

***“This could make your life a lot easier!”***

**People with ALS/MND and clinician perspectives of acceptance and use of assistive technology.**

**(Preliminary Results)**



Shanelle Barba (Dietitian), Anna Connolly (Occupational Therapist),  
Rebecca Lamont (Speech Pathologist) & April Tu (Physiotherapist)

*We have no interests requiring disclosure.*

**Northern Health**

# How many times have we thought.....?

If you get a feeding tube.....

If you get a communication device.....

If you get these technology devices.....

***“This could make your life a lot easier!”***

If you get these everyday devices.....

If you complete these home modifications.....

If you get these transfer/mobility devices.....

# Learning outcomes

Start thinking about

Clinicians:

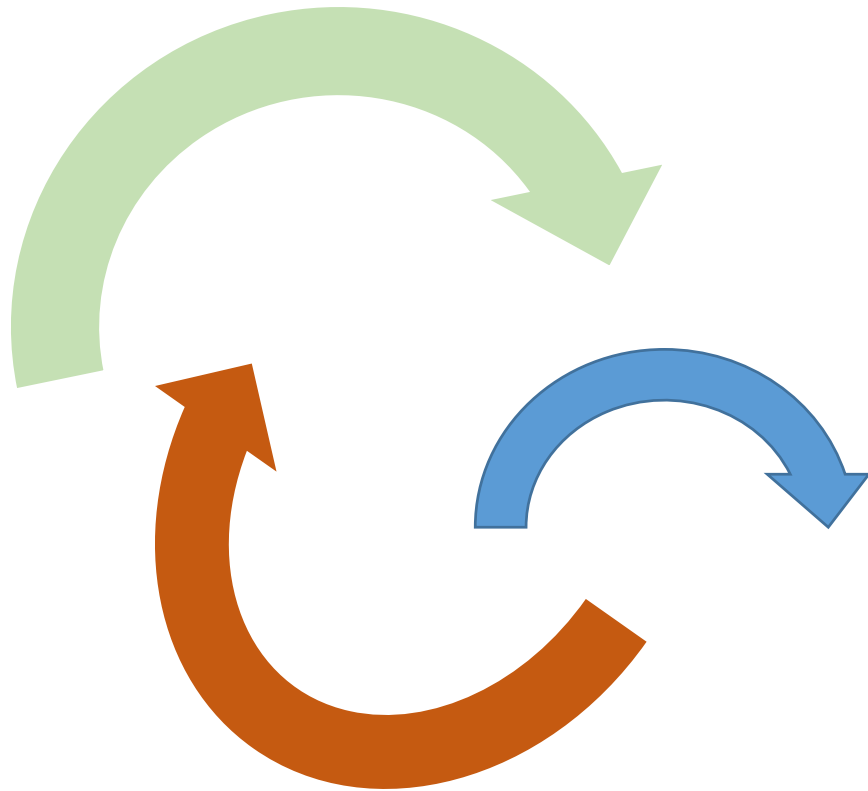
- Be mindful of your practice and approach
- Person-centred & timely discussions
- Understand the perspectives of pMND

pMND/carers/family:

- How you can work with your clinicians to achieve your goals

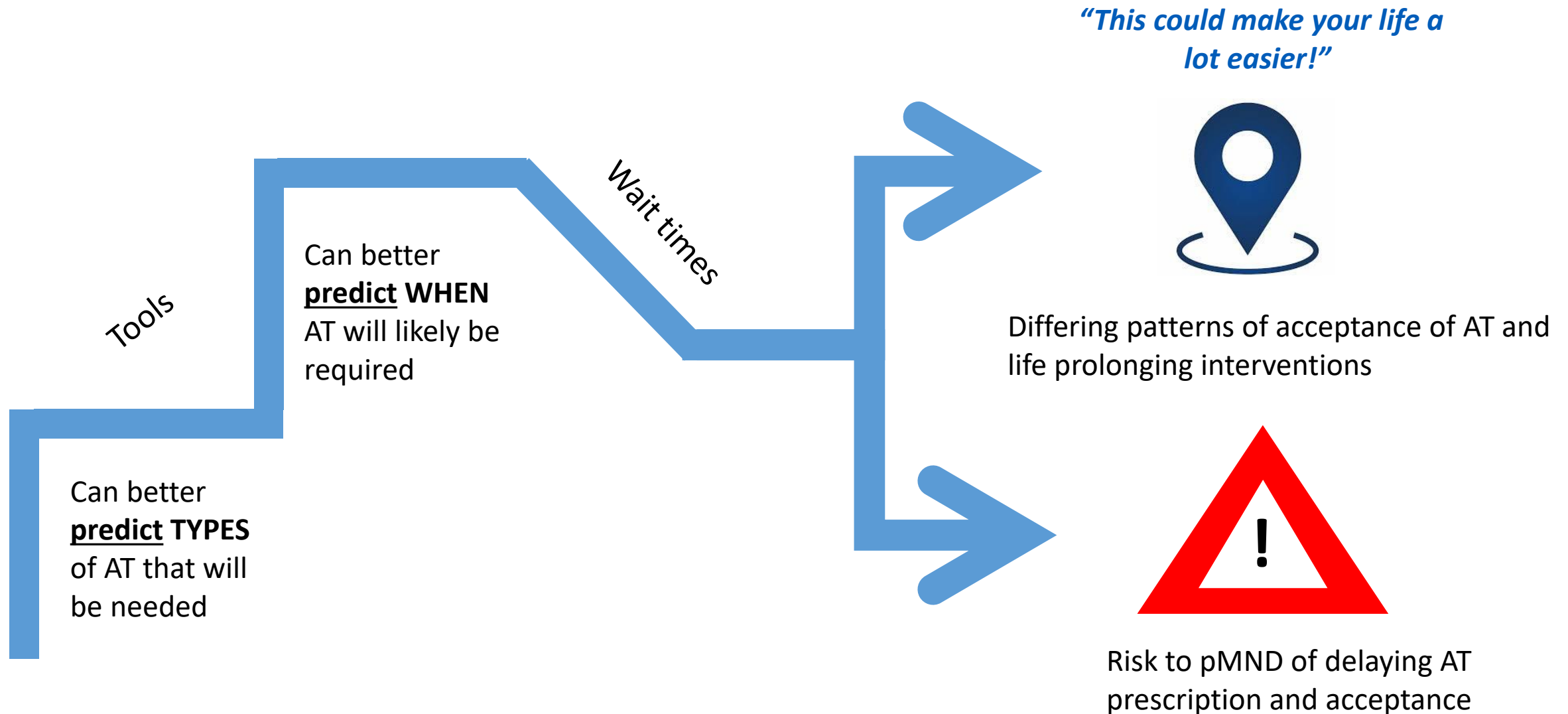


# Changing goals and needs

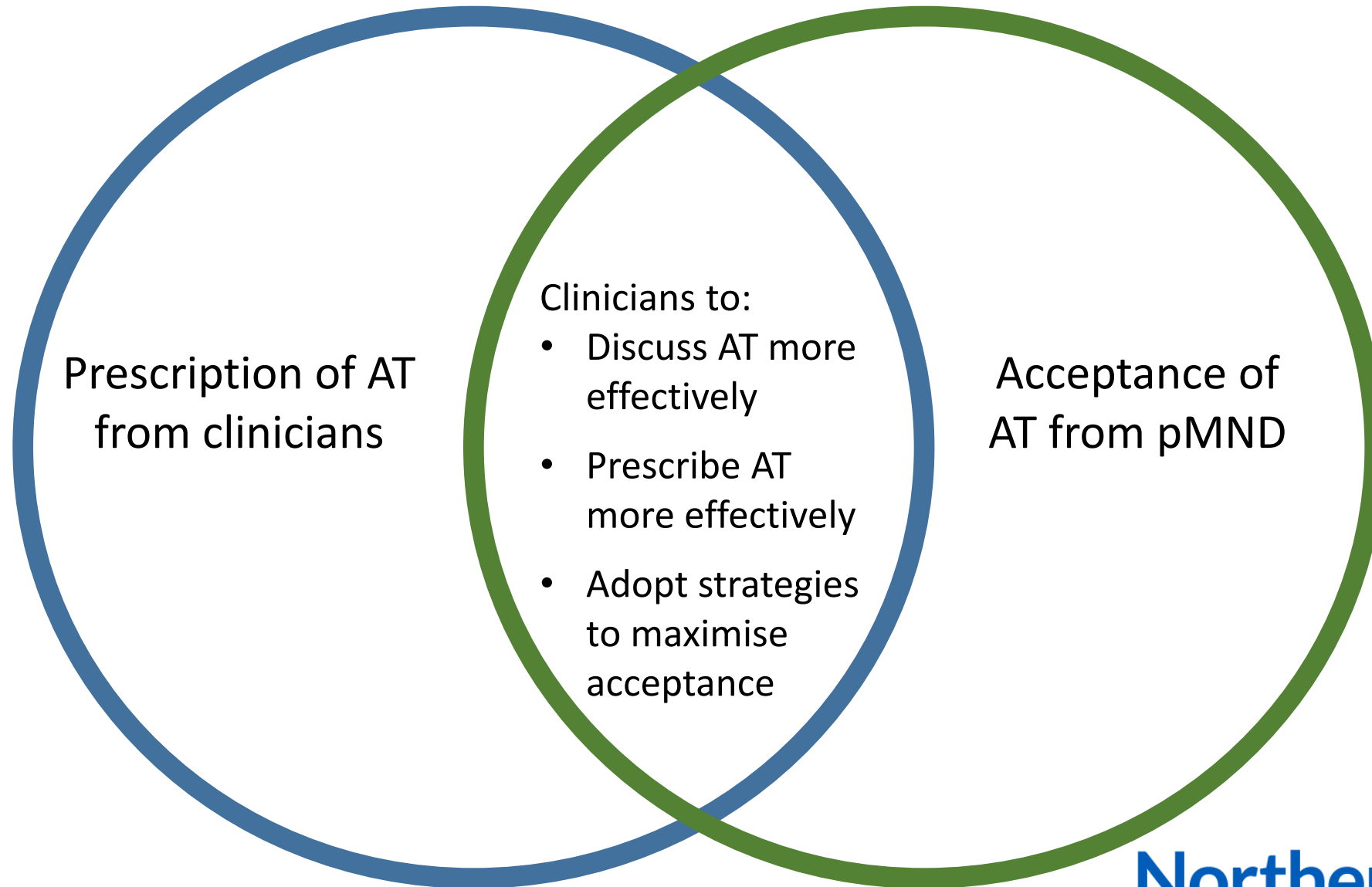


- The needs of people with MND (pMND) evolve and change as the disease progresses
- Clinicians need to be responsive and flexible to meet the goals of pMND

