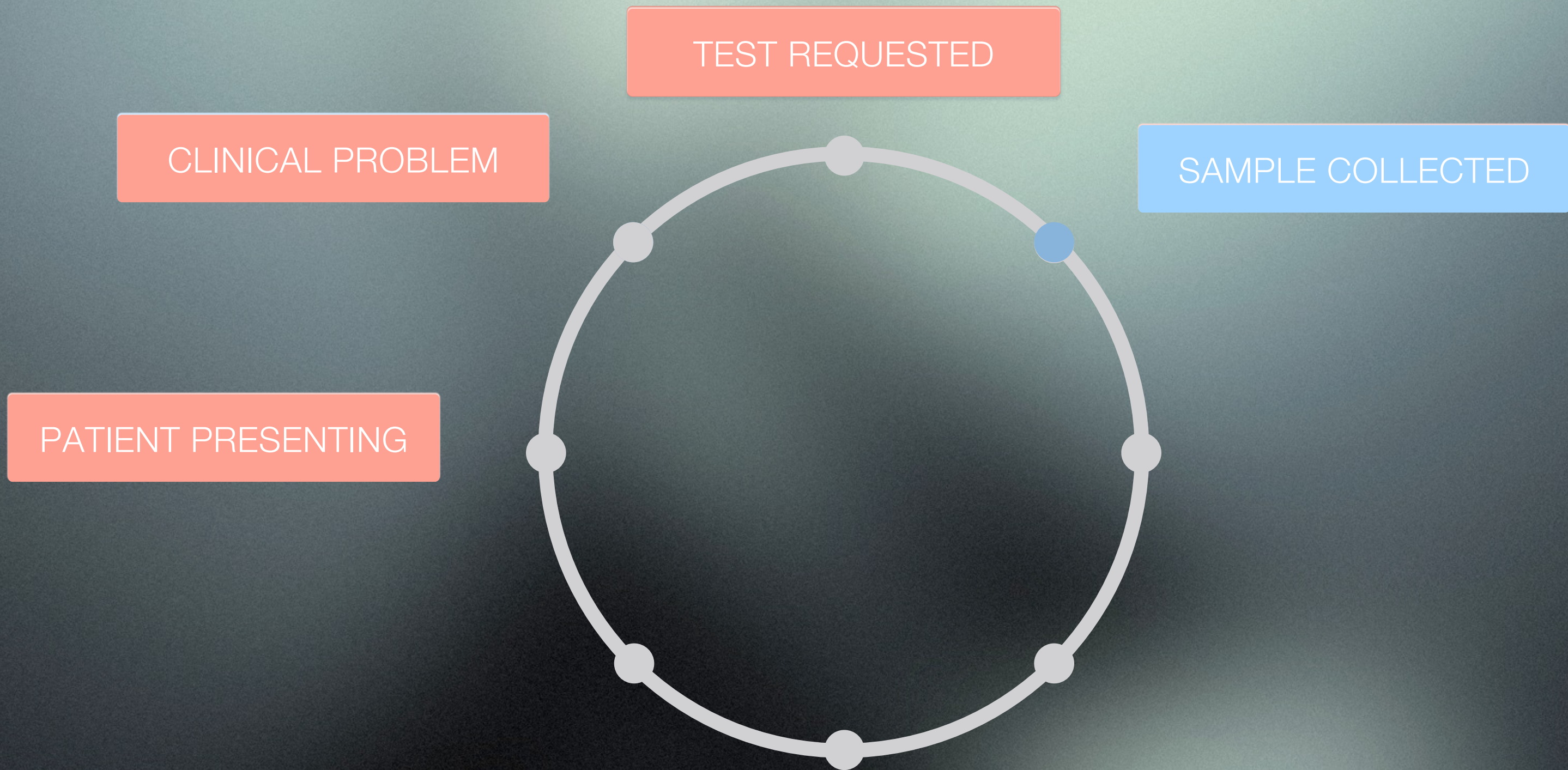
TEST REQUESTED

CLINICAL PROBLEM

