

Reframing a Curative to Preventative Culture

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INTRODUCTION

Prevention is a part of public health which focuses on health promotion rather than the diagnosis and treatment of diseases (CDC, 2003).

Three cultures are relevant to health care: professional, personal, & political (Sage, 2016).

“More focus on the social and cultural determinants of health is an important shift within the healthcare sector that has long been dominated by a biomedical model of disease” (Martsolf & Hall, 2019, para. 7).

SIGNIFICANCE

- Of 25 such services reviewed by the National Commission on Prevention Priorities, 15 (e.x.: cervical cancer screening (all women) & hypertension screening (all adults) cost less than \$35,000 per quality of adjusted life year (Wolff, 2008).
- The service with the greatest net impact is tobacco screening with an estimated cost saving of \$5.6 billion dollars (Wolff, 2008).
- “From 2011 to 2017, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) spent an average of \$19.9 million dollars lobbying the federal government each year” (Morgan, 2018, para. 15).

POSITION STATEMENT

Politics has influenced the U.S. healthcare system and transforming from a curative to preventative culture could lower overall health costs and improve patient integration in their care plan.

SUPPORT FOR POSITION

“Pharmaceutical prices are higher in the United States than other countries; increases in prices for established drugs as well as new biological studies have renewed interest in government negotiating or controlling prices” (Sage, 2016, para 4).

Congress passed a bill to encourage drug companies to develop treatments for rare illnesses known as “orphan” diseases. Incentives such as generous tax credits, accelerated FDA regulatory reviews and temporary monopolies for their products were given (Morgan, 2018).

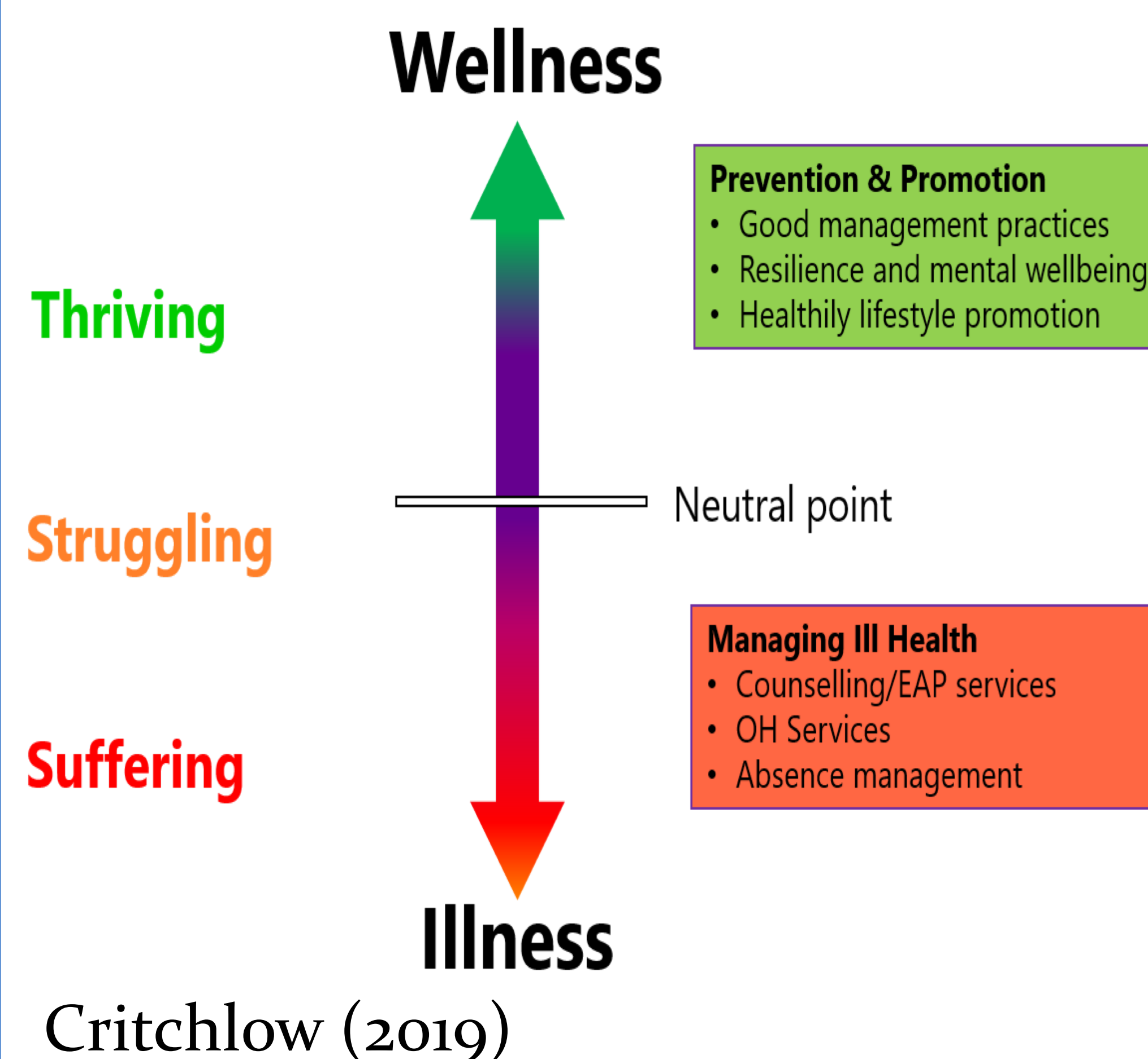
The prevention model focuses on prevention/wellness & the additional time & attention (ie, higher quality of care delivery) will lead to better health status, lower emergency room visits and hospital utilization, & ultimately lower healthcare expenditures (Musich, et. Al., 2016).

IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

Nurses focus on being advocates on behalf of patients and communities, nurses are especially well positioned to lead efforts to address the social and cultural determinants of health (Sage, 2016).

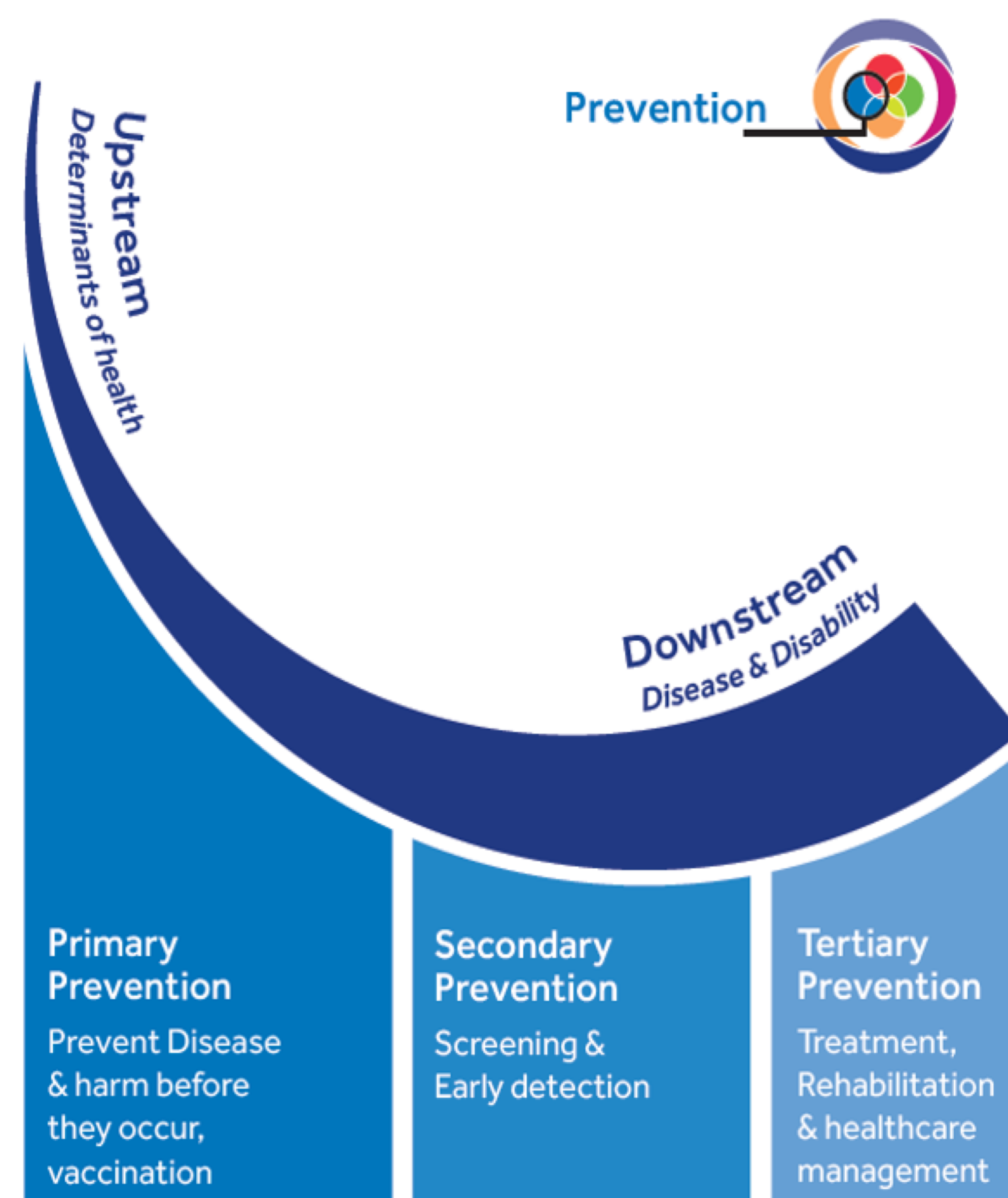
The growth of the nurse practitioner movement in the United States in the past 20 years has helped provide better and cheaper healthcare, which can be seen as a 'political statement' by nurses in the United States against high cost health care (Smith, 1990).

When nurses are successful in assessing and engaging patients, compliance improves, leading to better outcomes for the patient and the healthcare system (Mathces, et. Al, 2014).



CONCLUSION

Politics continues to influence the healthcare system and nurses can help improve patient integration with treatment and overall healthcare costs by advocating for more preventative measures to be practiced.



CommonWealth Health Hub (2016)

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