

“Health care utilisation of General Practitioners – a qualitative study”

Dr. S. Schulz

Institute of General Practice, Jena University Hospital



What we know (and have)...

- Physicians as a special population regarding health care utilisation

- International recommendations (e.g. CPSO Canada, GMC und BMA in UK, RACPG Australia):
 - ...should be registered with a GP
 - ...physicians should not self-treat
 - ...

- Physicians often fail these recommendations



- Some studies revealed factors influencing health care utilisation of physicians (George 2014, Montgomery 2011, Kay 2008)
- Studies mostly focusing on barriers (Fox 2009)
- Lack of studies to health care utilisation of physicians in Germany
- General Practitioners as a group with special conditions



Aim of our study:

To identify beneficial and obstructive factors for health care utilisation of General Practitioners in Germany.



- Qualitative study design
- Convenience sample of general practitioners
- Development of interview guideline
- 16 open, guided, audio-taped interviews between 12/2014 and 03/2015 (65 min in average)
- Questionnaire to sociodemographic factors

I suppose you have been sick at least once in your life as a physician, and you thought of visiting a doctor. Could you please tell me about it?



- Literally transkription of the interviews

- Qualitative content analysis according to Kuckartz
 - Development of a code-system with an inductive-deductive method
 - Development of a code-theory-model (conceptual map)
 - In-depth analysis of the code health care utilisation



Sociodemographic data

- ❖ ♀ : ♂ = 1:1 (8 w, 8 m)

- ❖ Age:
 - 40-50 years: 8x
 - 50-60 years: 7x
 - 60-70 years: 1x

- ❖ Duration of work in outpatient care:
 - Ø 17 years, (4 - 42 years)

- ❖ Modes of working:
 - 14x self-employed, 2x salaried
 - 6x single practice, 10 x cooperative