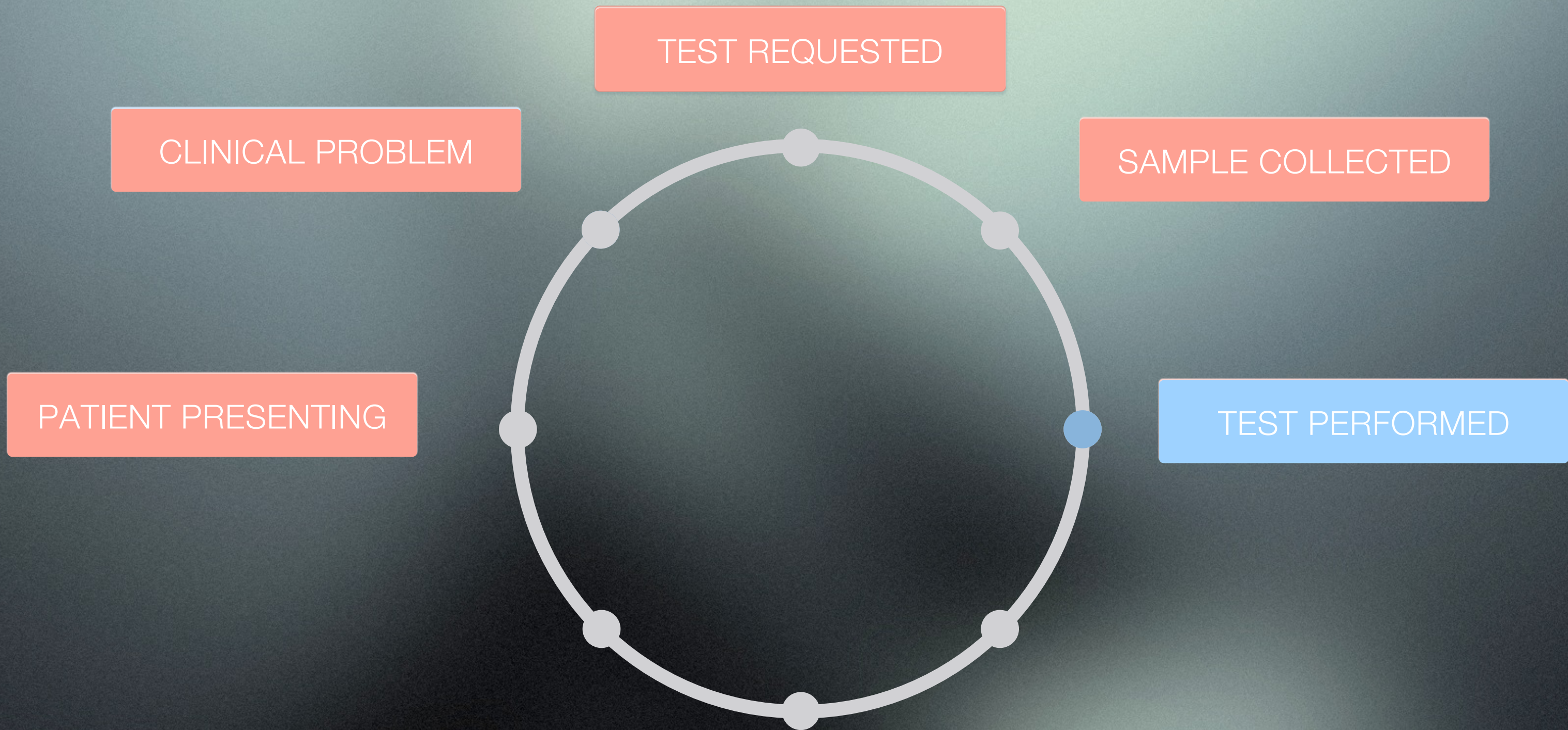
PATIENT PRESENTING



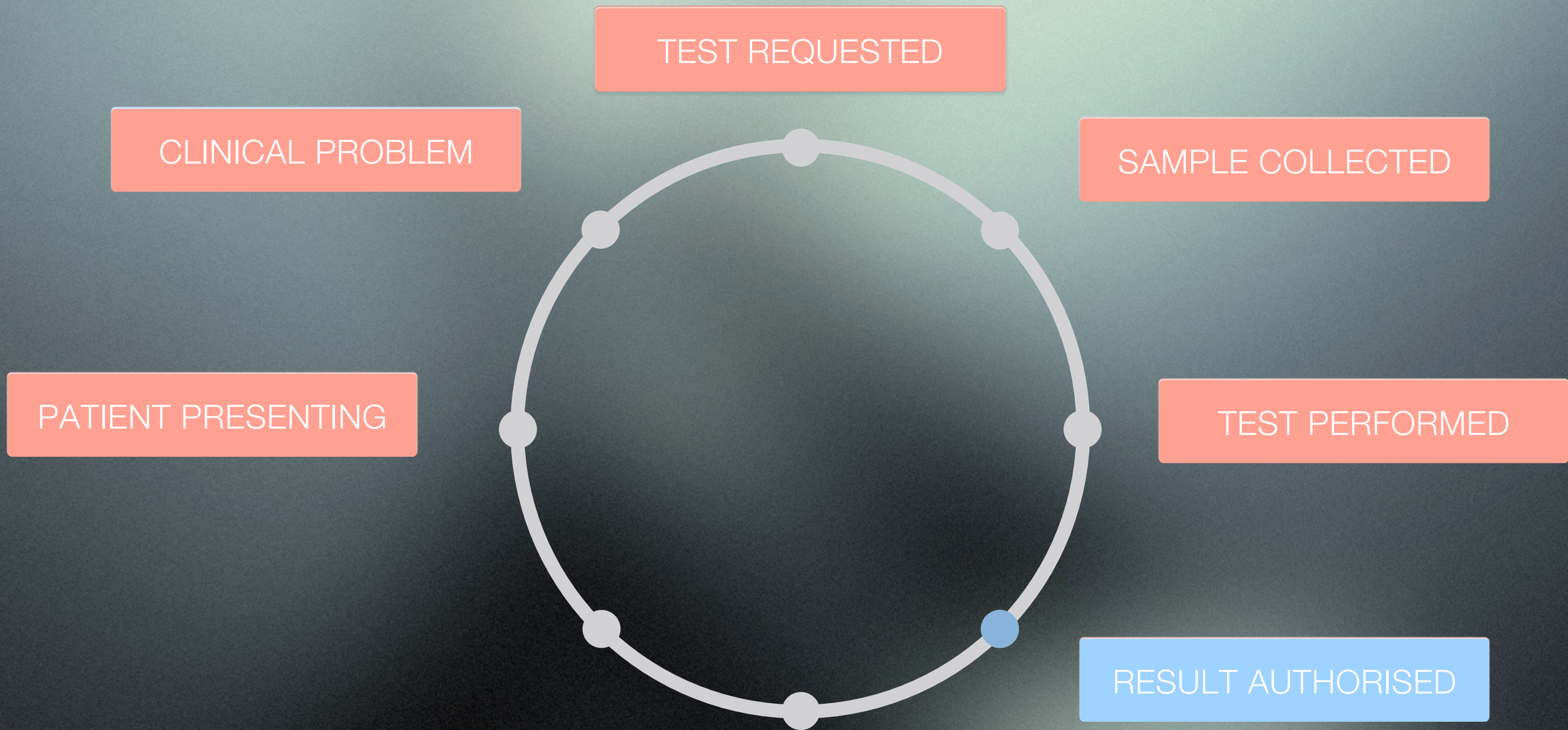












