



Presented by

**Daniel Almirall, PhD**

# Just-in-Time Adaptive Interventions

## JITAIs

Module 4



60 min



# Outline

Defining Just In Time Adaptive Interventions (JITAI)

Components of a JITAI

Why use JITAI

Q&As about JITAI



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Components of a JITAI

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# What is a JITAI?

- An intervention design, not an experimental design

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- A JITAI is an intervention design that guides rapid adaptation
  - Adaptation refers to the use of dynamic information about a unit of interest (e.g., individual) to make repeated decisions concerning whether or how to intervene

# What is a JITAI?

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- A JITAI is an intervention design that guides adaptation on a relatively fast time-scale
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# What is a JITAI?

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- A JITAI is an intervention design that guides sequential intervention decision-making on a relatively fast time-scale
  - Sequential intervention decision-making refers to the use of dynamic information about a unit of interest (e.g., individual) to make repeated decisions concerning whether or how to intervene

# What is a JITAI?

- An intervention design, not an experimental design
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- Interventions are not designed for use by researchers

# What is a JITAI?

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- A JITAI is an intervention design that guides rapid adaptation
  - Adaptation refers to the use of dynamic information about a unit of interest (e.g., individual) to make repeated decisions concerning whether or how to intervene
- Interventions are not designed for use by researchers
- Protocolized
- Evidence-based (ideally)

# What is a JITAI?

Many types of adaptive interventions

**Adaptive intervention:**

***ADI***

Intervention options adapted on a relatively slow timescale (e.g., every few weeks)

**Multi-level adaptive implementation strategy:**

***MAISY***

Implementation strategies adapted at multiple levels (e.g., provider and clinic)

**Just-in-time adaptive intervention:**

***JITAI***

Intervention options adapted on a relatively fast timescale (e.g., every few hours) in daily life. **The decision rules do not vary from individual to individual.**

**Personalizing JITAI:**

***pJITAI***

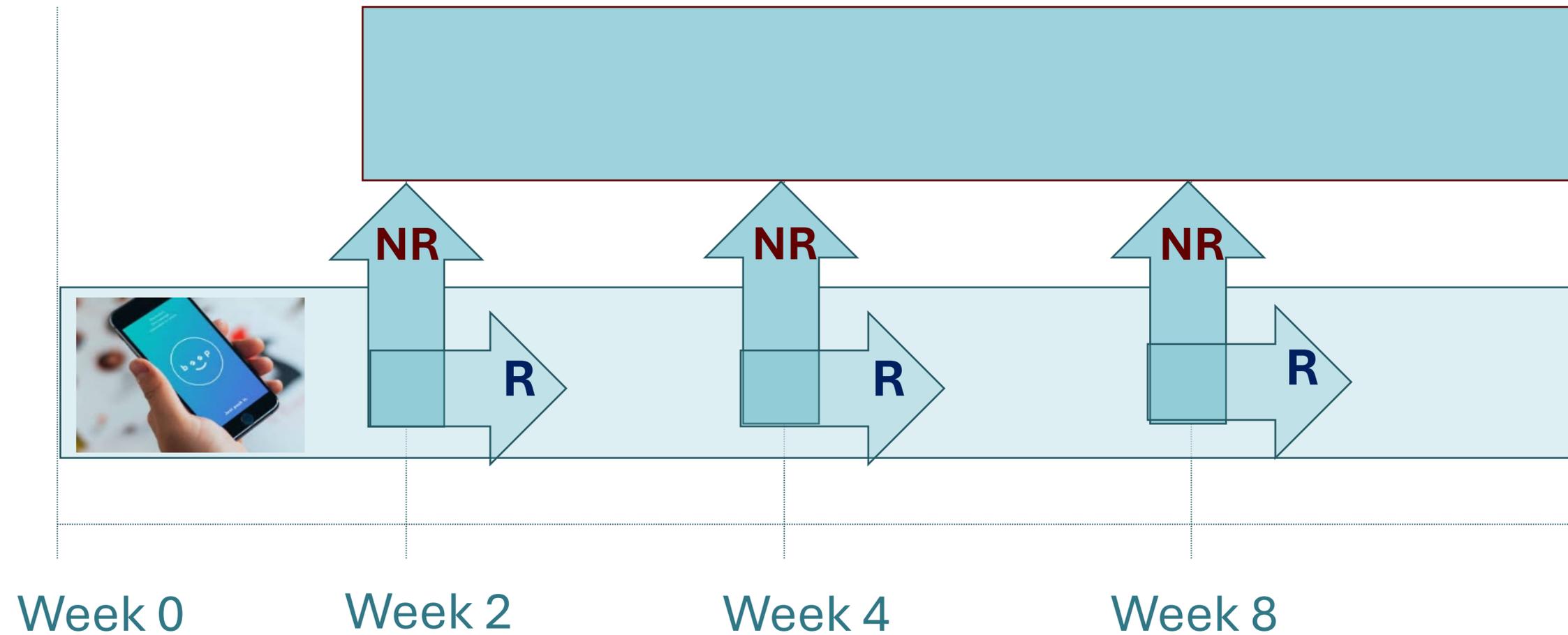
JITAI with an RL algorithm that updates the adaptation repeatedly, based on the person's responsiveness as they interact with the intervention over time.