Code system

❖ 16 thematic main categories



Code-Theory-Model

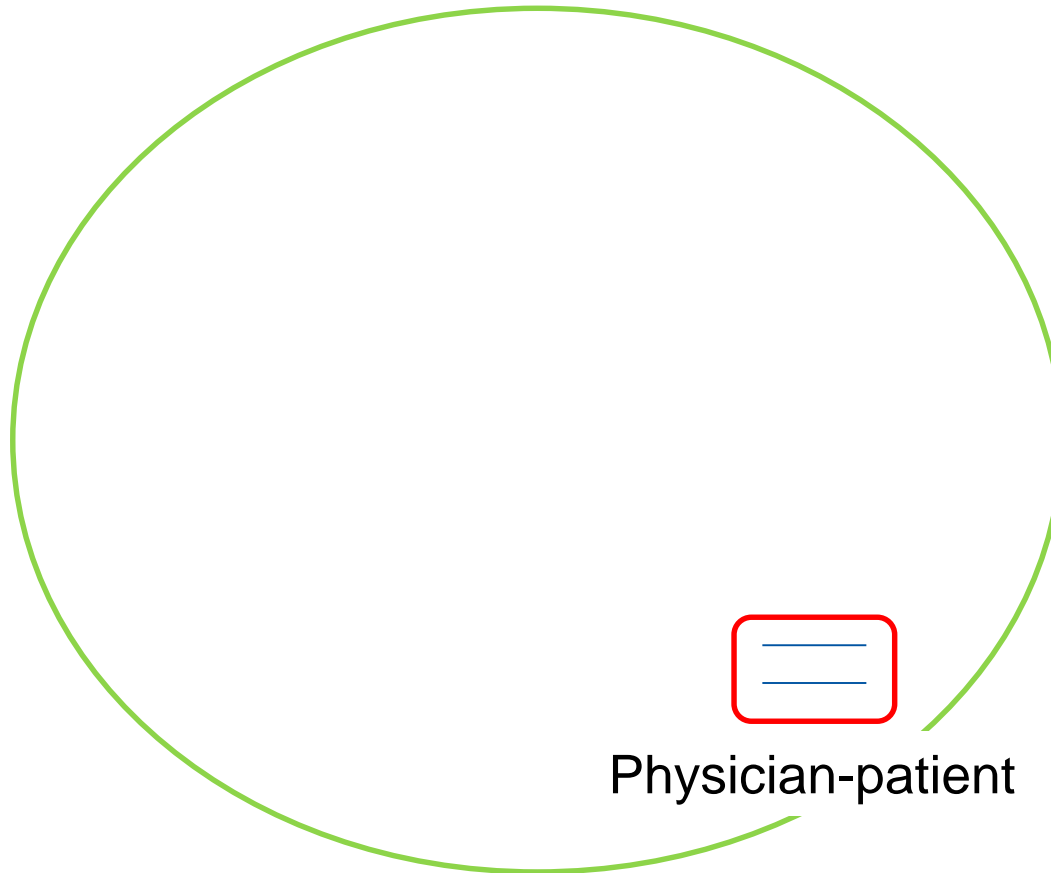


Code-Theory-Model

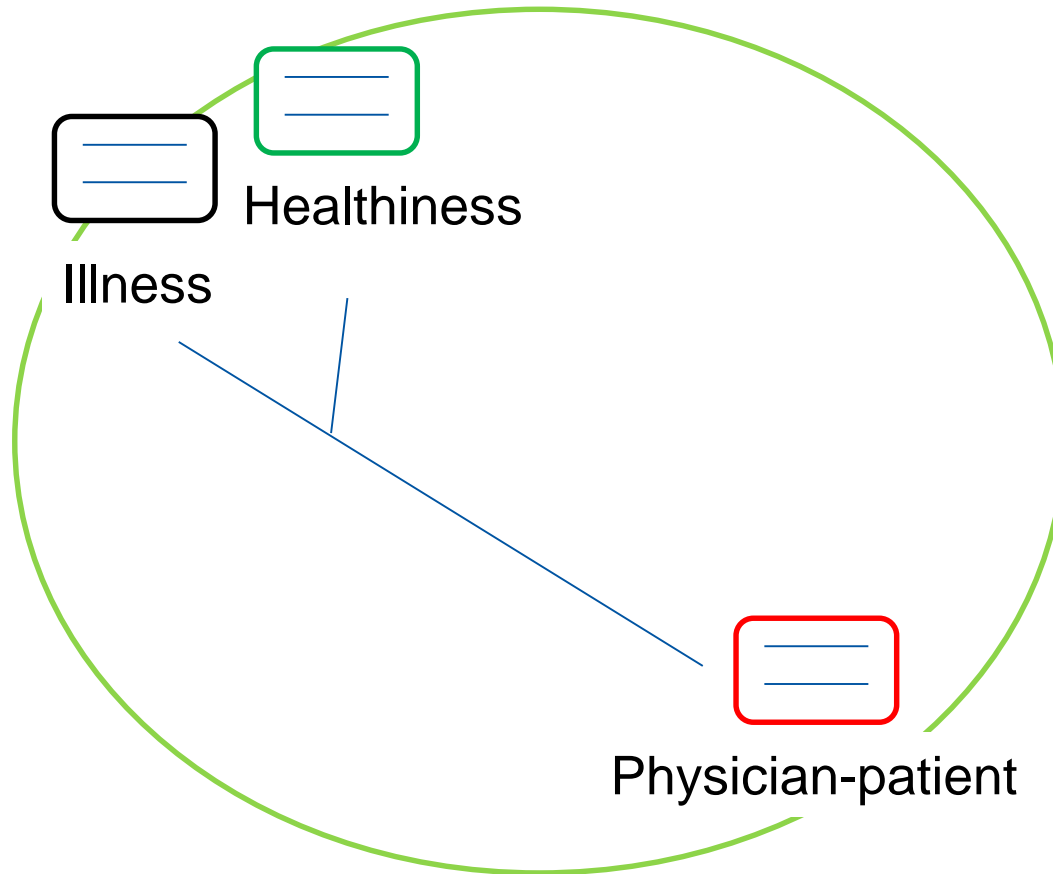


Physician-patient

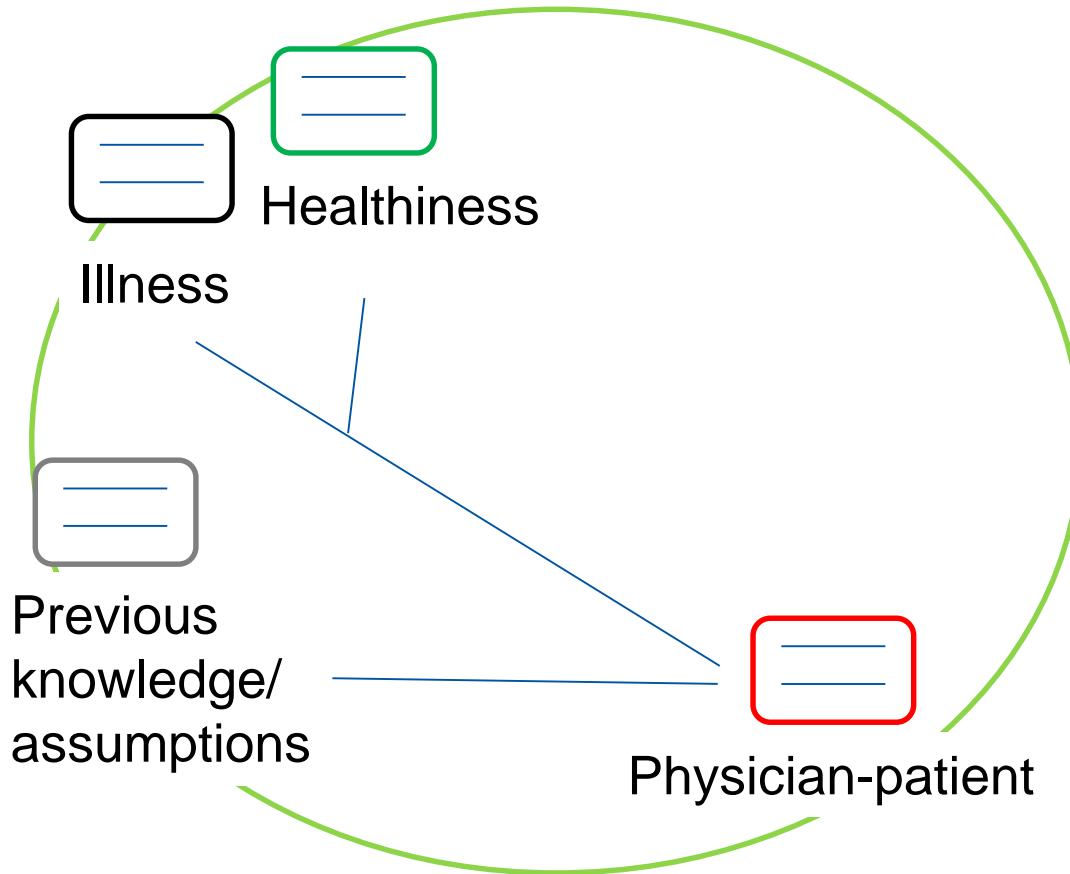
Code-Theory-Model



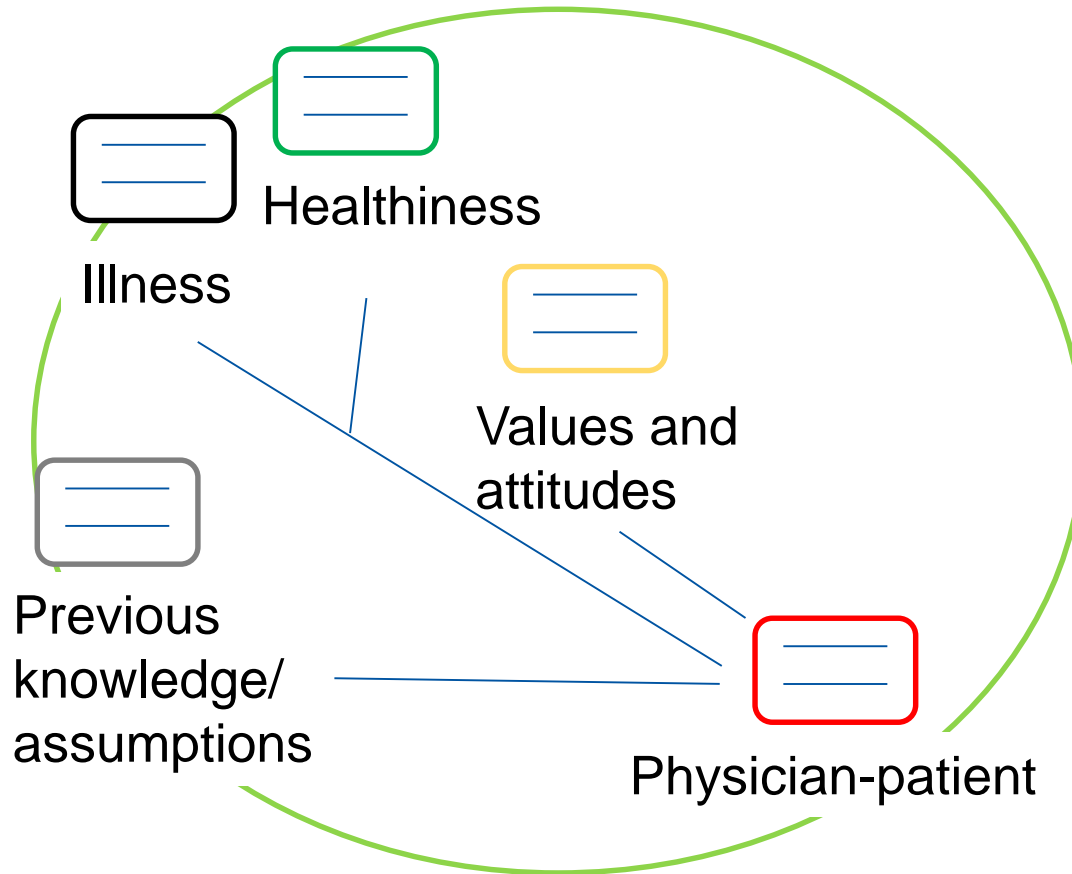
Code-Theory-Model



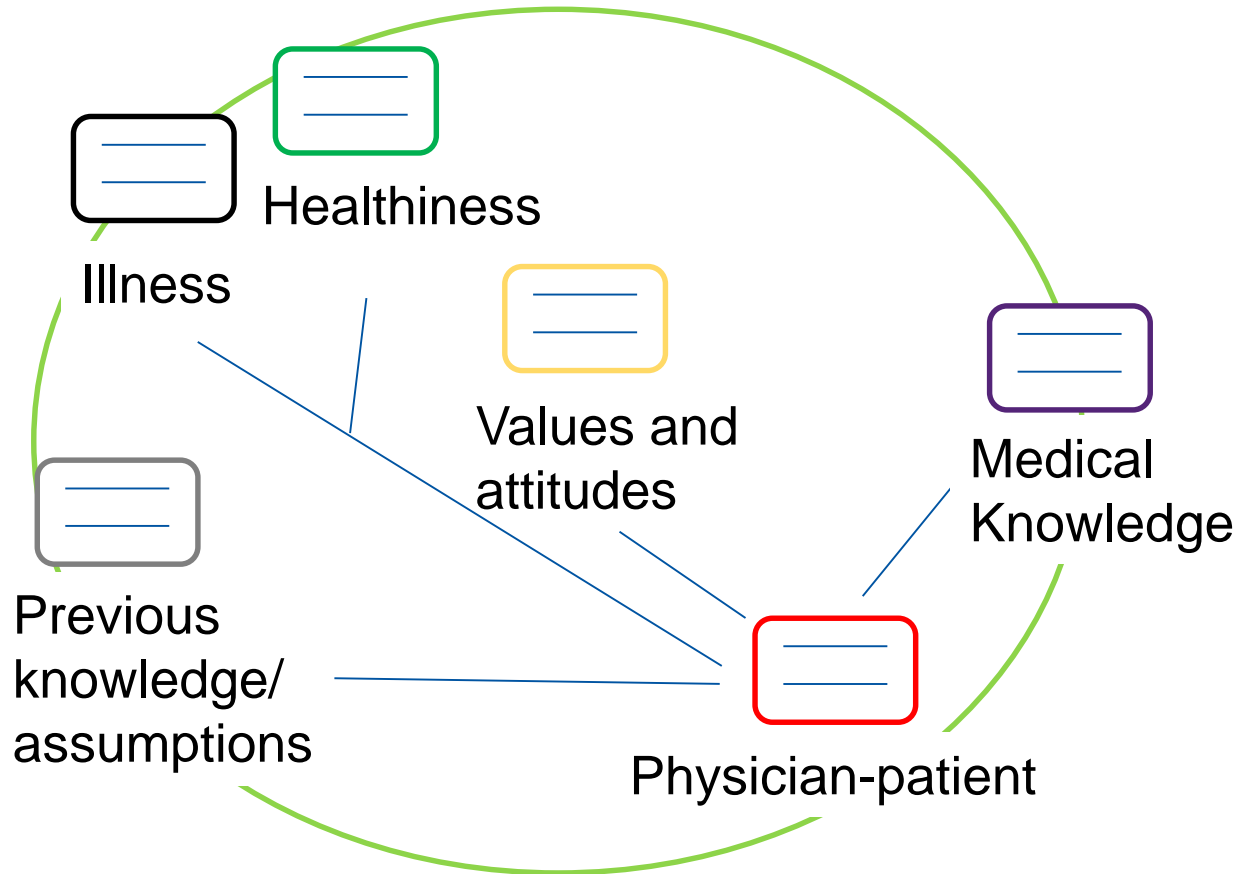
Code-Theory-Model



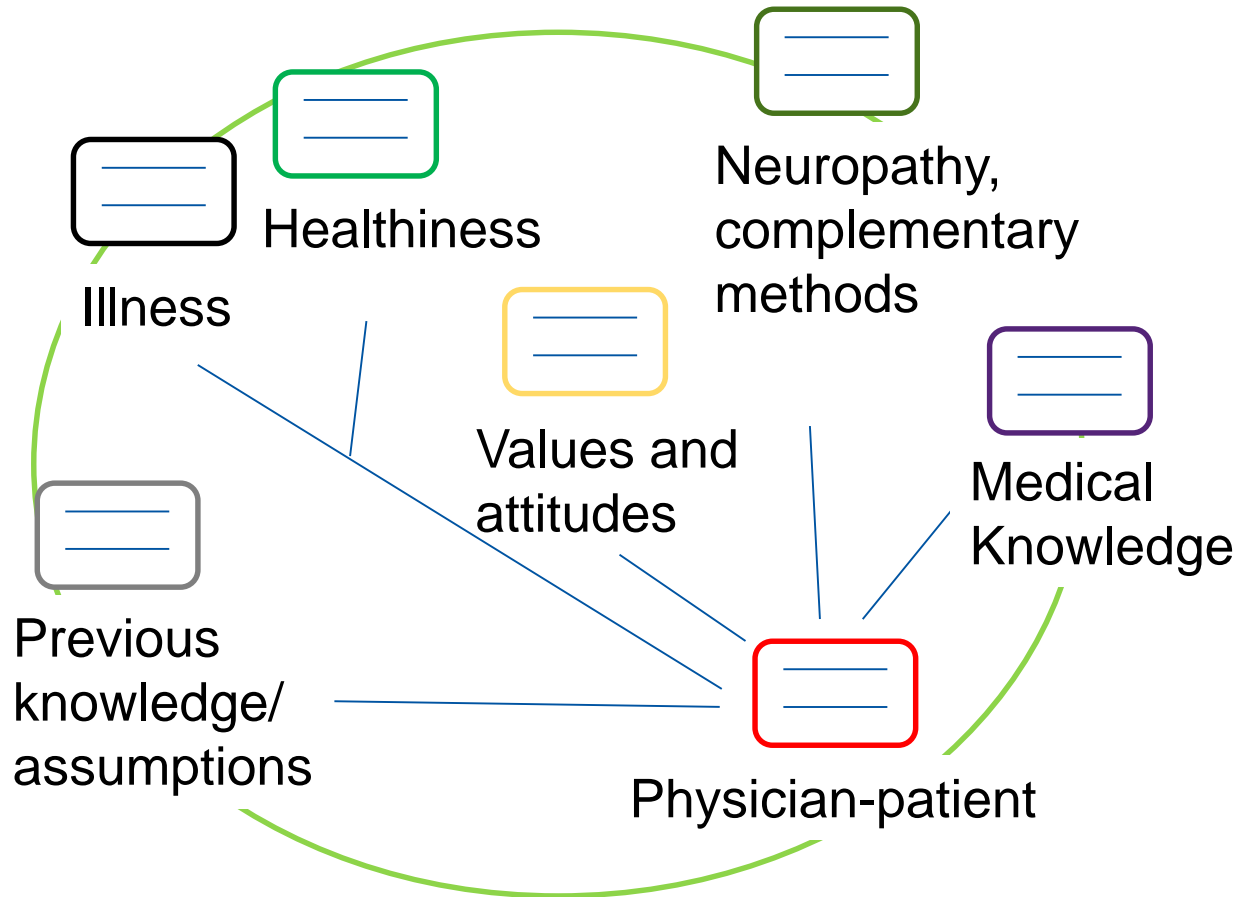
Code-Theory-Model