PATIENT PRESENTING

CLINICAL PROBLEM

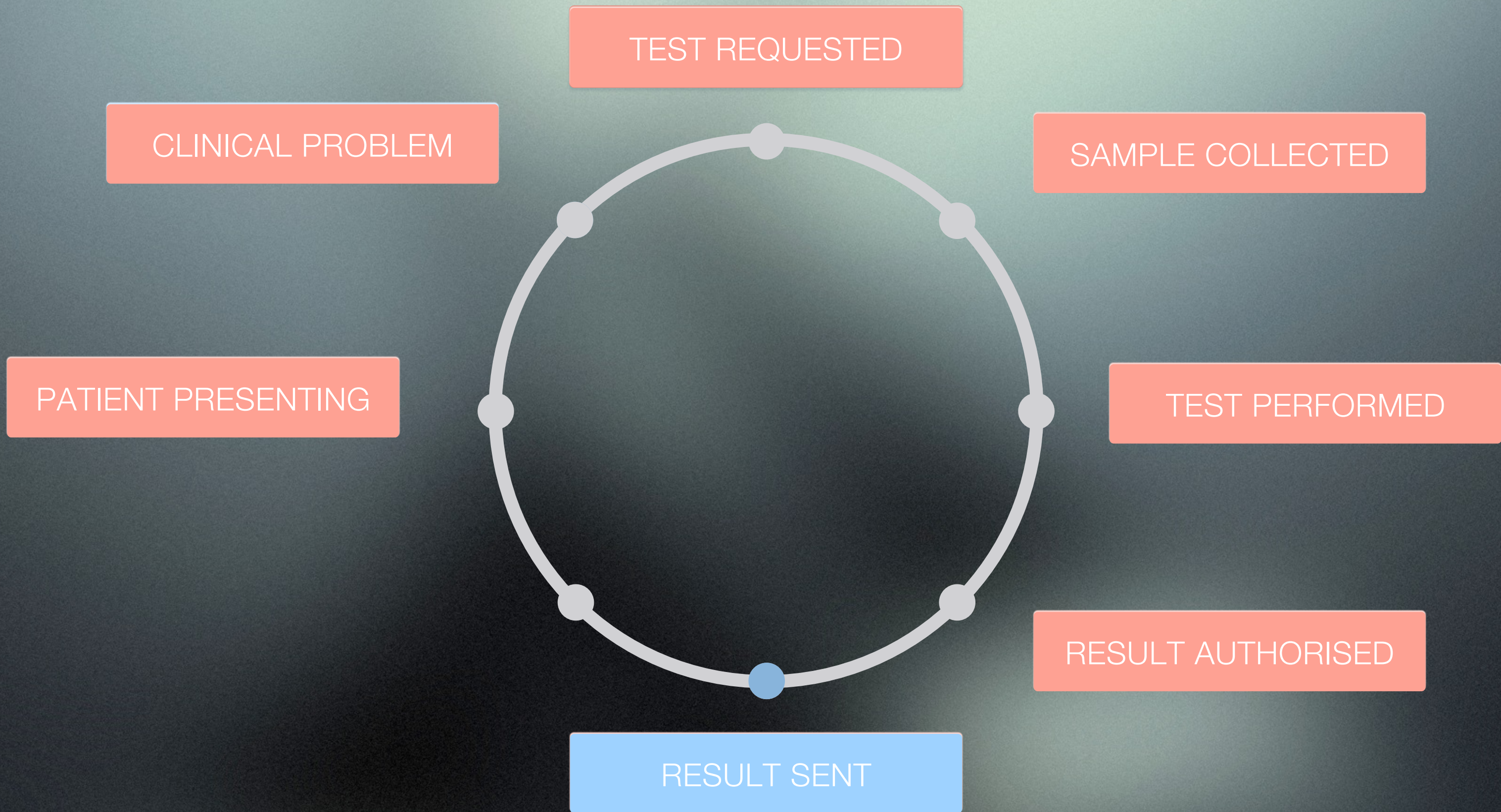