**Multimodality adaptive intervention:**

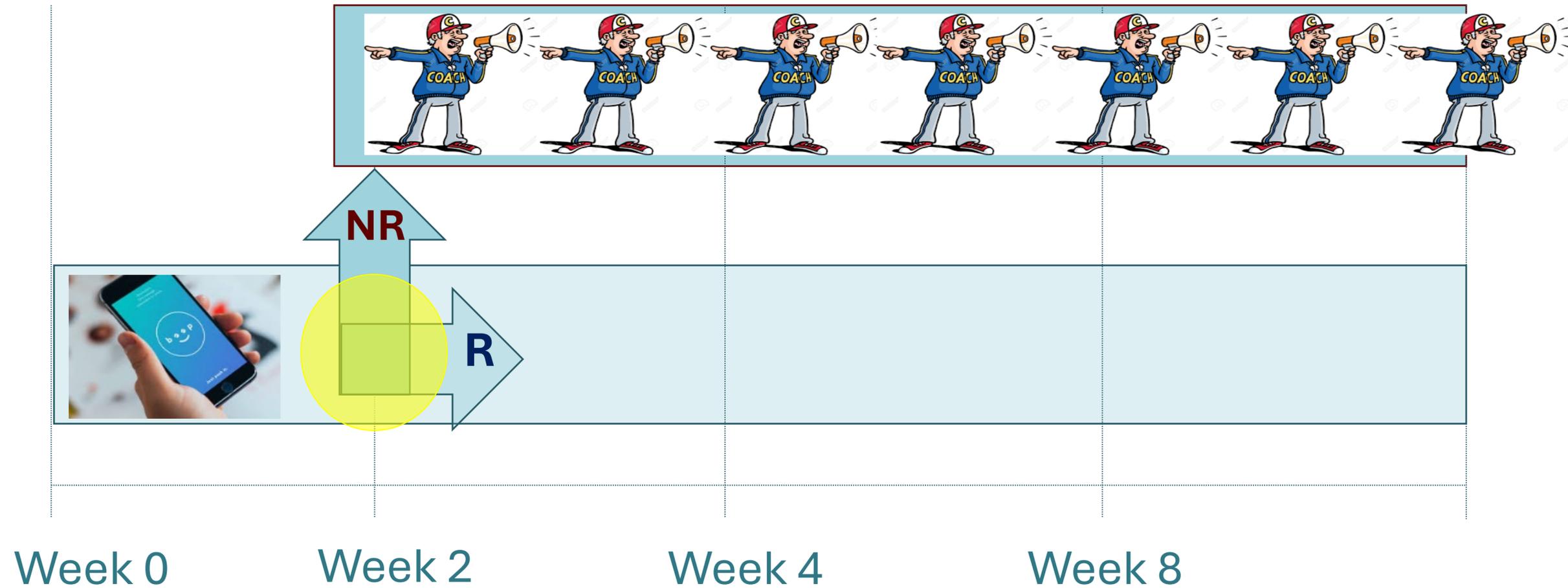
***MADI***

Human- and digitally-delivered components are blended and adapted on different timescales—slow (for human) and fast (for digital).