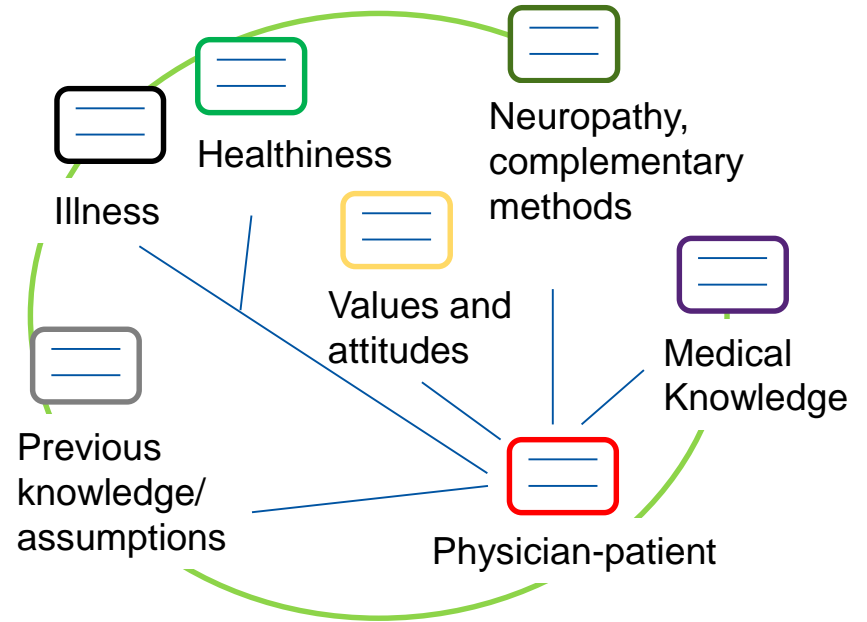
Code-Theory-Model



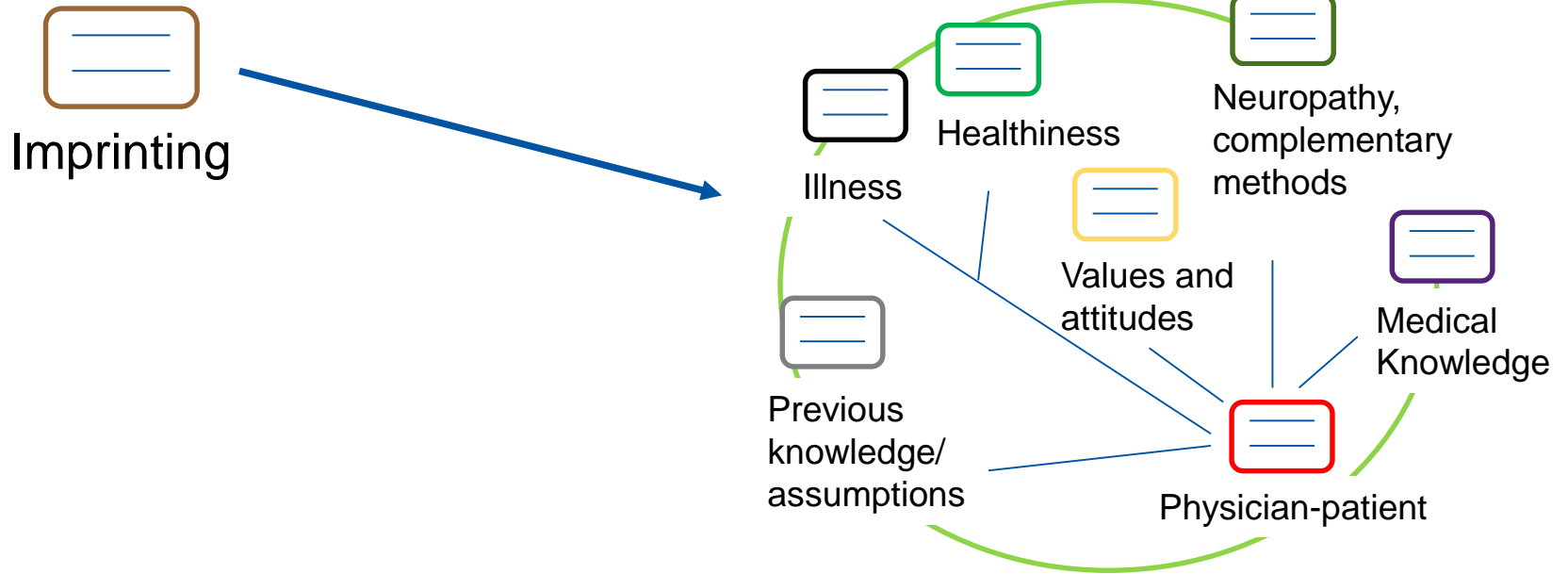
Code-Theory-Model



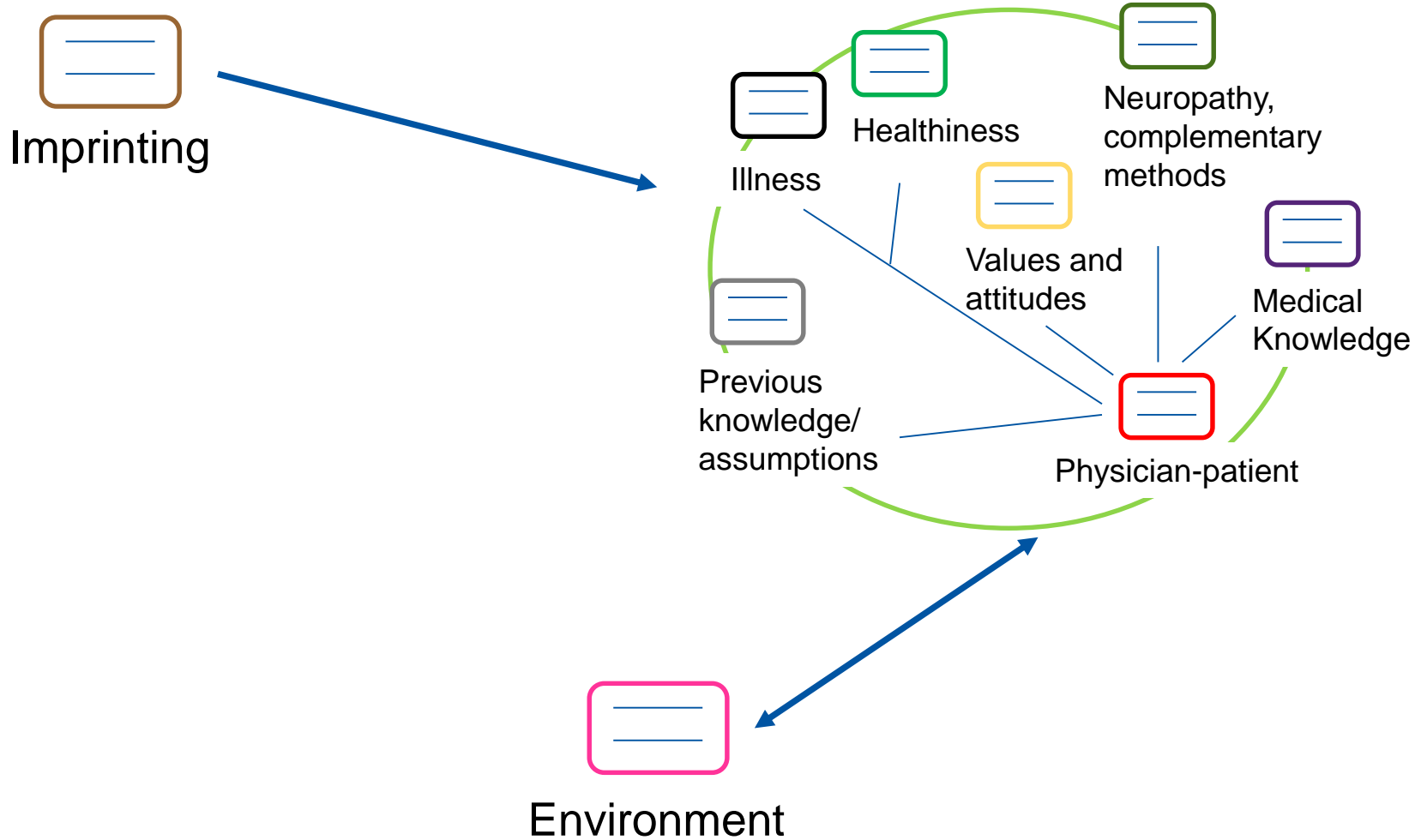
Code-Theory-Model



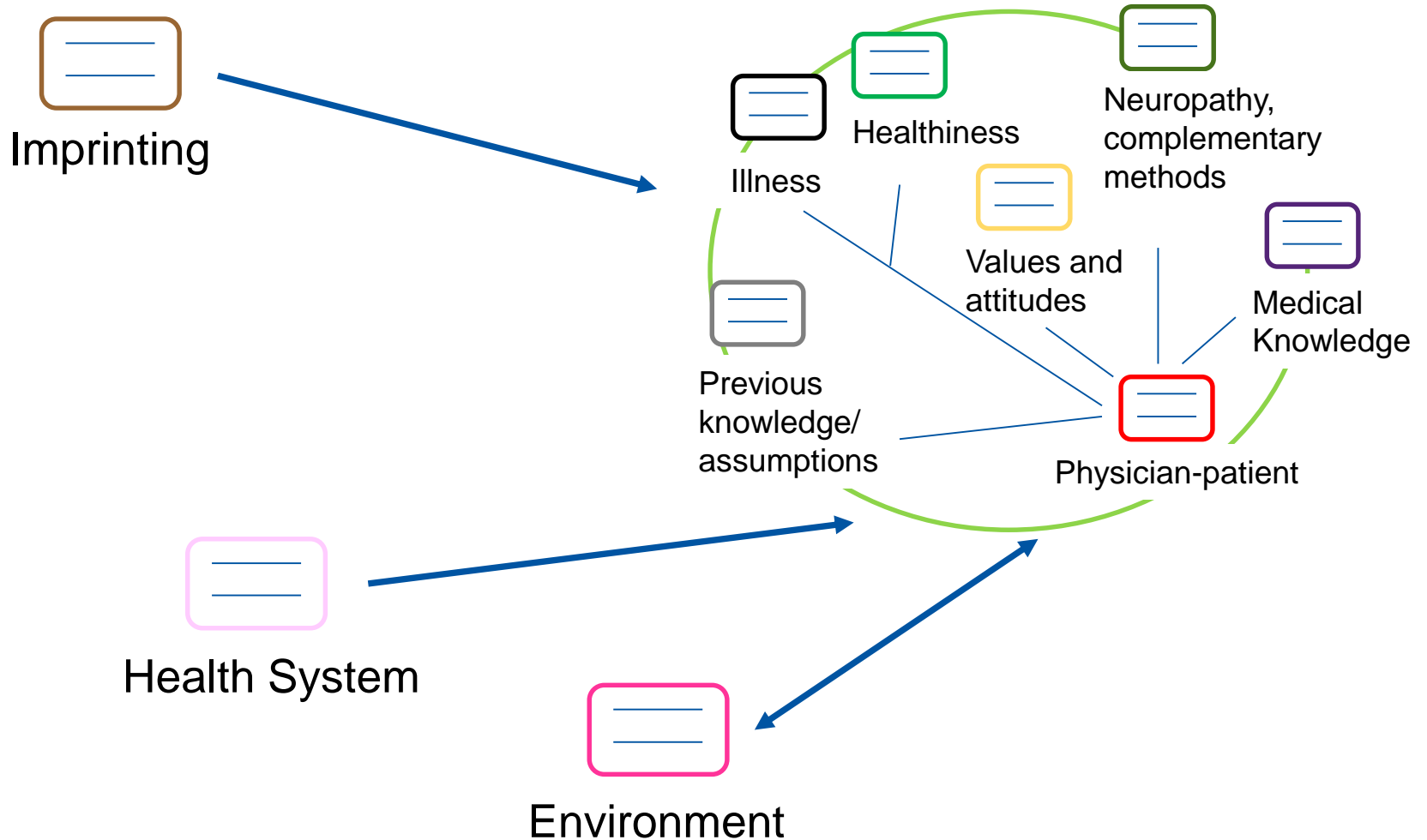
Code-Theory-Model



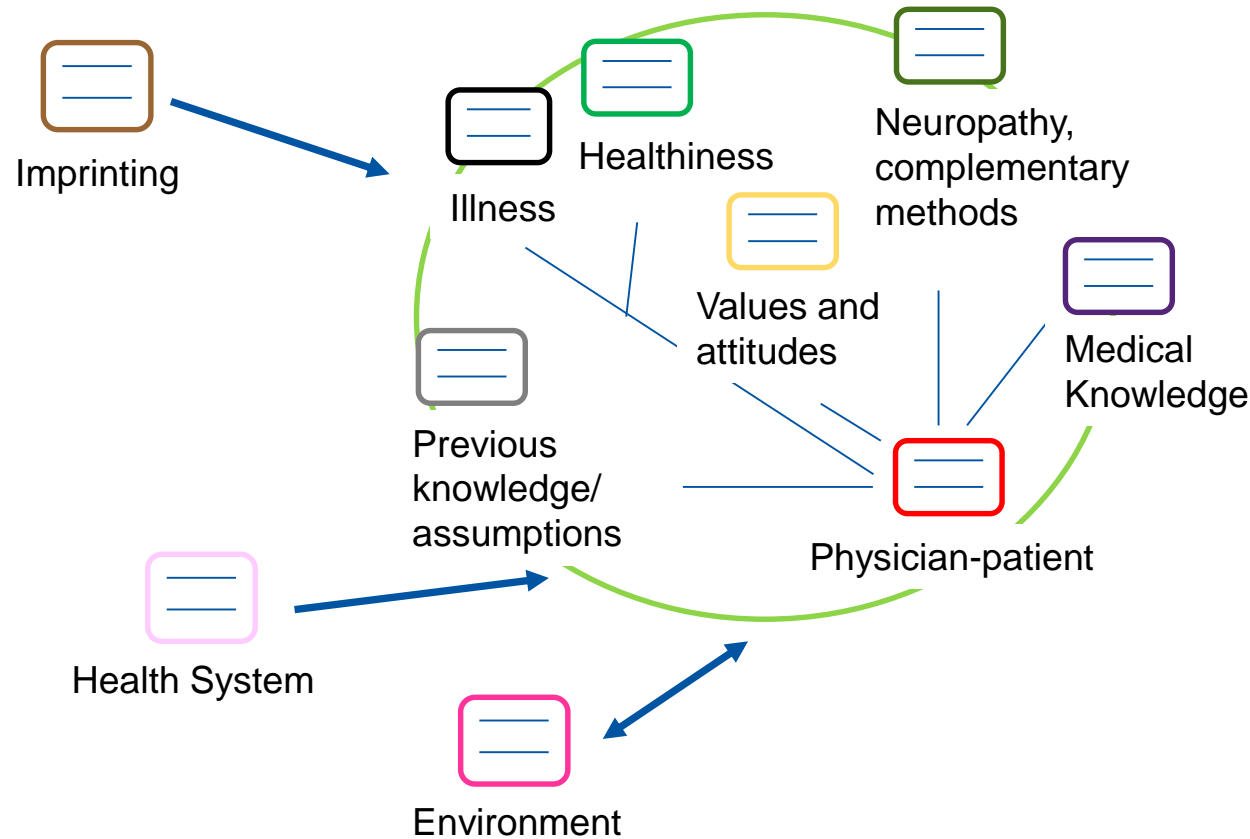
Code-Theory-Model



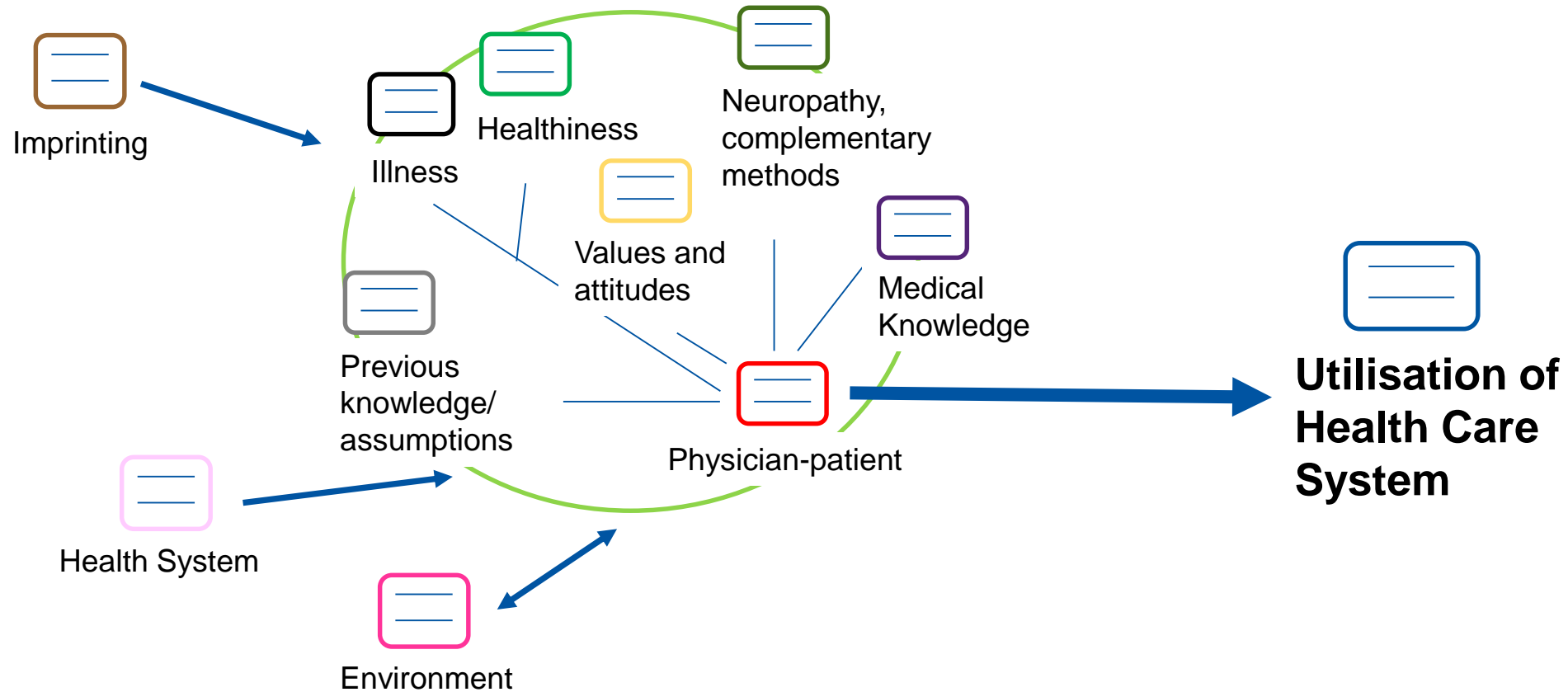
Code-Theory-Model



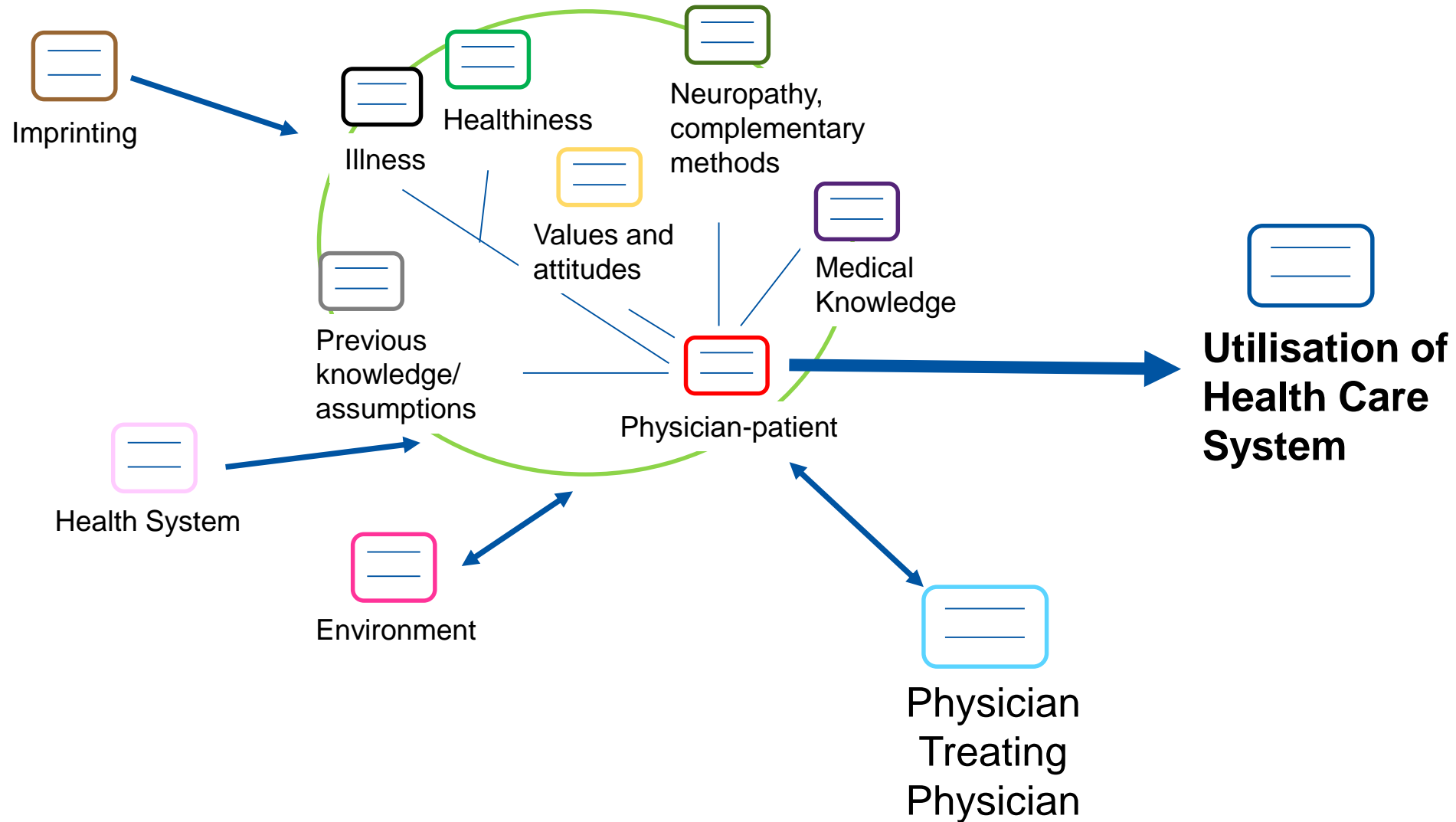
Code-Theory-Model



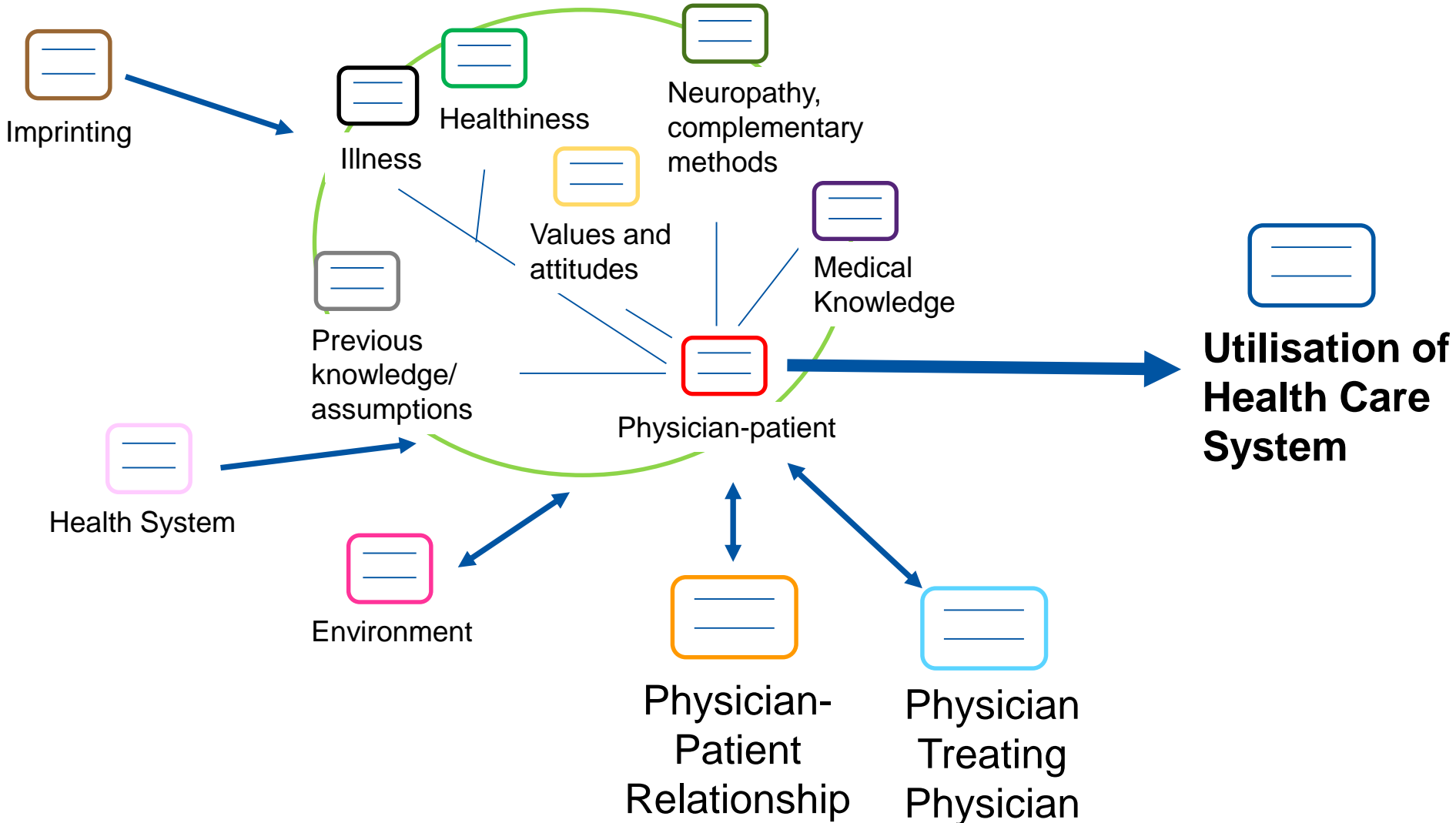
Code-Theory-Model



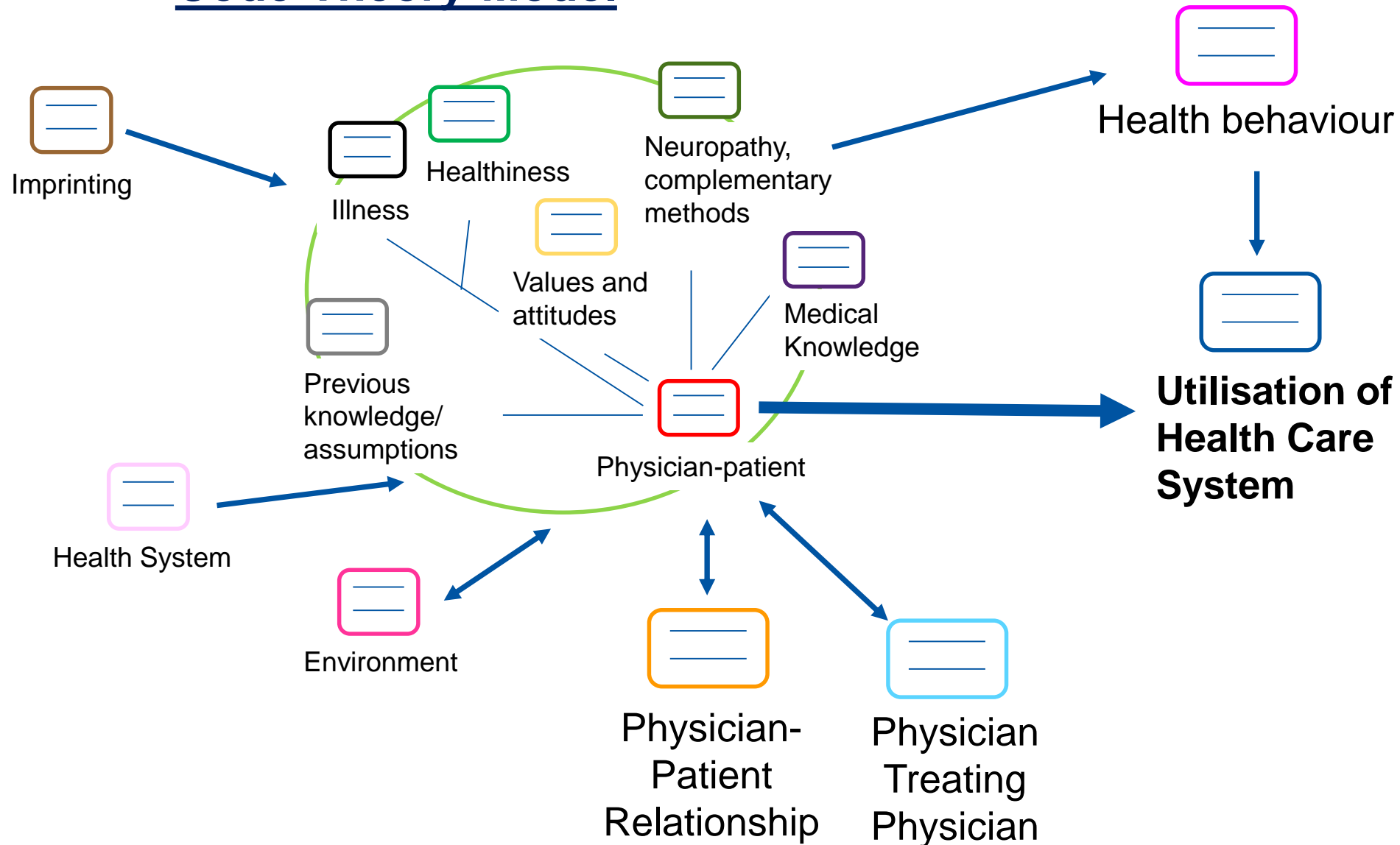
Code-Theory-Model



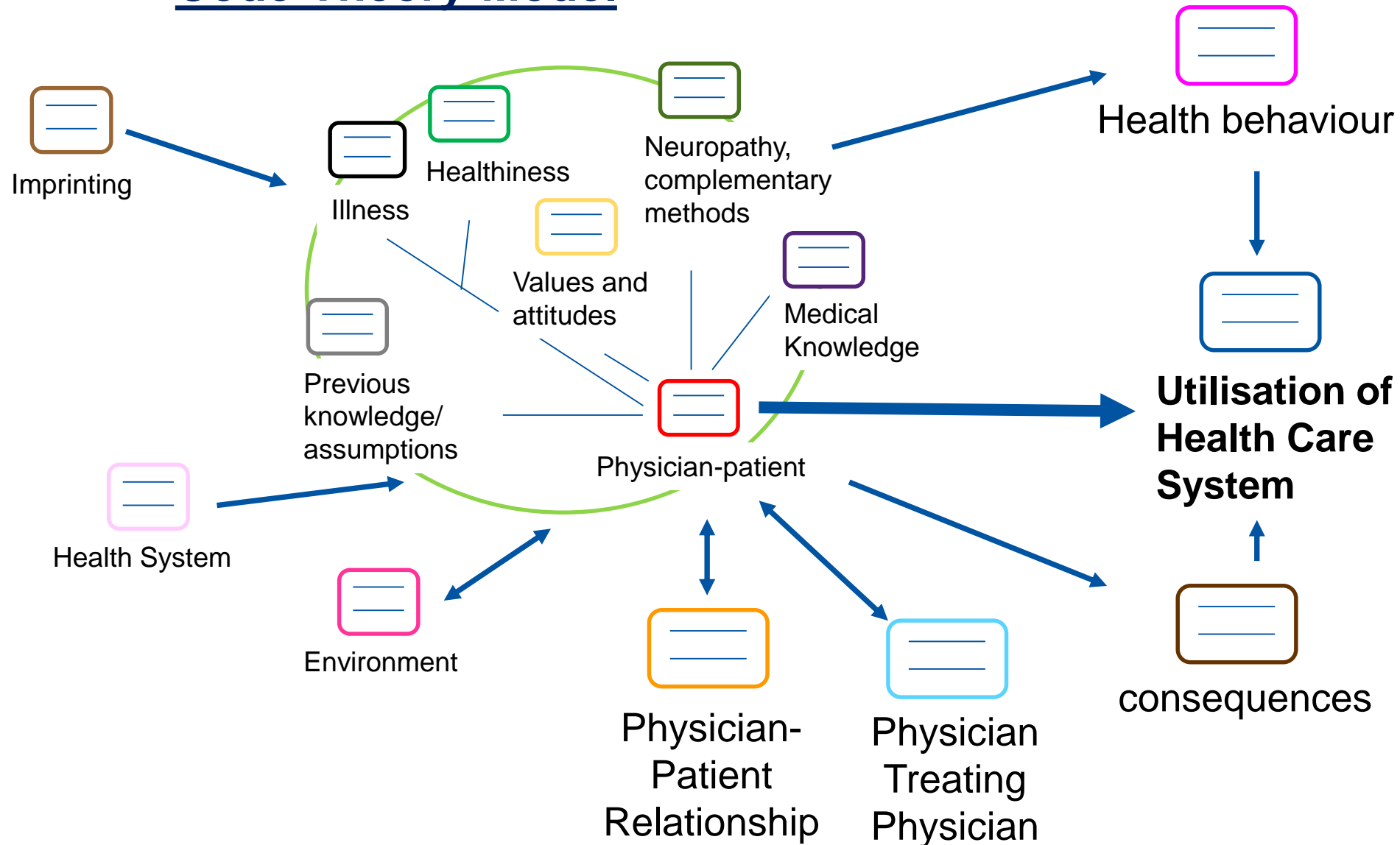
Code-Theory-Model



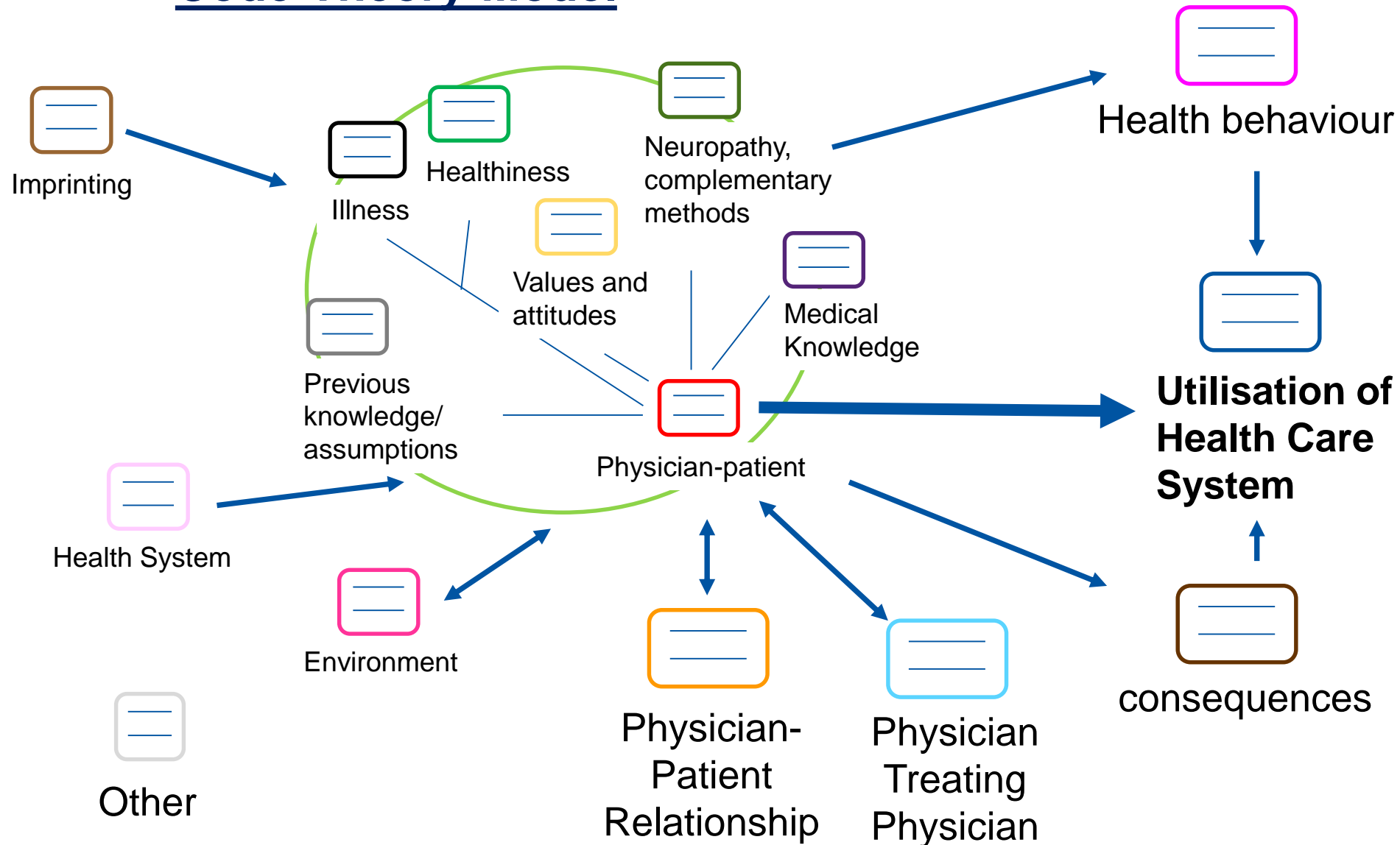
Code-Theory-Model



Code-Theory-Model



Code-Theory-Model



In-depth analysis of the code health care utilisation

Code	Beneficial for Health care utilisation	Obstructive for Health care utilisation
Medical Knowledge	❖ Raised need for clarification	

*„There I thought: „Now you might have cancer.“
(I.11, A.113)*



In-depth analysis of the code health care utilisation

Code	Beneficial for Health care utilisation	Obstructive for Health care utilisation
Medical Knowledge	❖ Raised need for clarification	❖ Fear of certain medical tests

”So there are medical tests that are painful and [...] that I wouldn’t let someone else do it on me.“ (I.09,A.23)



In-depth analysis of the code health care utilisation

Code	Beneficial for Health care utilisation	Obstructive for Health care utilisation
Values and attitudes	❖ Own health responsibility	

❖ „I think, one has a certain responsibility towards himself and if not towards himself then towards his family.“ (I.13, A.300)



In-depth analysis of the code health care utilisation

Code	Beneficial for Health care utilisation	Obstructive for Health care utilisation
Values and attitudes	❖ Own health responsibility	❖ Very high work ethic

„I anyway go to work ever!“ (I.01, A.325)

- Complex spectrum of factors influencing health care utilisation of German GP's
- Most factors are in line with known barriers



- We found no distinct obstructive or beneficial factors but beneficial and obstructive aspects of these factors
- A deeper analysis of these factors and aspects seems worthy



- Some factors are normal part of the health care seeking process for all people
- Some factors (knowledge, imprinting,...) may be of particular relevance for physicians



Participating researchers

F. Hecker, doctoral candidate; Institute of General Practice, Jena

PD Dr. Ulf Sauerbrey, research associate; Institute of General Practice, Jena

Dr. S. Schulz, research associate; Institute of General Practice, Jena

The study was funded by the Thuringian Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians.

