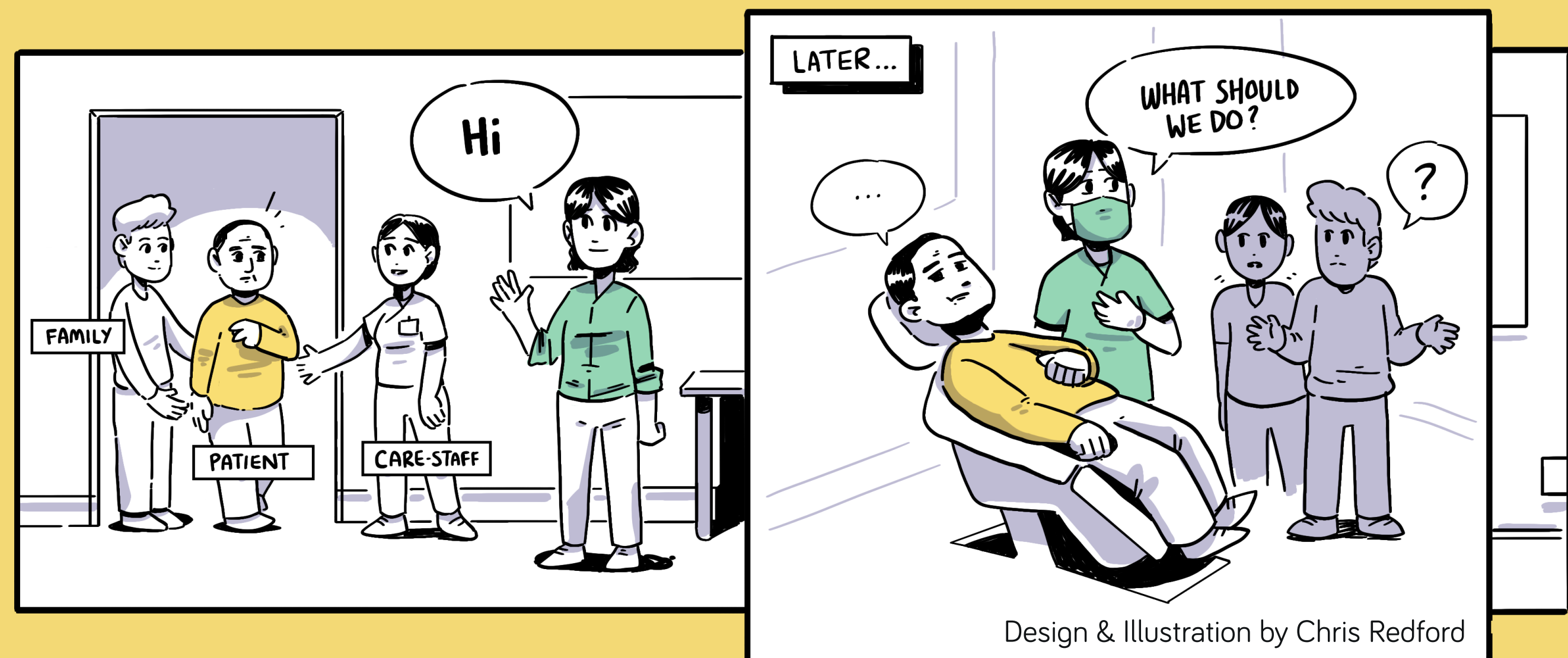


Dental care decision making can be complex for people living with dementia.

This research interviewed 8 people living with dementia and 17 carers to explore their experiences of dental care decision making. Here's what we found:



Dental care as an afterthought and low priority



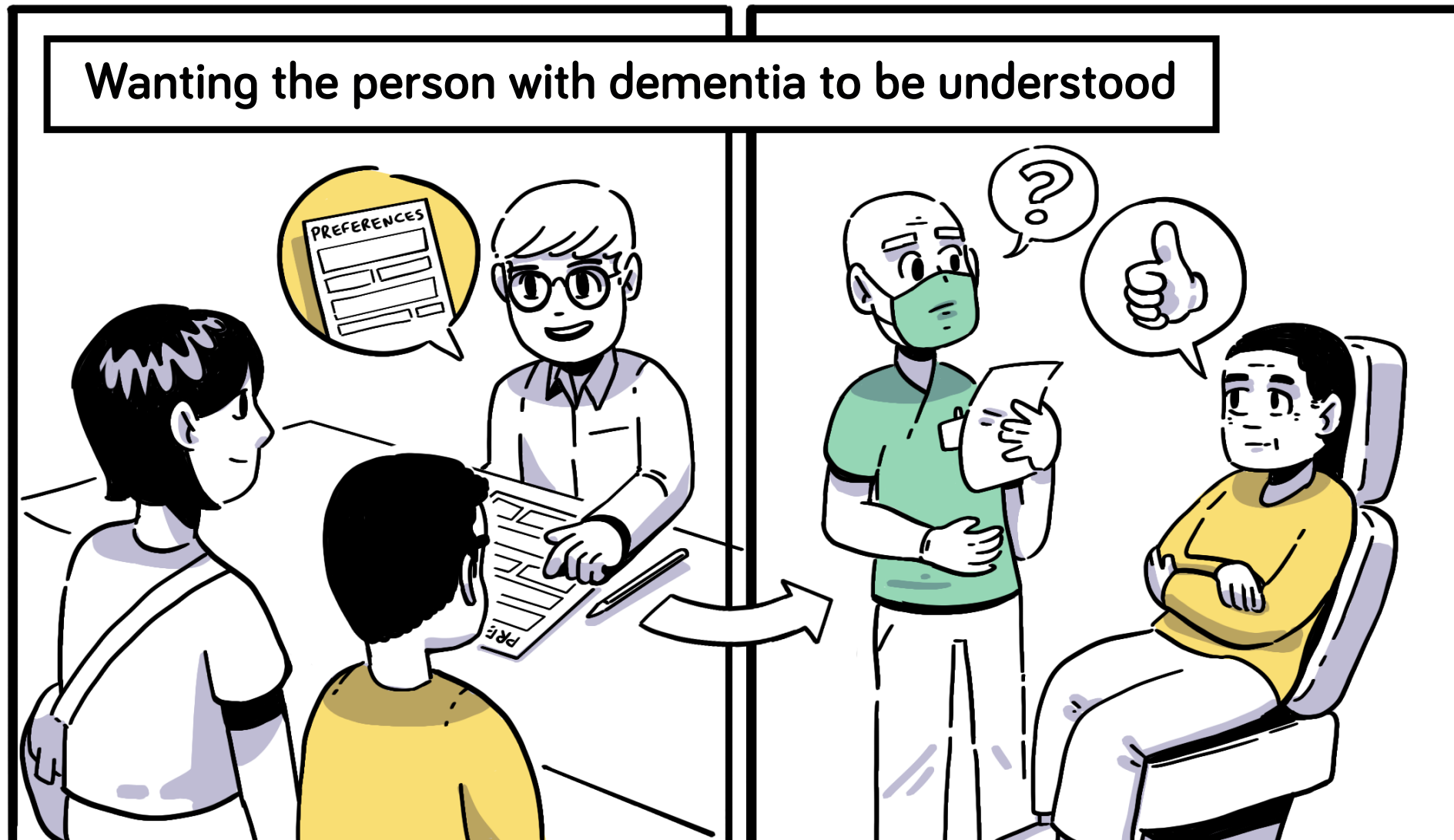
Dental care is often a low priority. People often describe waiting until they or their relative had a problem before visiting a dentist.

