

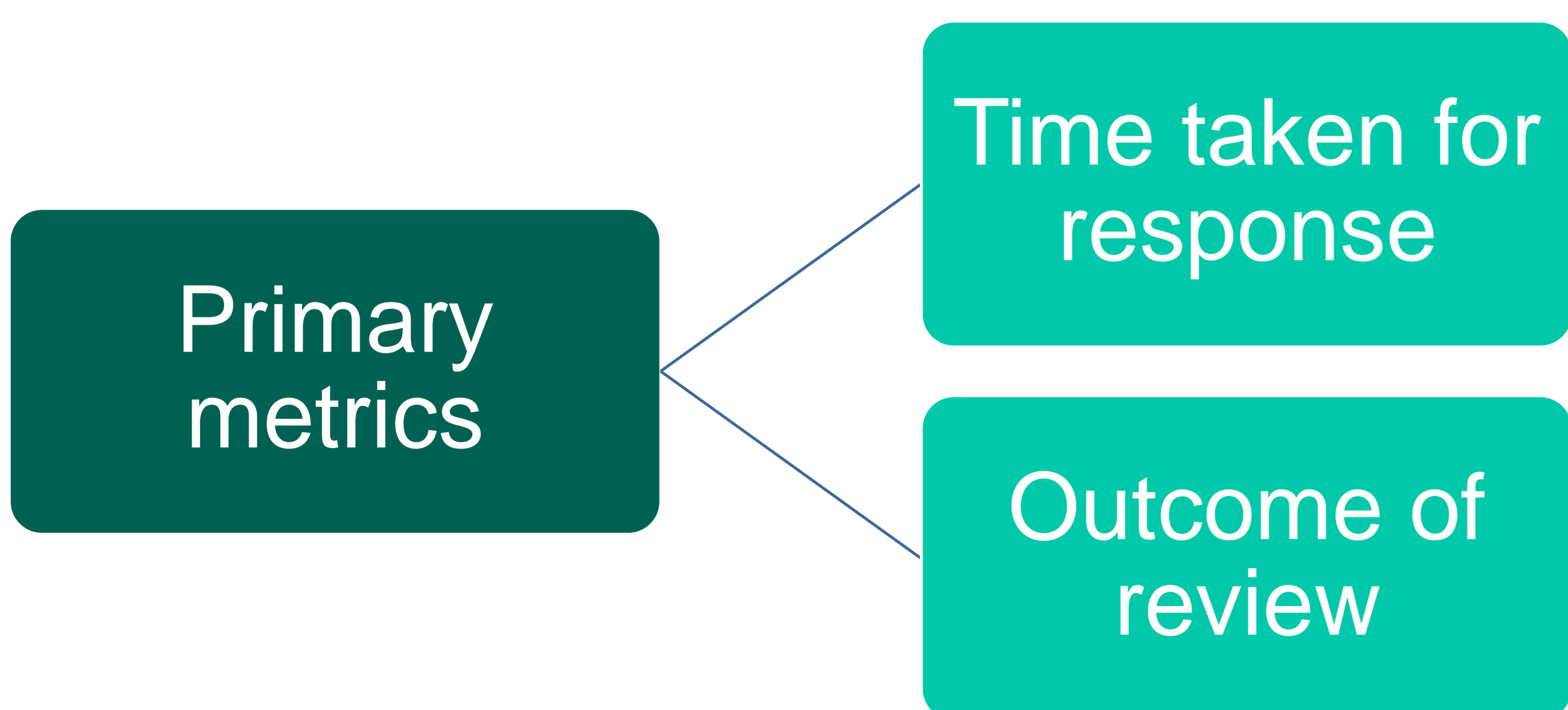
Virtual Email Consultation Service for Cardiology Queries: Enhancing Communication between General Practitioners and Cardiologists

There is a difficulty in ensuring GPs are fully supported in decision making with regards to cardiovascular disease, especially with increasing life expectancy and an increasing patient population at risk of developing cardiovascular disease.