TEST REQUESTED

SAMPLE COLLECTED

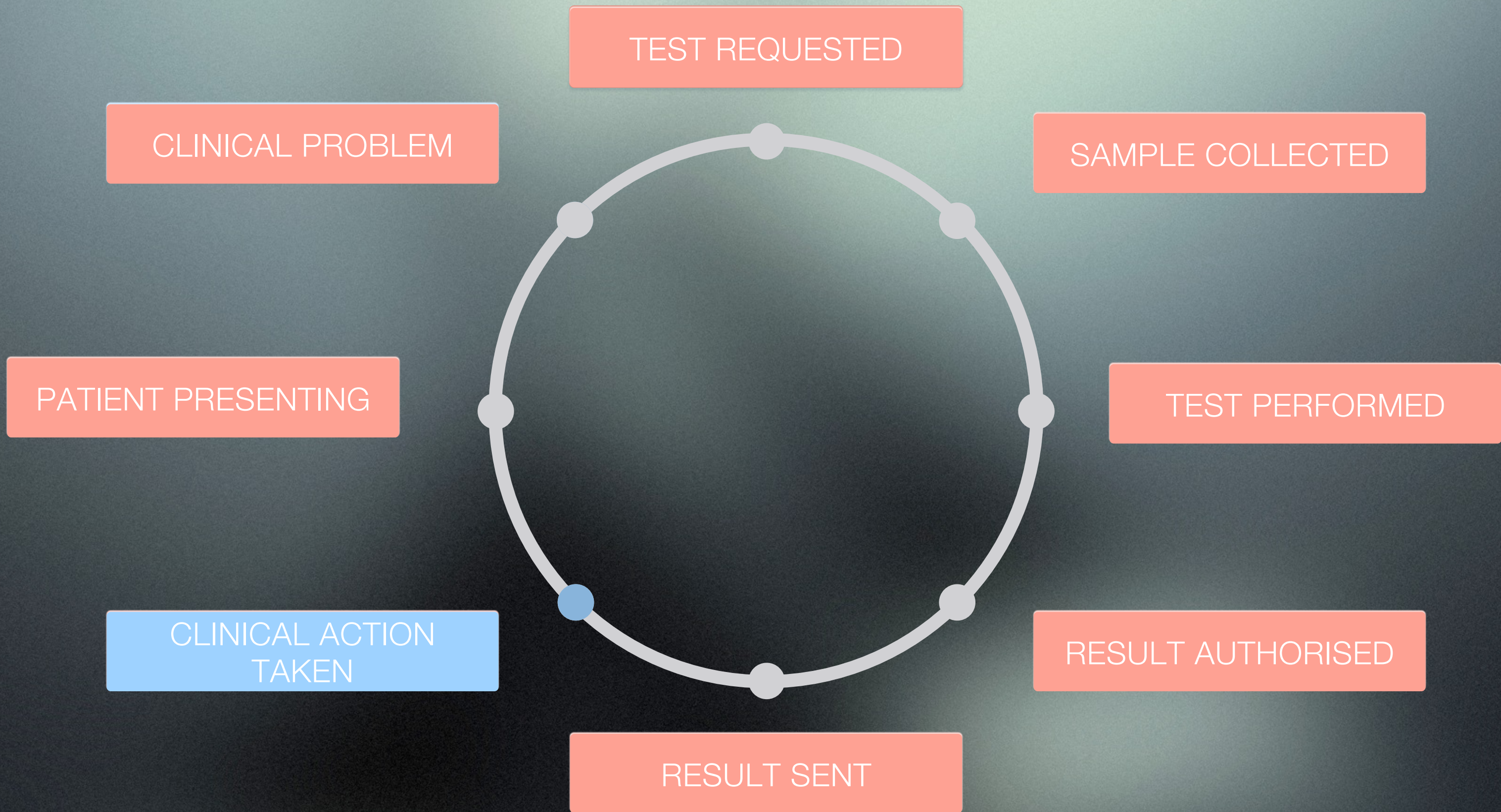
