

# Extended Scope of Dietetic Practice in the Management of Enteral Tube Feeding and Associated Cost Efficiencies

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## Background

Traditionally medical staff are responsible for the management and care of enteral feeding tubes. A dietetic team specialising in nutritional support was established in 2004. The nutritional support dietitian working in this specialist role is trained in an array of extended skills in the management of enteral tube feeding. The aim of this review was to measure cost efficiencies generated over a year from this extended dietetic speciality.

## Methods

A database was created to collate the extended role activities and associated cost efficiencies between October 2014 until September 2015. These extended role activities were numerically categorised (see figure 1). Associated cost efficiencies were generated from Unit Costs for Health and Social Care (2014)<sup>1</sup>.

## Results

Tube care/maintenance and tube removal contributed to the most activities completed within this time period (see figure 2). The greatest cost efficiency generated was attributed to tube placement/replacement (see figure 3). Total annual savings generated from this extended scope of practice was £31,024.

Figure 2: Extended Role Activities Completed

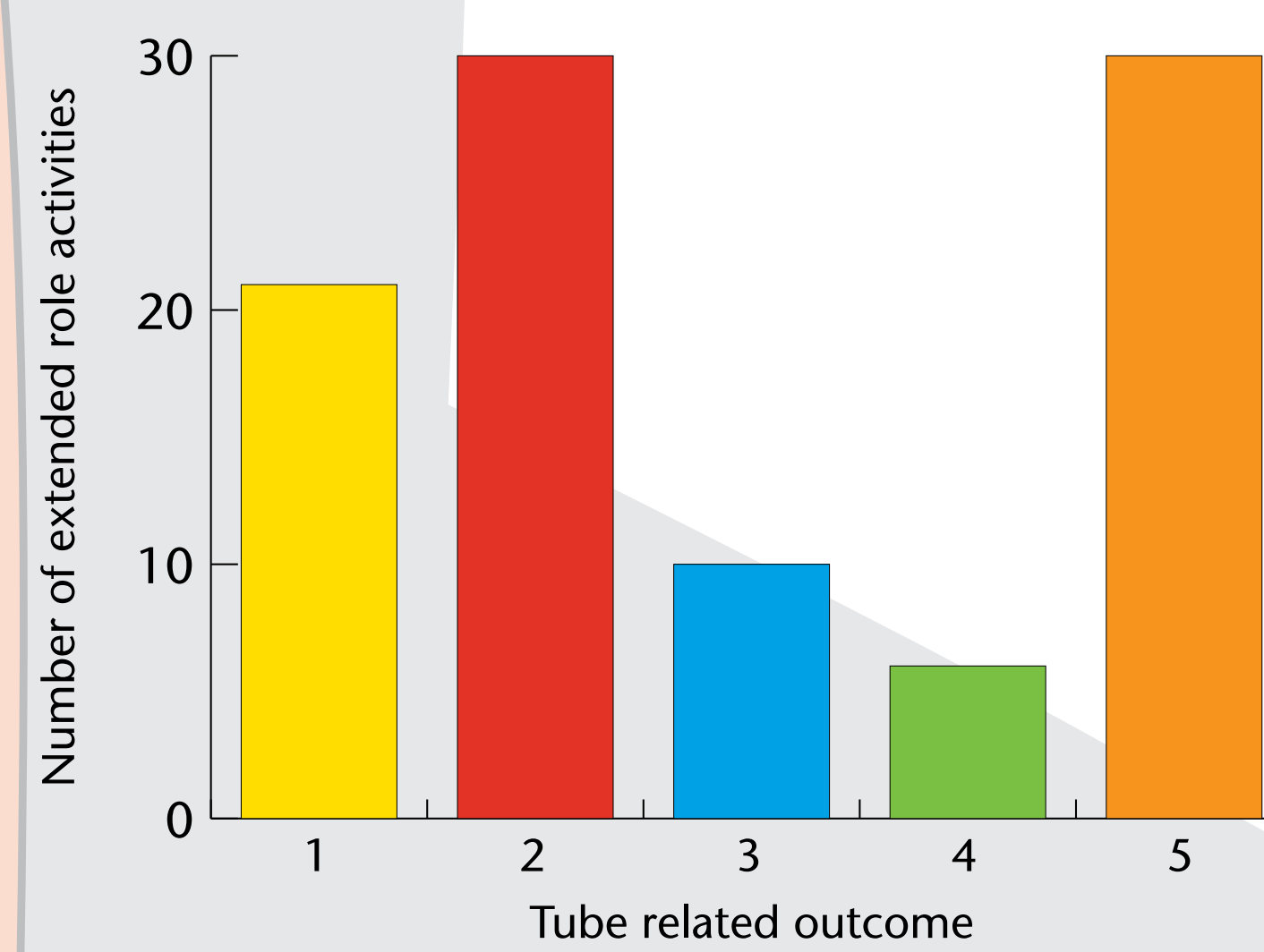
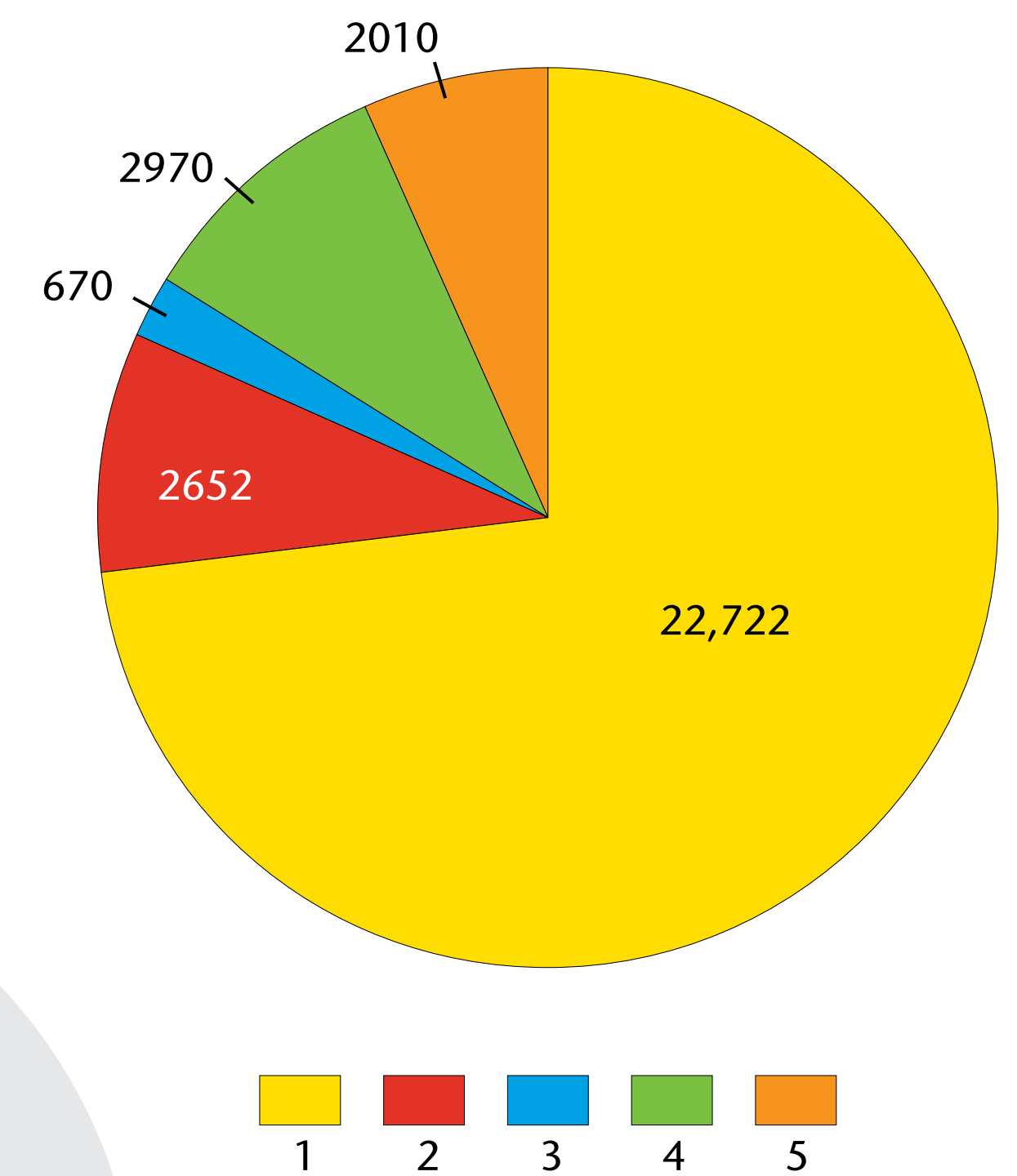