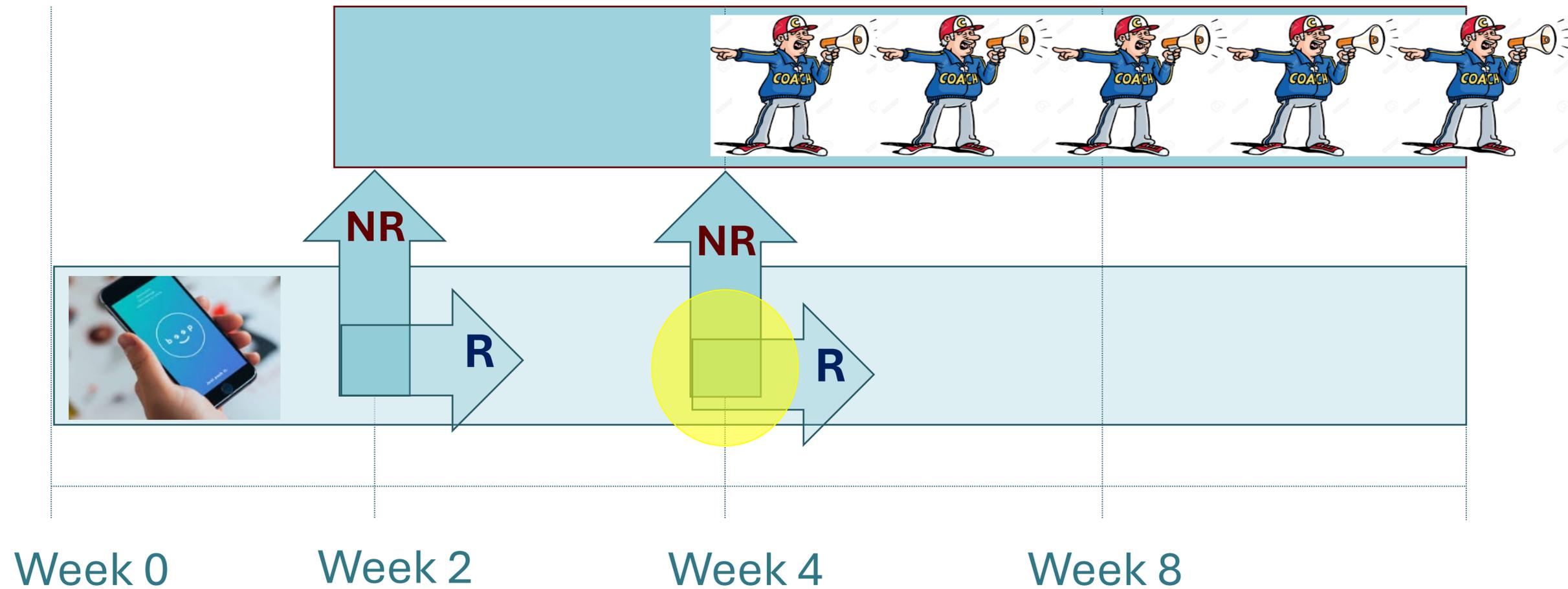
# Recall the foundational adaptive intervention



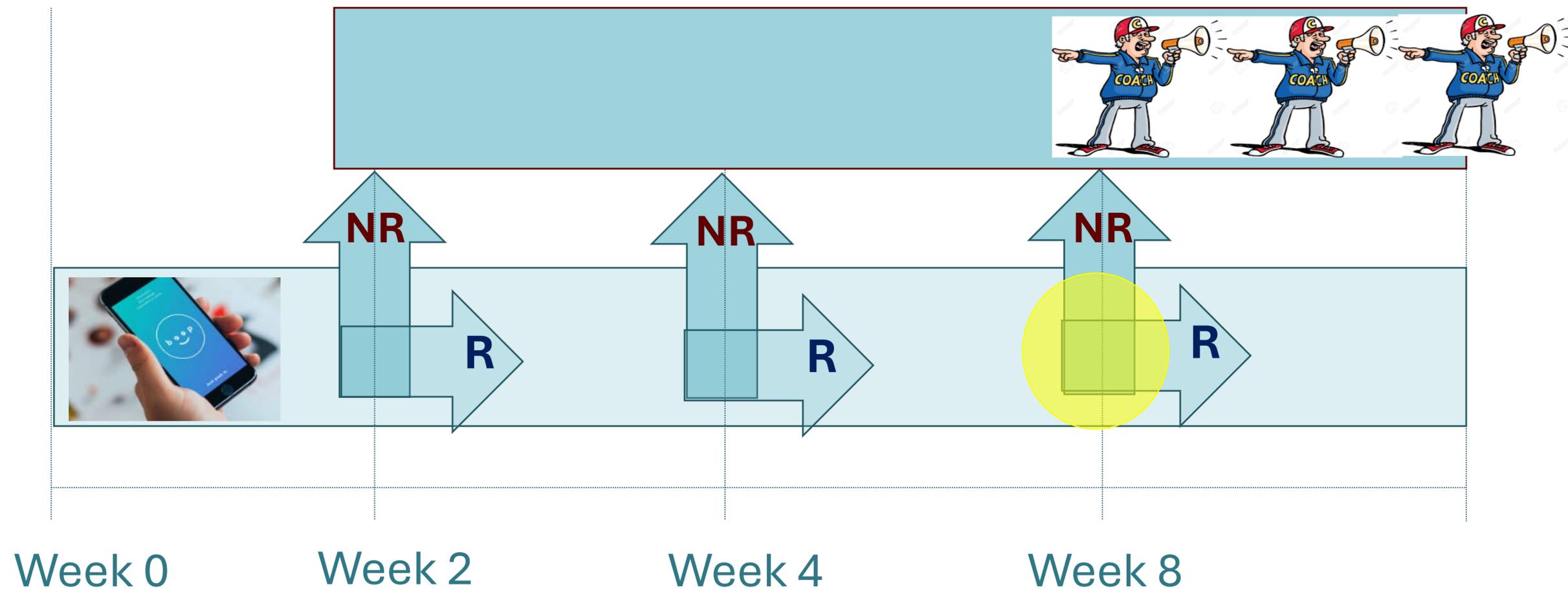
# Recall the foundational adaptive intervention



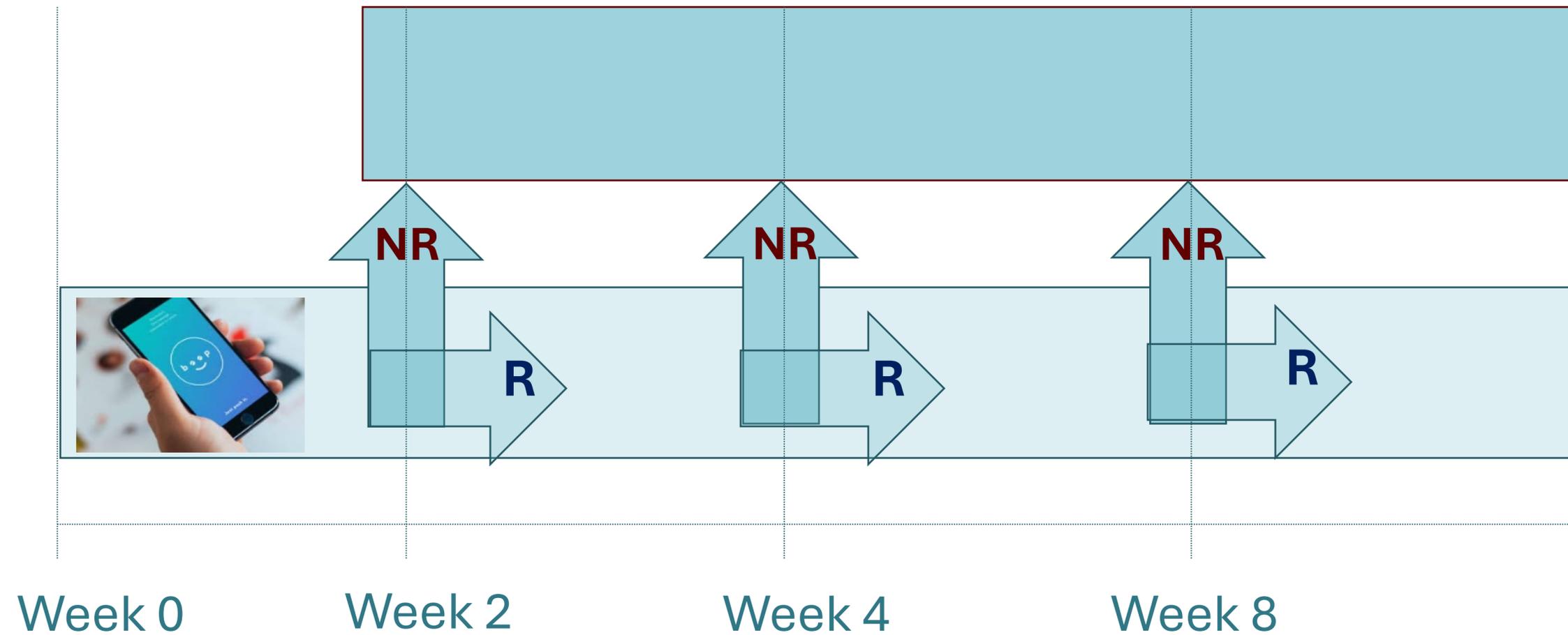
# Recall the foundational adaptive intervention



