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KEY POINTS

Question: How can we prepare healthcare systems in Africa to meet the growing geriatric challenge?

Results: Over 1/3 of hospital attendance is elderly; lack of geriatricians and support systems is prevalent.

Meaning: Urgent need for improved geriatric care in rural Africa.

Introduction

- ❖ **Rapid Increase:** 250% increase in older adults is projected in developing countries.
- ❖ **Ghana's Case:** The elderly population is expected to reach 14% by 2050 (900% increase since independence).
- ❖ **Critical Concern:** Readiness of African healthcare systems, particularly in rural areas

Objective: Assess the current state of geriatric healthcare services in rural Ghana.

Materials and Methods

Study Overview

Secondary Analysis of EMR

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Hospital
Ghana

Study Parameters

Timeline
2020-2022

Population
Adults aged 60+

Focus
Geriatric Healthcare
Services Assessment

Data Analysis Approach

Electronic Medical
Records Review

Quantitative Analysis

Medical Records Processing

Qualitative Assessment

Infrastructure Healthcare Delivery Service Quality

Fig. 1 – Study methodology and flow of research

Strategic Recommendations

- ❖ **Policy Level:** Reform healthcare policies to prioritize geriatric care in community facilities
- ❖ **Capacity Building:** Invest in specialized training for healthcare professionals
- ❖ **Infrastructure:** Develop age-friendly healthcare facilities and support systems
- ❖ **Preventive Care:** Implement targeted health programs for the elderly population

Results

Key Findings Dashboard: Geriatric Healthcare in Rural Ghana

Hospital Attendance

33%+

of general hospital visits
by patients aged 60+

Top Medical Categories

- Rheumatism & Joint Pain
- Cardiovascular Conditions
- Respiratory Illnesses

52% of total aged admissions

Critical Gaps

- No specialized geriatricians
- Inadequate support systems
- Reactive rather than preventive care

Strategic Recommendations

- Policy reforms for geriatric care
- Specialized training investment
- Age-friendly infrastructure
- Preventive health programs

Fig. 2 – Key findings

Elderly Hospital Utilization (33%+)

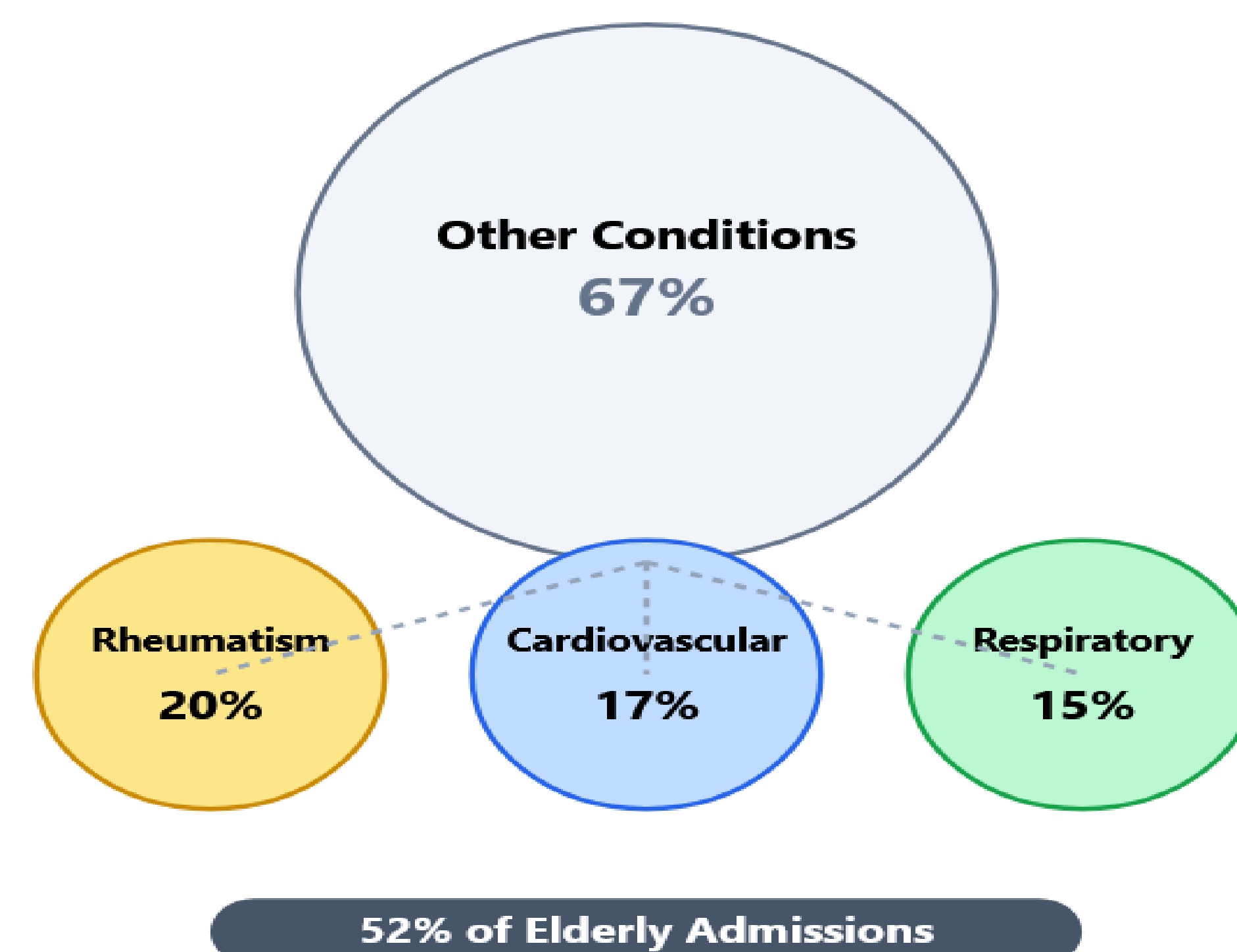


Fig. 3 – Elderly Hospital Utilization Mapping

African Geriatric Healthcare Model

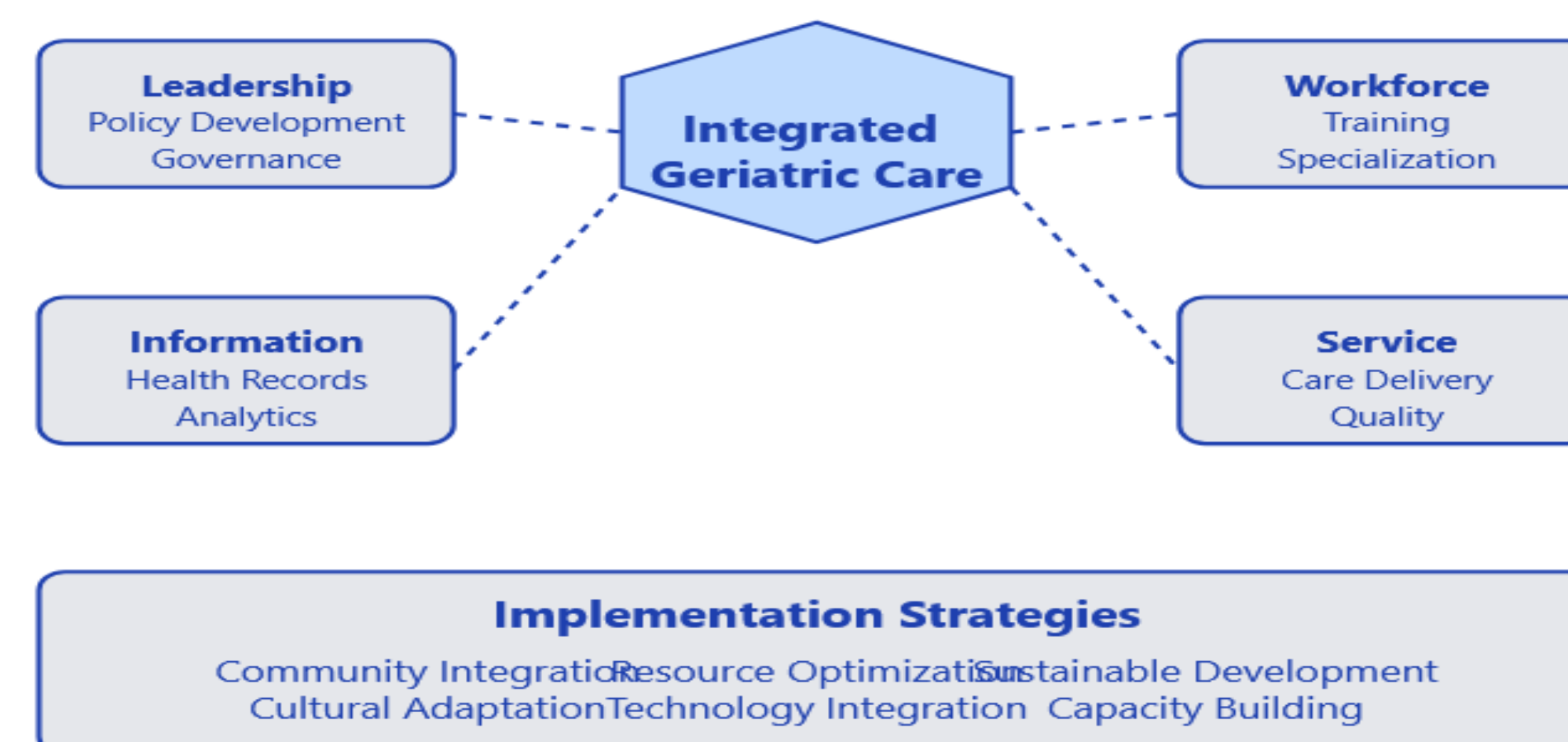


Fig. 4 – A model to support geriatric healthcare in Ghana

Implications & Call to Action

- ❖ **Model for Africa:** This framework can serve as a model for other African countries.
- ❖ **Improved Outcomes:** Contribute to better health outcomes and quality of life.
- ❖ **Global Relevance:** Global ageing trends necessitate addressing geriatric care challenges in diverse contexts.
- ❖ **SDG Alignment:** Supports the 2030 agenda principle of "leaving no one behind."