Figure 3: Cost Efficiency Generated from Tube Related Outcome (£)



## Discussion and Conclusion

It is widely reported that the National Health Service (NHS) is continually facing significant financial challenges<sup>2</sup>. This review has demonstrated how the dietitian can play a part in preventing hospital admissions for tube related issues which can be managed in primary care. This consequently generated significant cost efficiencies, and also a more patient centred dietetic service with a reduced need for further referrals<sup>3</sup> (see Figure 4).

Figure 1: Extended Role Activities

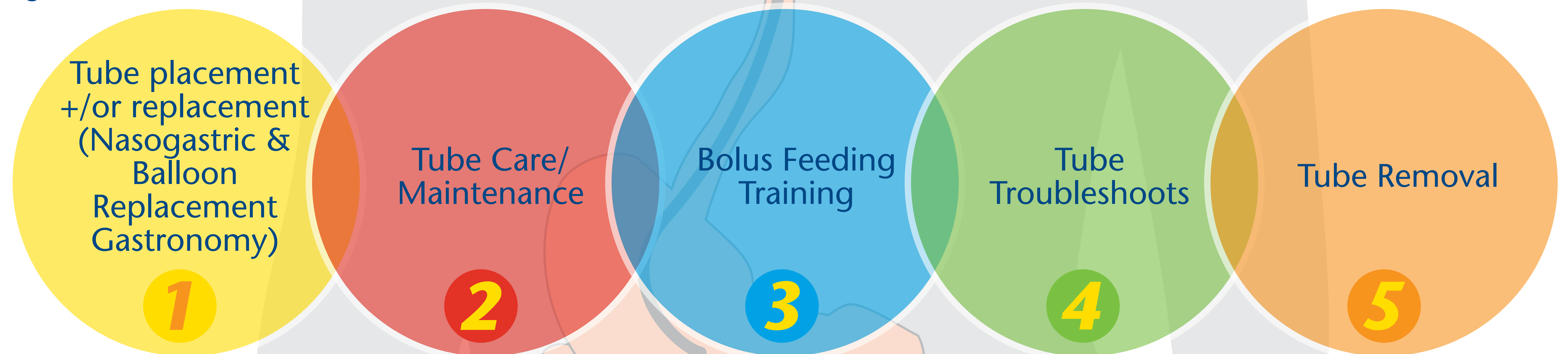
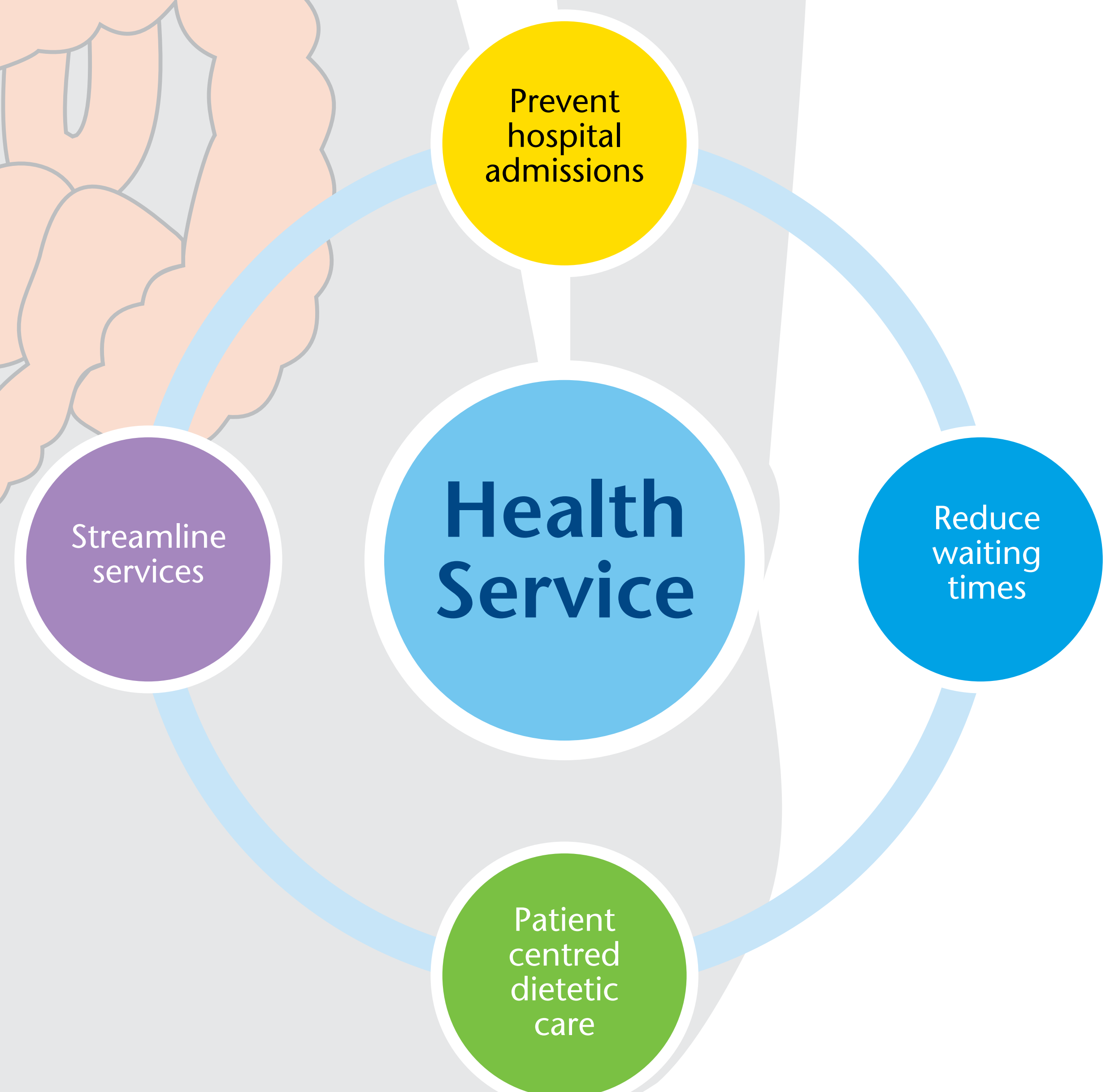


Figure 4: Benefits to Health



## References

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