TEST PERFORMED

RESULT AUTHORISED



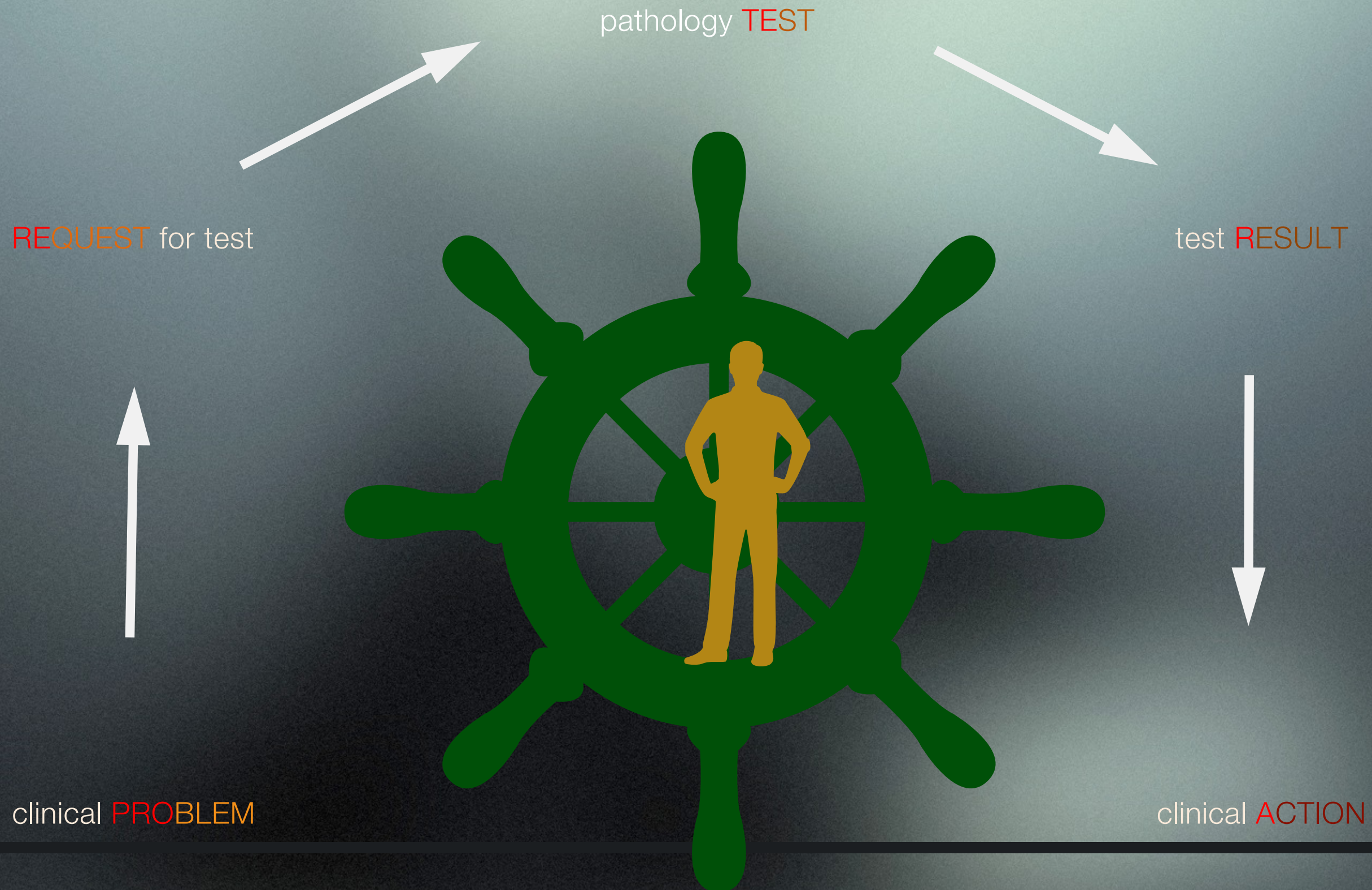








# PRO-RE-TE-R-A







THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION