

INTRODUCTION



Clinical Neuropsychology at the Neurosciences Centre, AIIMS in New Delhi, India, provides para-clinical services following the terminology outlined by the Sneh Bhargava Commission (2012). This specialized service encompasses a comprehensive range of neuropsychological services, including psycho-diagnostics (which involves clinical history taking, psychometric assessment, and clinical observation), remediation (involving counseling and rehabilitation), and neuropsychological disability evaluations. These services address both cognitive and non-cognitive aspects for individuals with neurological and neurosurgical conditions. Established in 1969 with the appointment of Dr. Surya Gupta, this discipline has played a significant role in advancing clinical neuropsychology in the country, aiming to deliver services in line with international standards for the benefit of patients at the Neurosciences Centre at AIIMS.

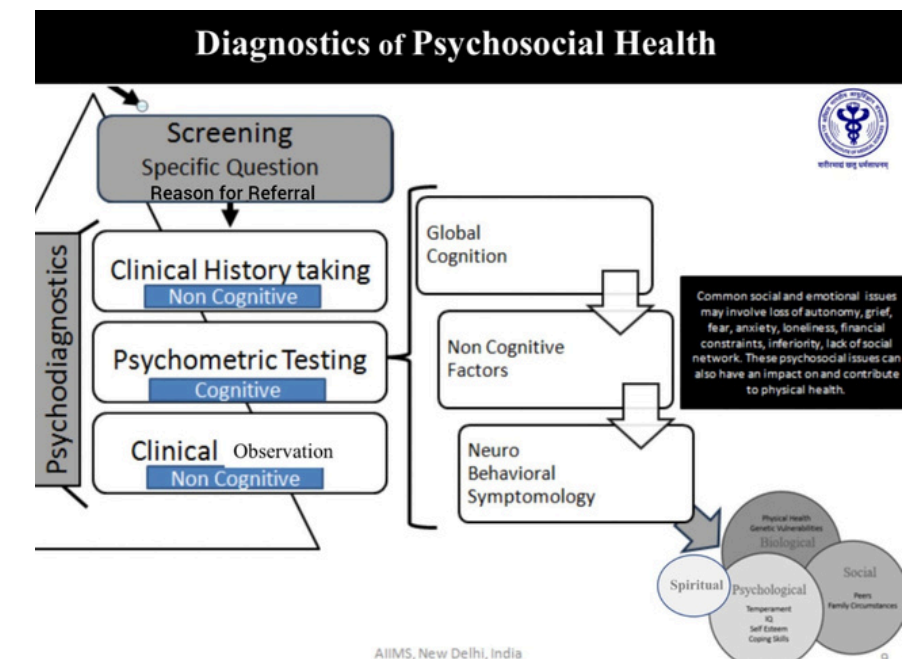
Furthermore, the discipline has been enriched through clinical neuropsychological educational programs in neuropsychology for M.B.B.S., Nursing, DM (Neurology), MCh (Neurosurgery), and MD (Psychiatry) students. Presently, it also supervises research projects for postgraduate students from these departments, focusing on neuropsychological psychometric assessments. The creation of distinctive neuropsychological test batteries, such as the 'AIIMS Neuropsychological Battery,' represents a significant achievement in assessing organicity, lateralization, and lobar functions across various age groups, including Adults, Children, and the Elderly. These efforts have been supported by three research projects funded by the ICMR.

Since 2005, our research and clinical services have expanded to include the development of neuropsychological screening tools for clinicians to use in their practices, history taking forms, tests, and a variety of neuropsychological rehabilitation programs for neurological and neurosurgical conditions. Committed to enhancing patient care, we provide advanced Neuropsychological services tailored to individuals with neurological disorders. By closely collaborating with clinicians at AIIMS, New Delhi, who act as primary healthcare providers in a hospital setting, we adhere to the World Health Organization's Continuum of Care Model to address the specific needs that prompt referrals.

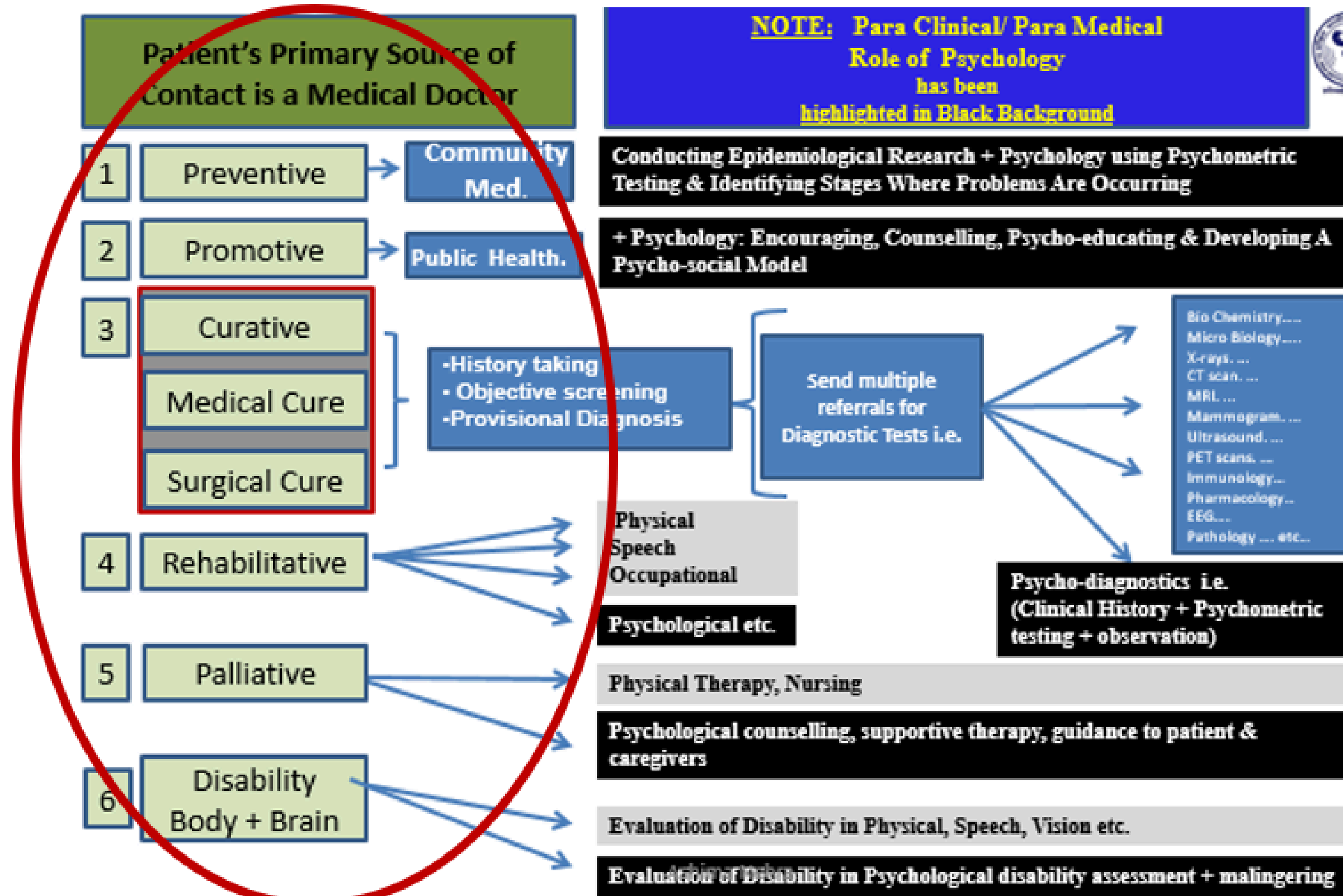
BACKGROUND

Neuropsychology is the study of mind-health which examines how the brain's structure and function are connected to particular psychological processes & behaviors. We provide referral based patient-focused care for individuals who may be experiencing issues from brain injuries or related conditions.

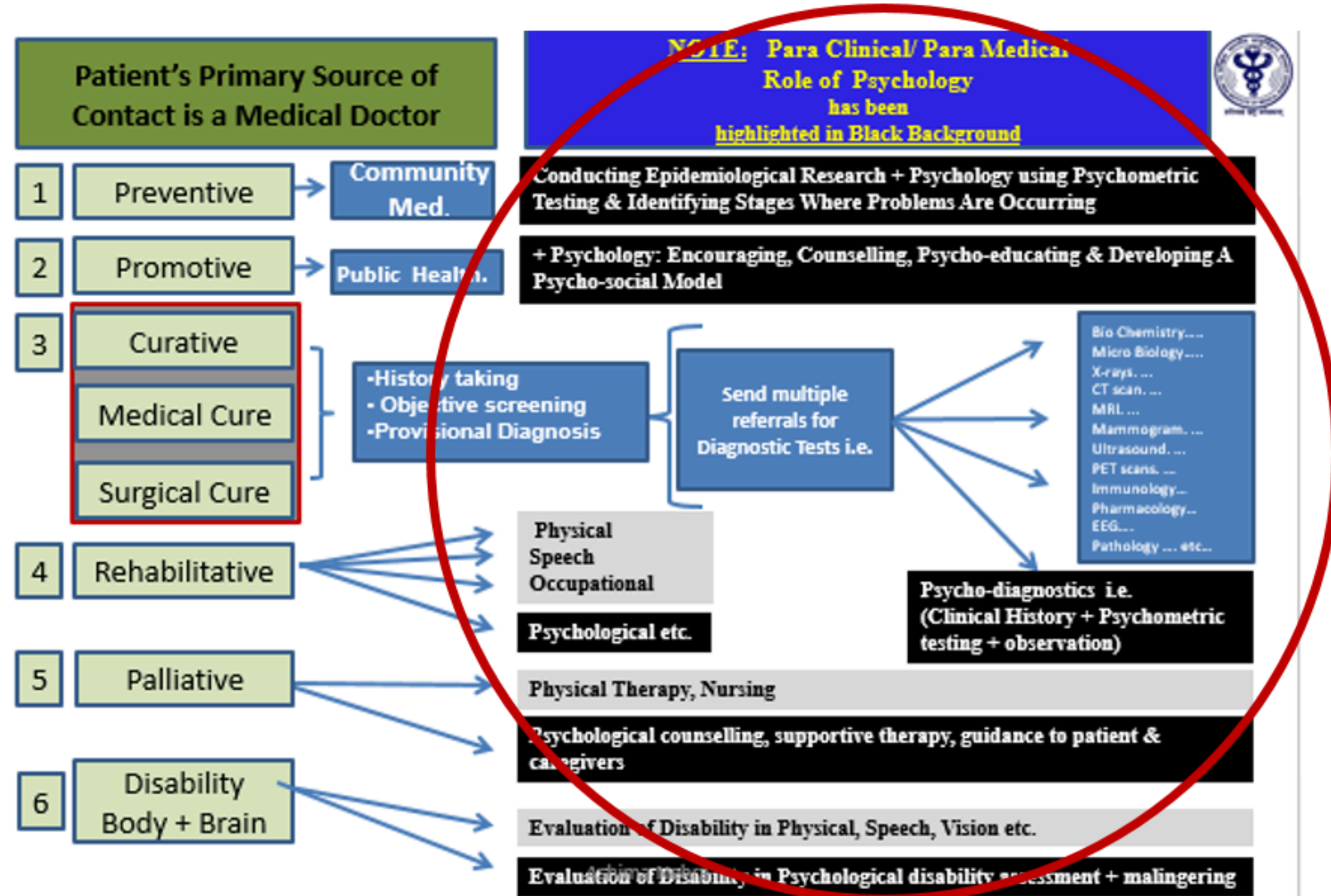
Our neuropsychological services follow a structured three-part approach that complies with internationally recognized standards for neuropsychological services related to neurological conditions. This comprehensive approach comprises psycho-diagnostics, which involves assessing clinical history, conducting psychometric testing, and clinical observation; remediation, which includes counseling and rehabilitation; and neuropsychological disability evaluation, with a particular emphasis on detecting malingering. Beyond evaluating cognitive domains such as memory, intelligence, executive functioning, and language, our services encompass non-cognitive factors like motivation to ensure holistic care. Our methodology integrates scientifically validated techniques, incorporating psychological elements through interviews, behavioral assessments, neurocognitive tests, interpretation, and detailed report creation. This tailored approach aims to address specific concerns identified by clinicians or medical professionals based on their initial diagnosis.



W.H.O. CONTINUUM OF CARE / CoC MODEL OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES



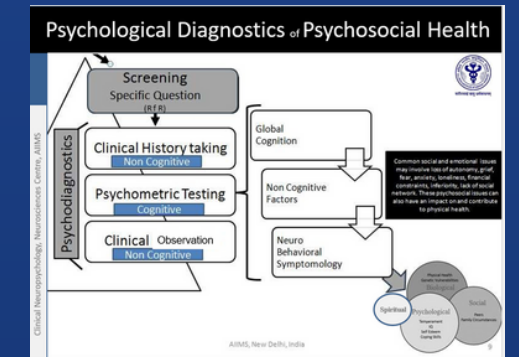
W.H.O. CONTINUUM OF CARE / CoC MODEL OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES



POSSIBLE 'REASONS for REFERRAL' (R f R) to ELICIT OBJECTIVE SERVICES BASED on 'PROVISIONAL DIAGNOSIS'

Aligned with the World Health Organization's Continuum of Care, within a hospital environment, the primary point of contact is typically a Medical Doctor. This professional conducts an initial assessment of the patient along with screenings, establishes a preliminary diagnosis, and initiates treatment. Should the Medical Doctor deem it necessary, they may refer the patient for Psychological Support Services while also arranging for additional necessary care. In instances where a patient is directed to Psychological Support Services, it is imperative to provide a specific "Reason for Referral" by them. Presented below are some indicative reasons for which patients may be referred to ensure the provision of optimal services in accordance with established best practices along with the provisional/preliminary diagnosis made by them.

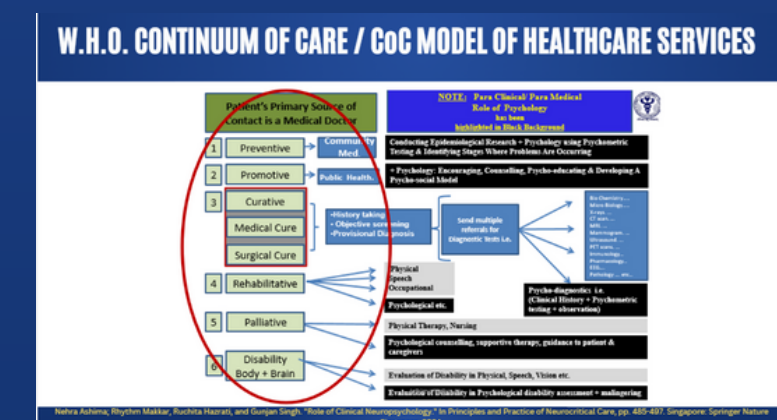
1. Getting information in order to help with medication selection to reduce side effects or improve cognition
2. Monitor the course & outcome of treatment
3. Predict cognitive decline even before structural changes are seen
4. Predict patient's return to normalcy
5. Clarification of Diagnosis & Degree of Cognitive Impairment
6. To establish a 'baseline' of skills/weaknesses in order to measure change in future.
7. Share information with the clinicians in deciding neurosurgical strategies (especially before elective surgeries) to maintain quality of life/ status quo
8. To differentiate among illnesses, which can then direct appropriate treatment.
9. Identifying strengths & weaknesses in specific areas.
10. Share information to plan treatment: use strengths to compensate for weaknesses.





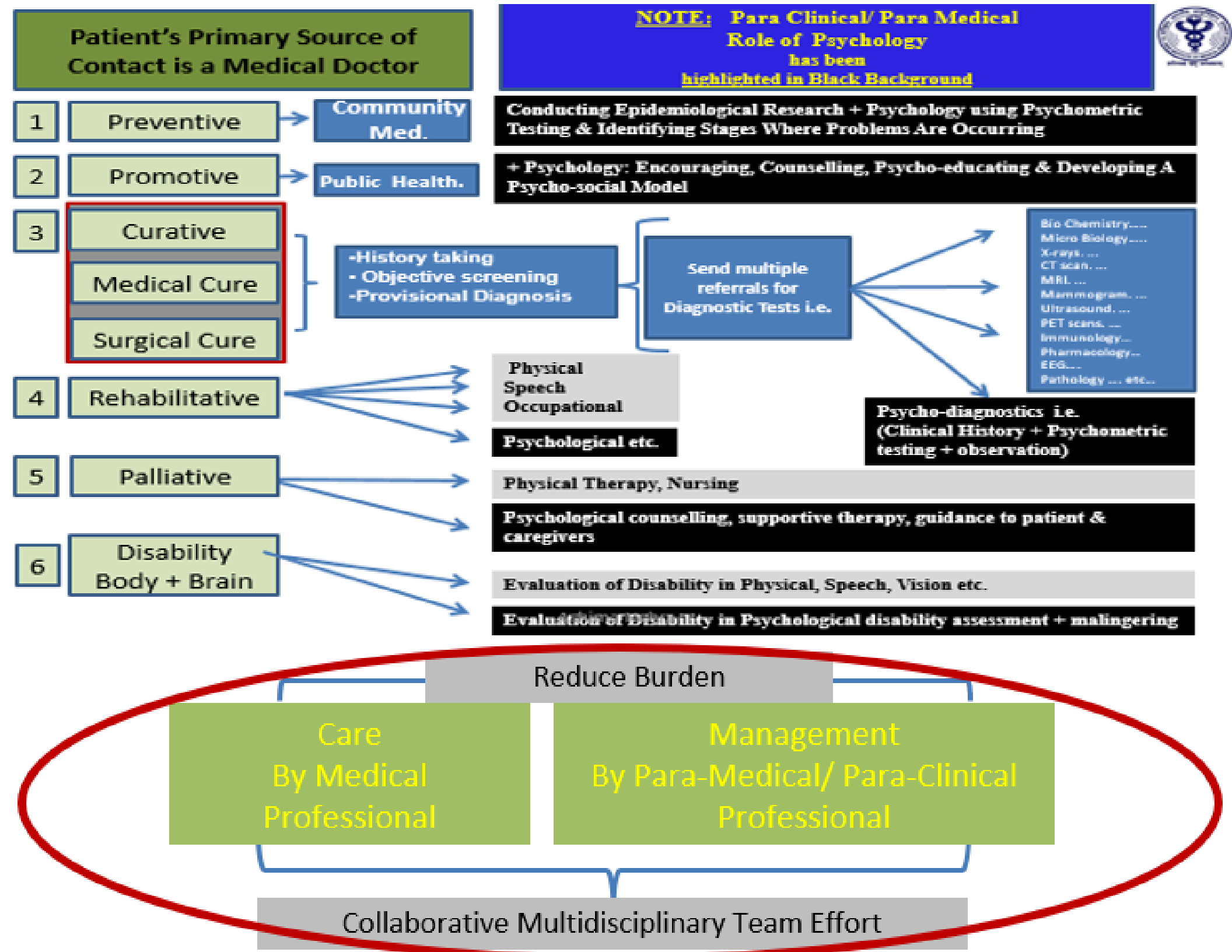
POSSIBLE 'REASONS for REFERRAL' (R f R) to ELICIT OBJECTIVE SERVICES BASED on 'PROVISIONAL DIAGNOSIS'

11. Establishing A Baseline For Making Comparisons Or Changes In Cognitive Status
12. Share information with the clinicians in deciding neurosurgical strategies (especially before elective surgeries) to maintain quality of life/ status quo
13. Know Cognitive Status For Vocational & Educational, Or Litigation Proceedings
14. Establishes a baseline so that changes in thinking skills, mood & personality can be monitored over time to provide better treatment
15. Help the patient & family make decisions about work and other responsibilities
- 16 .Educate family members about how the brain disorder has affected the patient's thinking skills & personality so they can better help & understand
17. Determine if a person's thinking skills, mood & personality have been affected by a neurological disorder.
18. Evaluation Of Severity Of Impairment
19. Plan A Specific & Targeted Cognitive Treatment Plan
20. Predicting Prognostic Outcomes
21. Used for devising/plan Psychological rehabilitation
22. Used in forensic psychology for certification purposes
23. Used for assessment of Malingering
24. Assessing extent and nature of cognitive dysfunction for planning cognitive training.
25. Planning home based training for the patient and counseling for the family etc.



* To Answer the 'Reason for Referral' Patients may be sent for Neuropsychological Psycho-diagnostics

W.H.O. CONTINUUM OF CARE / CoC MODEL OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES



VISION AND MISSION

Our vision is to establish AIIMS as a beacon of excellence in the Psychological Health (para-clinical) service of in neuropsychological care, enhancing patient service, pioneering breakthroughs in brain health and cognitive well-being.

Our mission at CNP is to chart new frontiers in brain science by seamlessly blending excellence in UG and PG teaching with advanced research and innovation. We are committed to delivering exceptional patient care services that are both compassionate and personalized, while actively engaging in community services to foster broader mental health awareness and support. By integrating these elements, we strive to advance the position of AIIMS in neuropsychology, enhance cognitive and emotional well-being of all patients, and shape the future of brain health care in coherence with mind health.

These innovations will reinforce AIIMS's position as a leader in healthcare and contribute to the institute's ongoing pursuit of excellence.