

A UK-focused analysis of how visions of health technologies influence publics' roles in the governance of these technologies

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Background

- Health technologies (HTs) and use of associated data have been framed as opportunities for democratising science and empowering patients.
- Several high-profile controversies related to HTs and data use have highlighted the importance of including publics in decision-making around their use.

Question

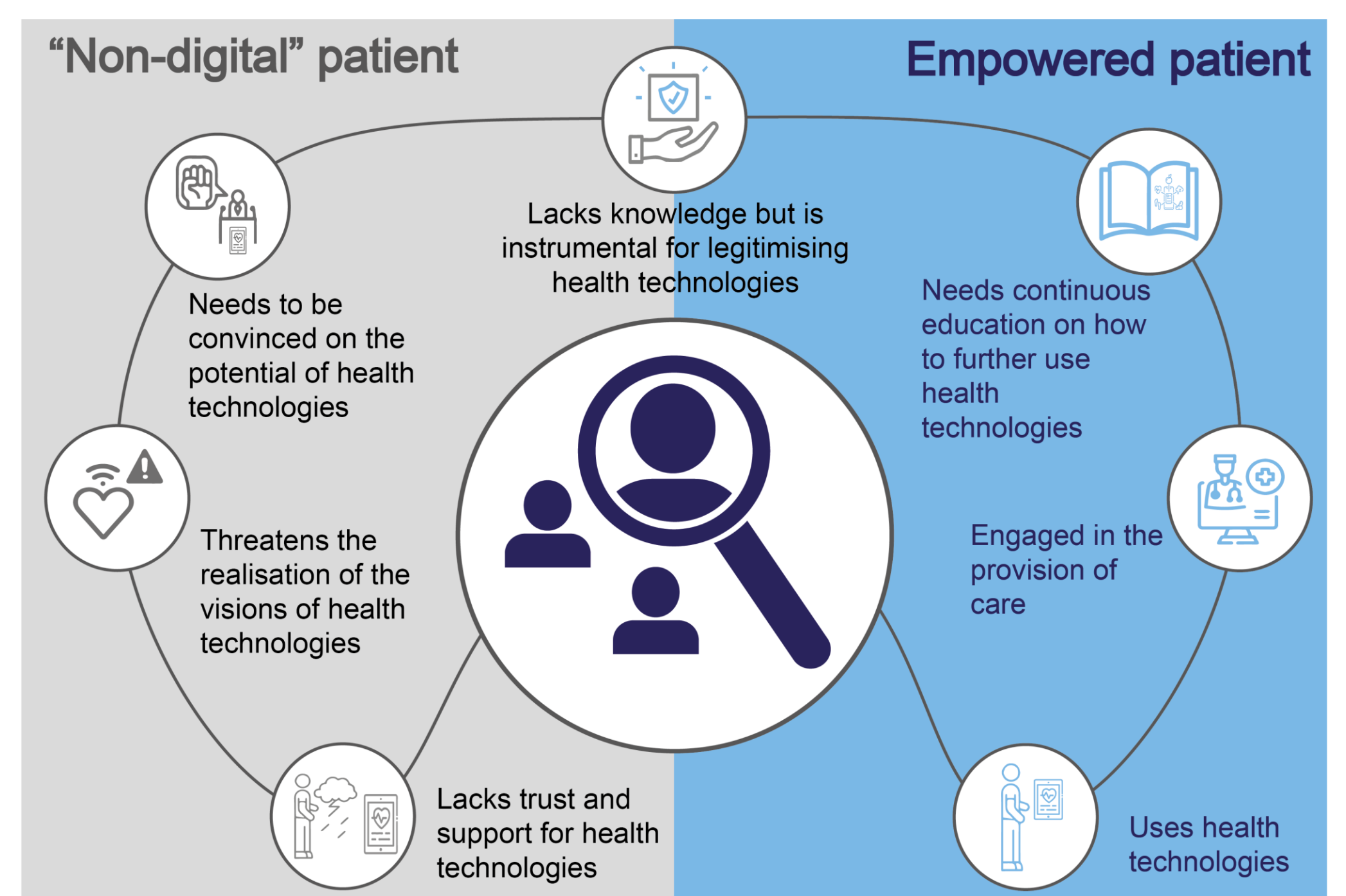
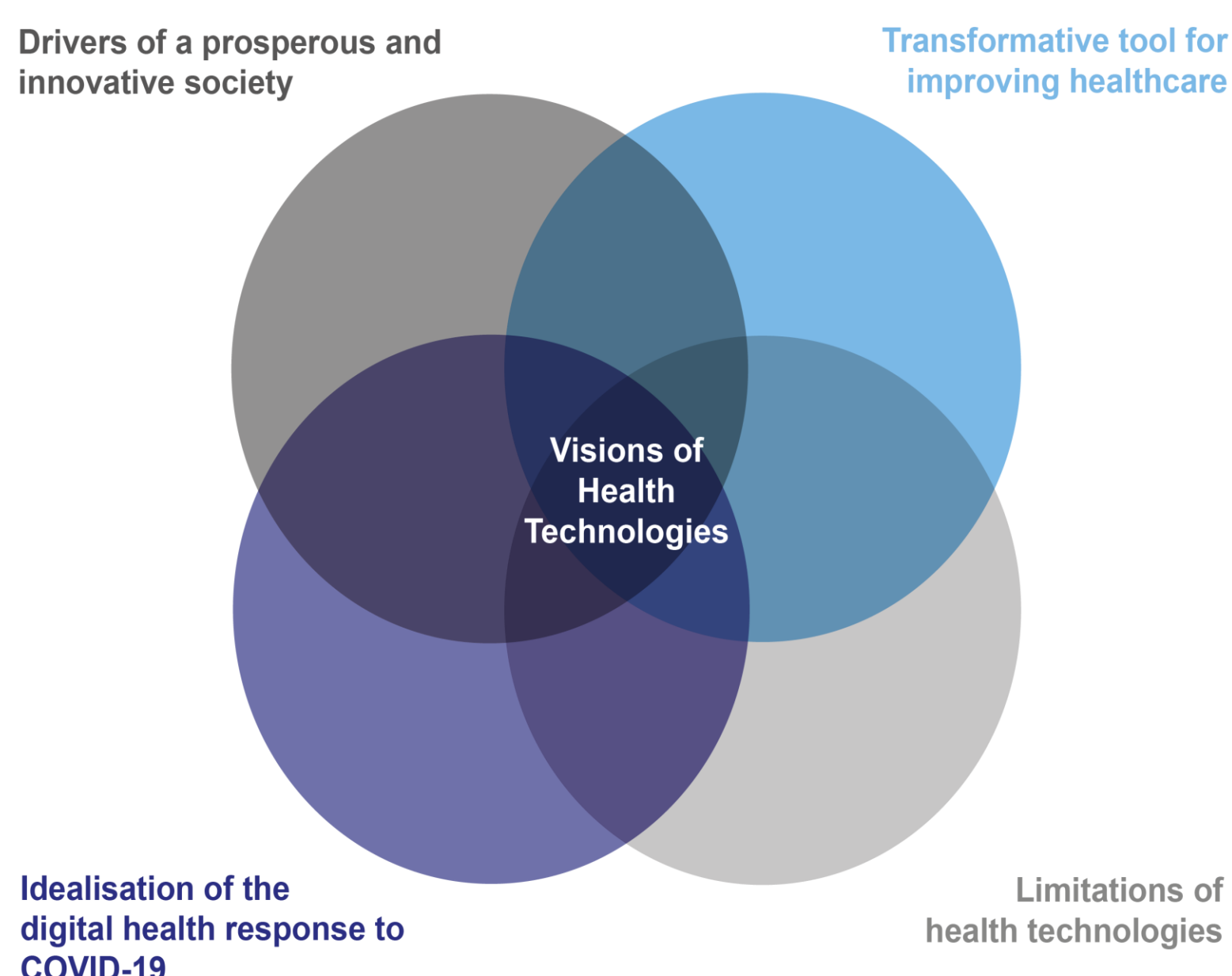
- How do visions of HTs influence the roles of publics in governance of these technologies?
- What are the implications for the adoption of participatory forms of governance of HTs?

Methods

- **Theoretical framework:** notion of sociotechnical imaginary (and related concepts).
- Review of grey literature related to HTs and health data issued by UK-based policy organisations
- Discourse analysis (manual and using NVivo)

Results

- Current visions of HTs build on different arguments.
- They simultaneously present publics as essential elements and threats to the realisation of visions of HTs.



Conclusion

- Different visions of HTs share a predisposition to present publics as lacking knowledge and as means to legitimise HTs.
- Governance approaches that build on dominant promissory visions of HTs may hinder meaningful and reflective engagement from taking place by narrowly perceiving publics as means of enhancing public trust and support.



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