Finding and accessing suitable care



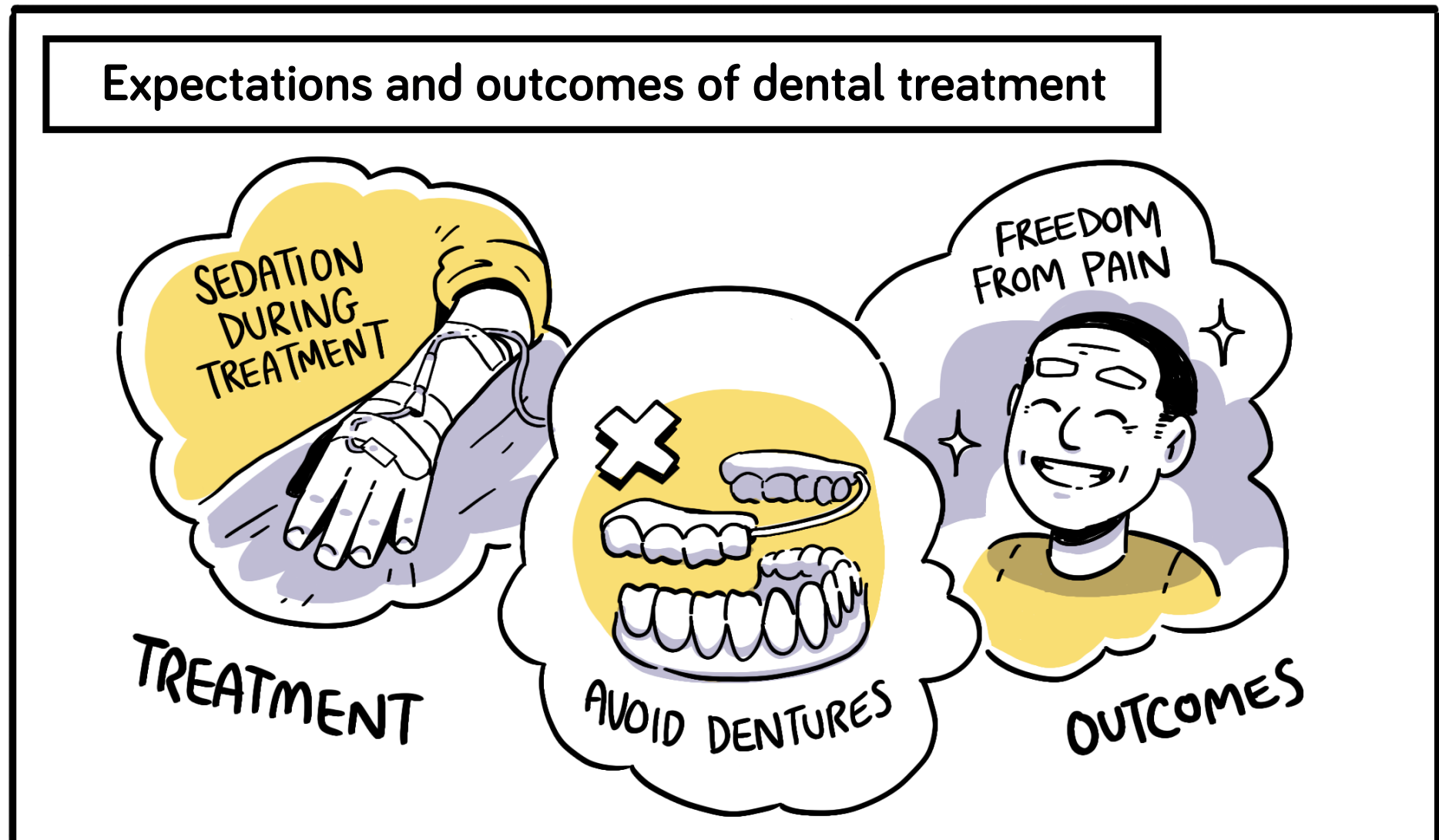
Patients and carers said they found it difficult to access suitable dental care. Many described significant challenges in accessing specialist dental services.

Wanting the person with dementia to be understood



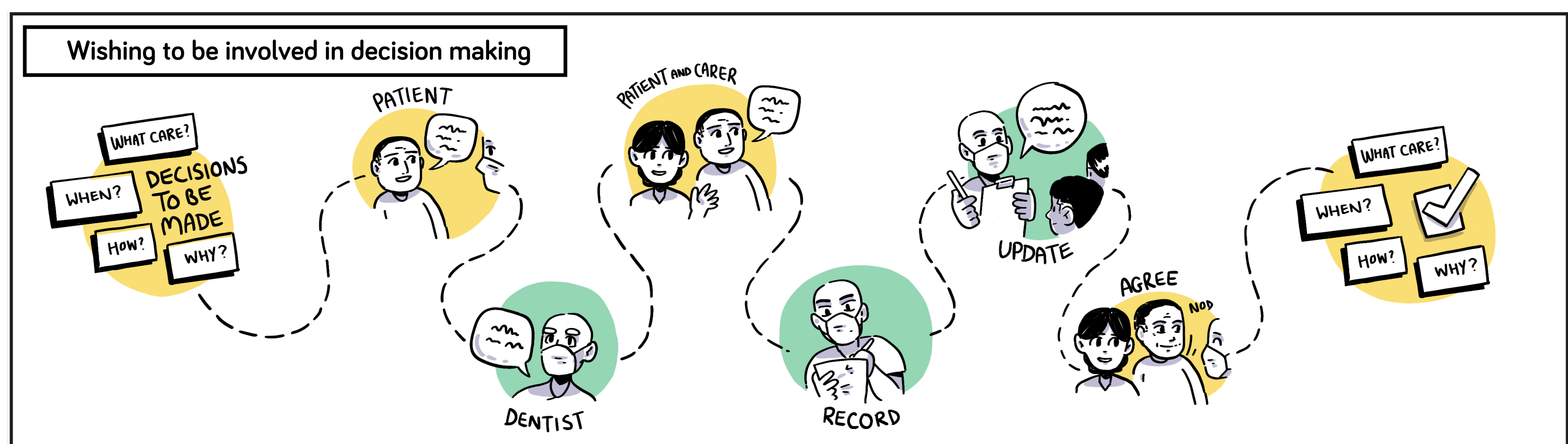
People living with dementia and their carers explained that they felt it was essential to understand each person with dementia as an individual. They often felt that people were misunderstood.

Expectations and outcomes of dental treatment



People described their expectations of care and the outcomes of treatment. They described wanting pain to be managed, hoping to avoid dentures and wishing for the stress of treatment to be minimised.

Wishing to be involved in decision making



People living with dementia and carers said they wanted to be involved in decisions about dental care.