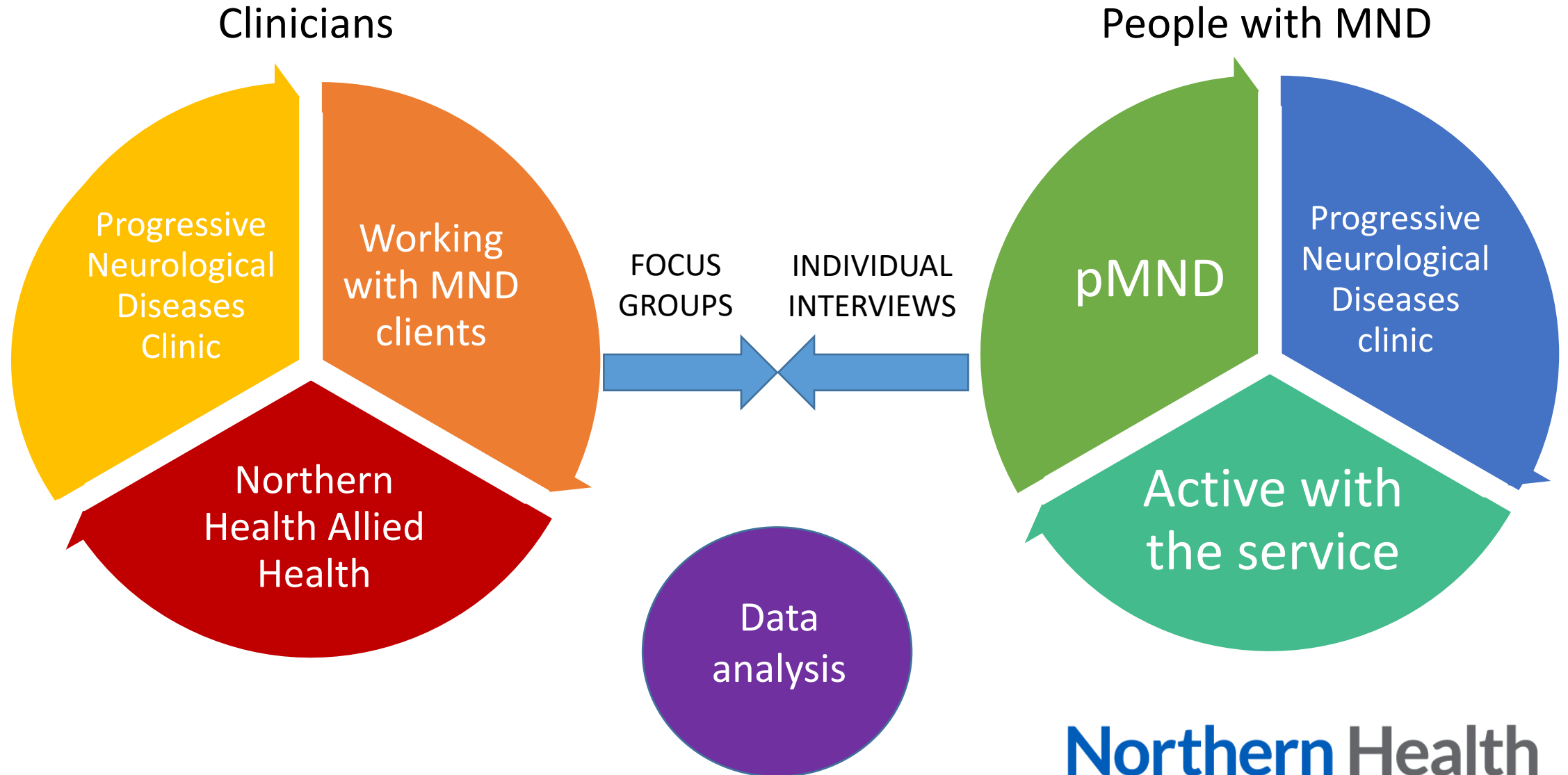
# Assistive technology prescription journey



