

**TOWARDS A UNIFIED UNDERSTANDING OF eHEALTH AND RELATED TERMS – PROPOSAL OF A CONSOLIDATED TERMINOLOGICAL BASIS**

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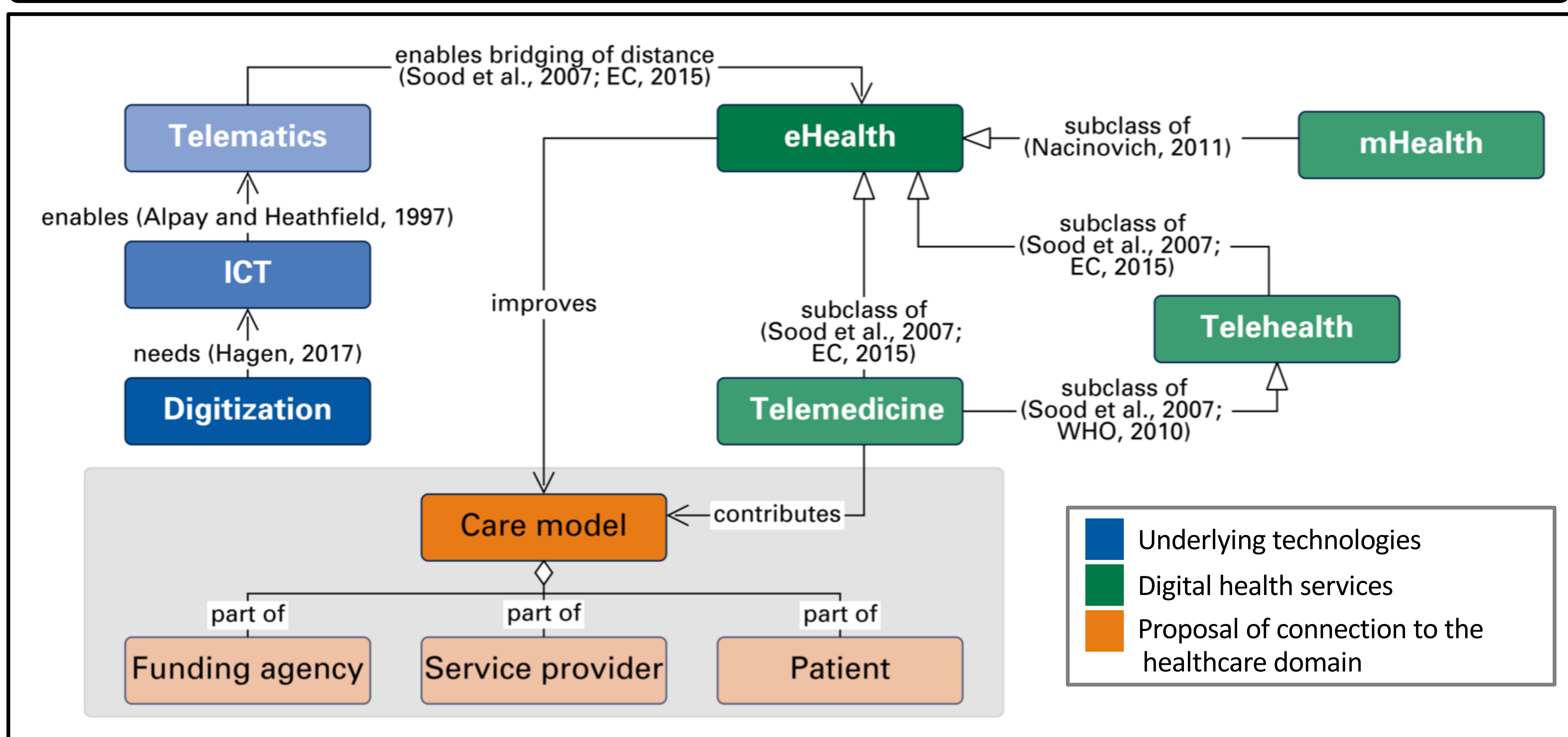
**Background: Potential of eHealth**

- (1) Increasing **digitization** in healthcare and rise of concepts like eHealth or telemedicine
- (2) **High potential** of eHealth and related concepts **to improve healthcare**
- (3) **Inconsistent use** of connected terms, resulting in deficient communication **impeding the adaption**

**Aim & Method: Reviewing Literature**

- Consolidated view** of terms and relations as an ontology to facilitate communication
- (1) **Literature study** to identify relevant definitions
- (2) **Introduction and explanation** of all terms to achieve a broad understanding
- (3) Derivation of **relations**

**Results: Terminological Ontology**



Terms and relations based on literature analysis and proposal on how to connect the healthcare domain to the terminology (grey box)

**Definition of Terms – Extract**

- eHealth** “tools and services [...] that can improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment, monitoring and management” (EC, 2015) with use of information and communication technology (ICT)
- Telehealth** healthcare services delivered over distance by all existing healthcare providers with use of ICT (WHO, 2010)
- Telemedicine** healthcare services delivered over distance by physicians with use of ICT (Sood et al., 2007)

**Delimitation of Terms – Extract**

Underlying technologies: **telematics** and **ICT**, affected by **digitization**  
**Distinction** of e-/mHealth, telehealth and telemedicine **with regard to their focus** on health or wellness/well-being

Delimitation	eHealth	mHealth	Telehealth	Telemedicine
Use of ICT	x	x	x	x
Across distances	(x)	x	x	x
Mobile	x	x	(x)	(x)
Health	x		x	x
Wellness/well-being	x	x	x	
Patient-centered	x	x		
Professional-centered	x		x	x

**Conclusion: Achieving a Better Understanding**

- Next steps: (1) **Connect** technological focussed ontology to **“real life”** (systematic review for terms), e.g. care models with related participants (see grey box in figure)  
 (2) Verify **possible extensions** of proposed ontology (systematic review for terms)

The presented work is intended to further **enhance discussion** and thereby **improve quality** of telemedicine research and innovation.

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