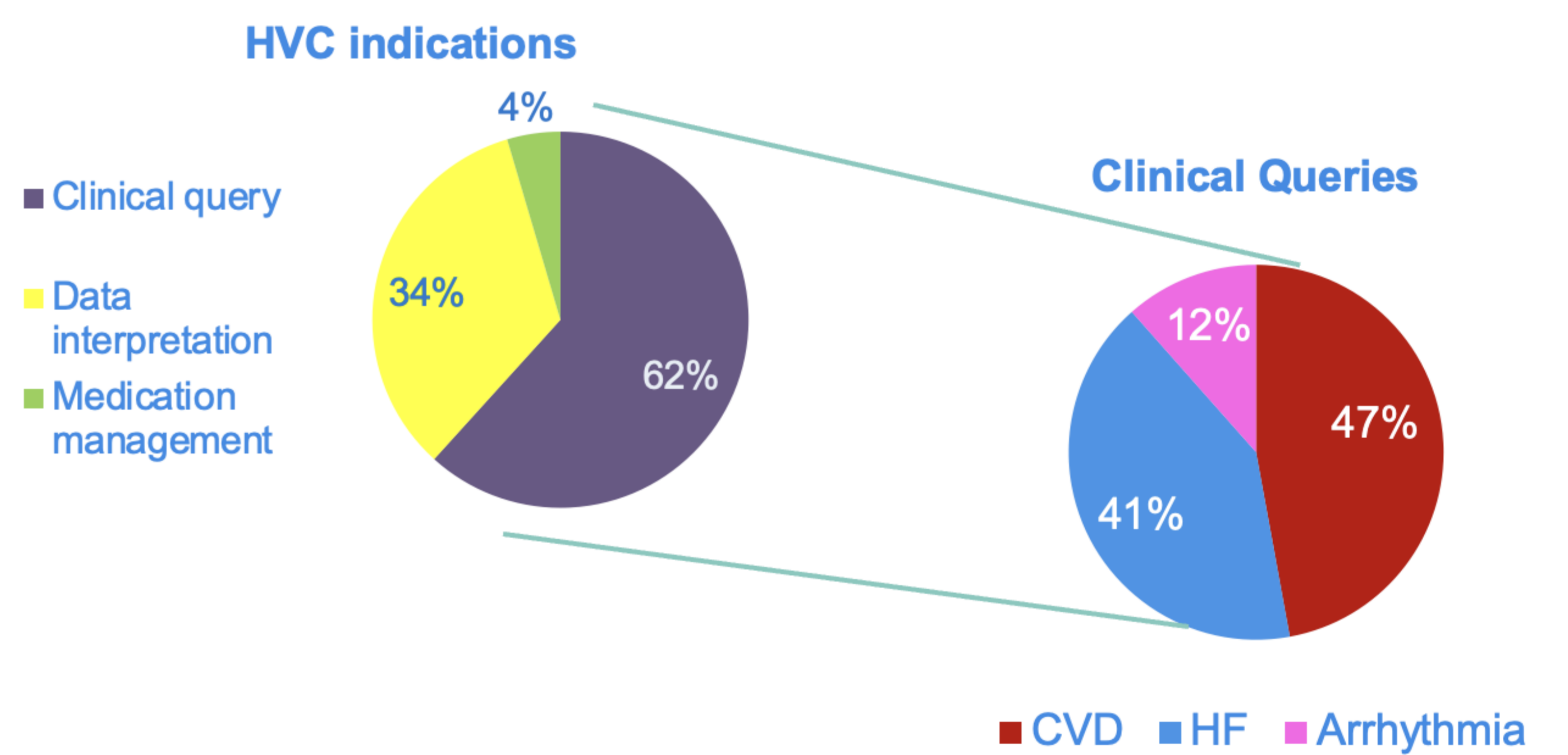
Some queries may be as straightforward as explaining the clinical significance of a particular finding on cardiac diagnostics, or interpreting an ECG.

We created a HealthLink referral pathway for rapid clinical queries which could be dealt with efficiently by a cardiac ANP in conjunction with a consultant cardiologist.



Referrals were triaged into:

- **Clinical query** (e.g. does this person with atrial fibrillation require cardioversion?)
- **Medication query** (e.g. does this person with atrial fibrillation require anticoagulation?)
- **Data interpretation** (e.g. does this ECG show atrial fibrillation?)



Results:

- Since March 2023, **175 referrals** were received
- Median response time of **1.5 days**
- **>50% of referrals dealt with without requiring further tests or review**