# Aim/Objective



# Methodology

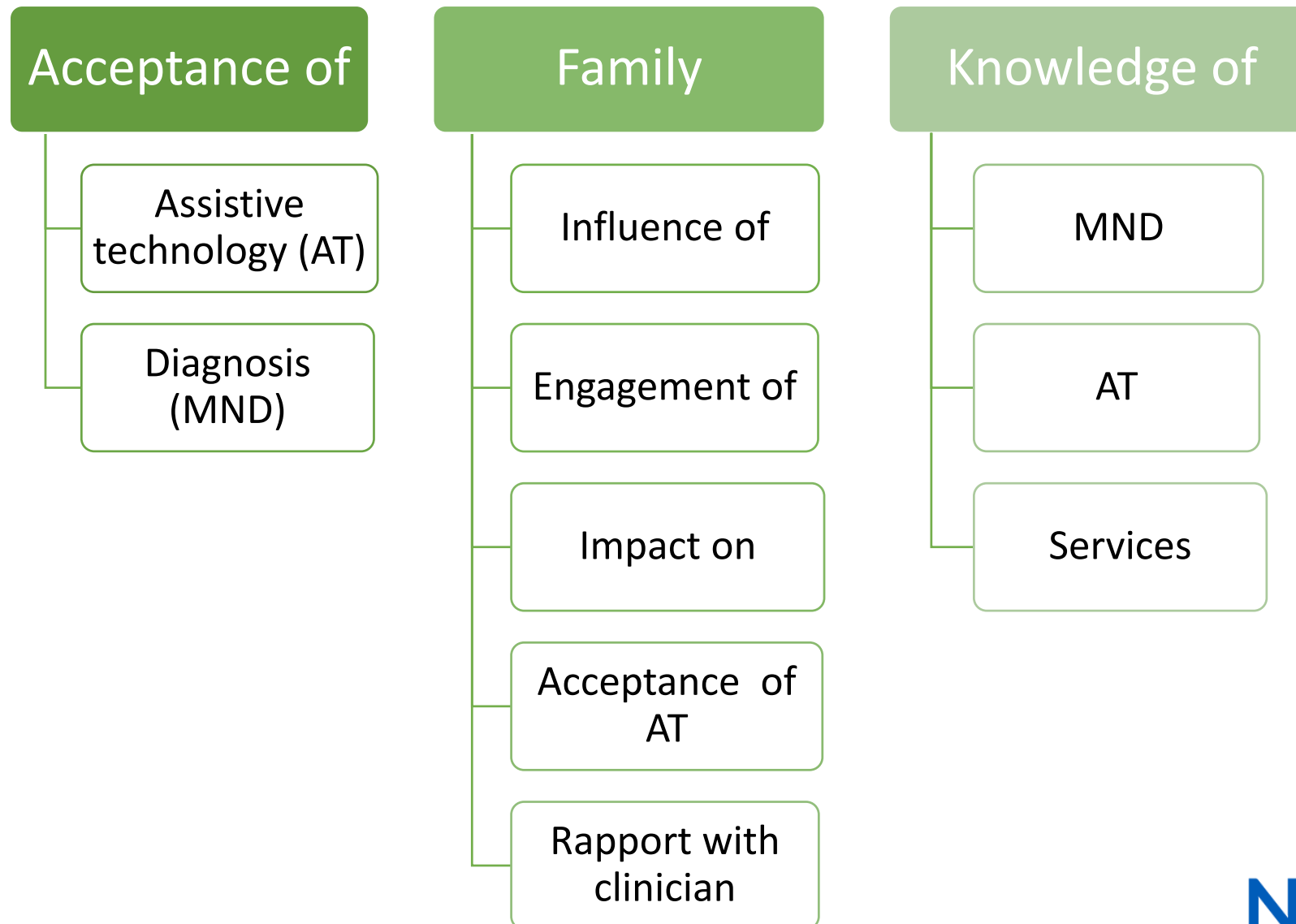


# Results – pMND Factors





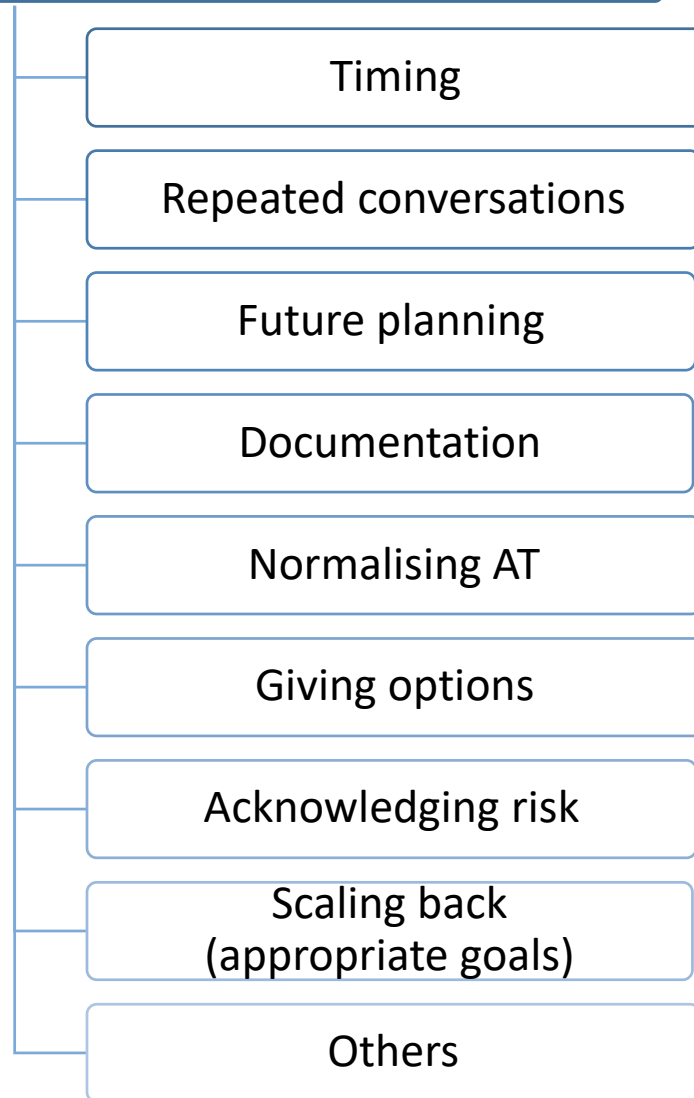
# pMND factors





# Clinician factors

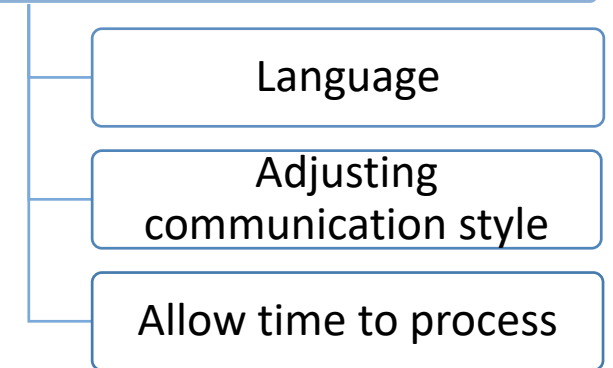
## Approach



## Person-centred care



## Communication



# Other factors



# Other factors

## Resources for AT

Accessibility to trial/demonstrate

Availability of info re: AT

Waitlist times

Funding

Equipment libraries

Meeting people with AT

Function of AT

## Multi-Agency

Multidisciplinary team

Knowledge of role and scope

MND Association Victoria

## Supports for clinicians

Emotional support

Professional development/upskilling

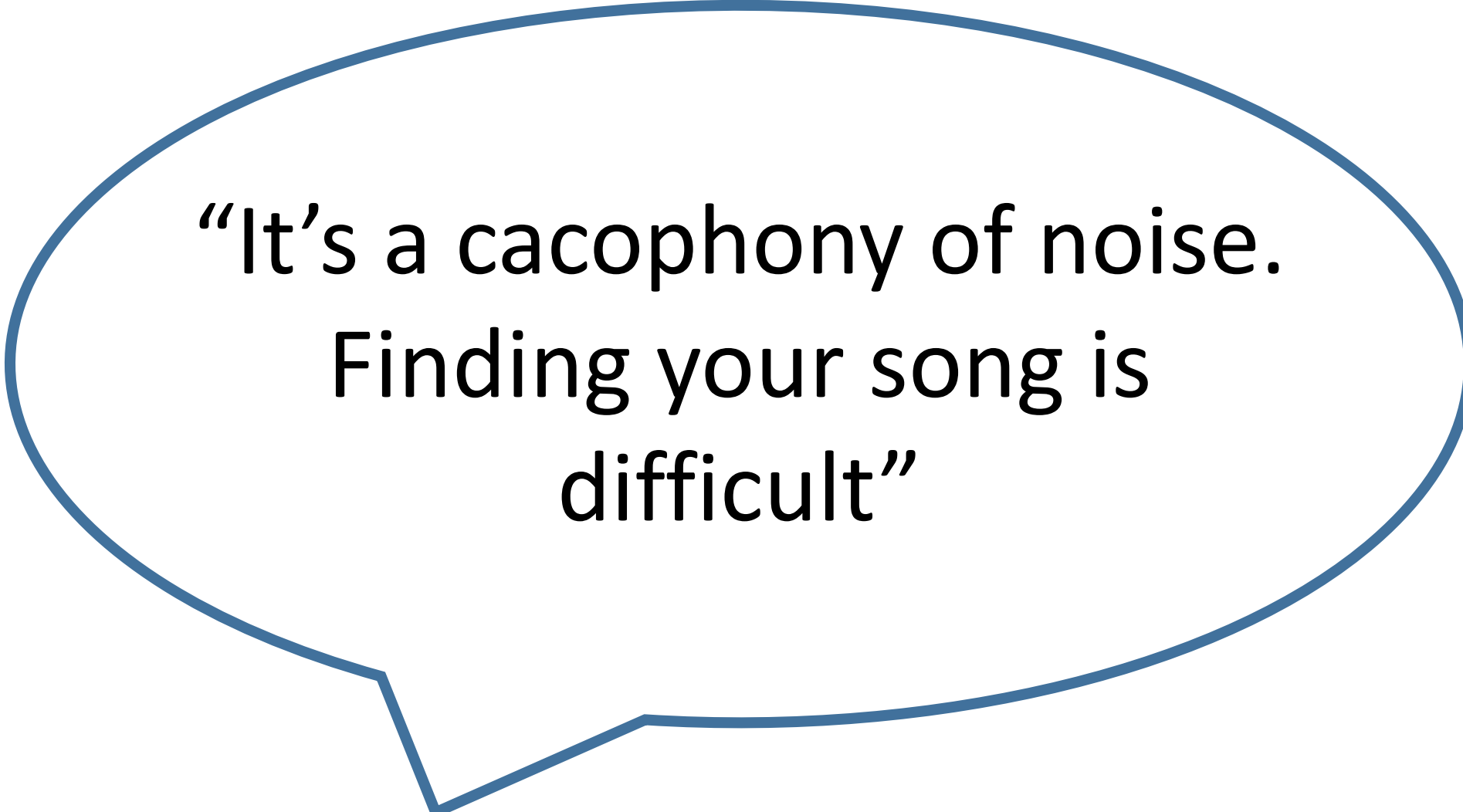
Team support

Self care

# What we have learnt so far.....

Many factors affect AT prescription and acceptance

- Some factors we can influence while others we can not
- Everyone's journey is different
- Adaptive in clinician approach & communication
- Start the discussions early
- Clinician to introduce AT in a range of ways
- Open discussions with each other
- Clinicians to upskill and contact other experienced agencies for support
- Emotional support



“It’s a cacophony of noise.  
Finding your song is  
difficult”

# Contact details

- Anna Connolly (Occupational Therapist) [anna.connolly@nh.org.au](mailto:anna.connolly@nh.org.au)
- Shanelle Barba (Dietitian) [shanelle.barba@nh.org.au](mailto:shanelle.barba@nh.org.au)
- Rebecca Lamont (Speech Pathologist) [rebecca.lamont@nh.org.au](mailto:rebecca.lamont@nh.org.au)
- April Tu (Physiotherapist) [april.tu@nh.org.au](mailto:april.tu@nh.org.au)
- Northern Health Progressive Neurological Disease clinic
  - [Becc-ProgressiveNeurologicalClinic@nh.org.au](mailto:Becc-ProgressiveNeurologicalClinic@nh.org.au)
- Northern Health- Bundoora Centre
  - 1231 Plenty Rd, Bundoora VIC Australia 3083