# Recall the foundational adaptive intervention



# Recall the foundational adaptive intervention



# Recall the foundational adaptive intervention

*Offer App initially*

*Then, at weeks 2, 4 and 8*

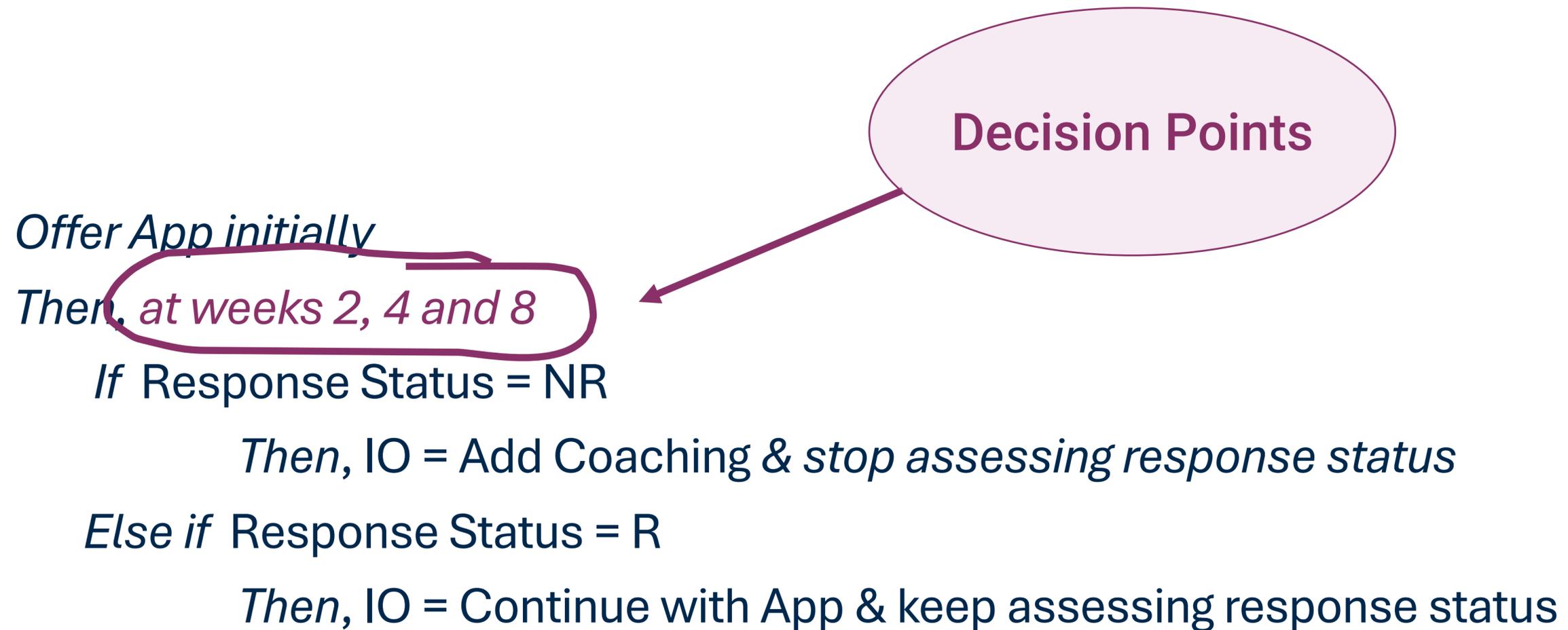
*If Response Status = NR*

*Then, IO = Add Coaching & stop assessing response status*

*Else if Response Status = R*

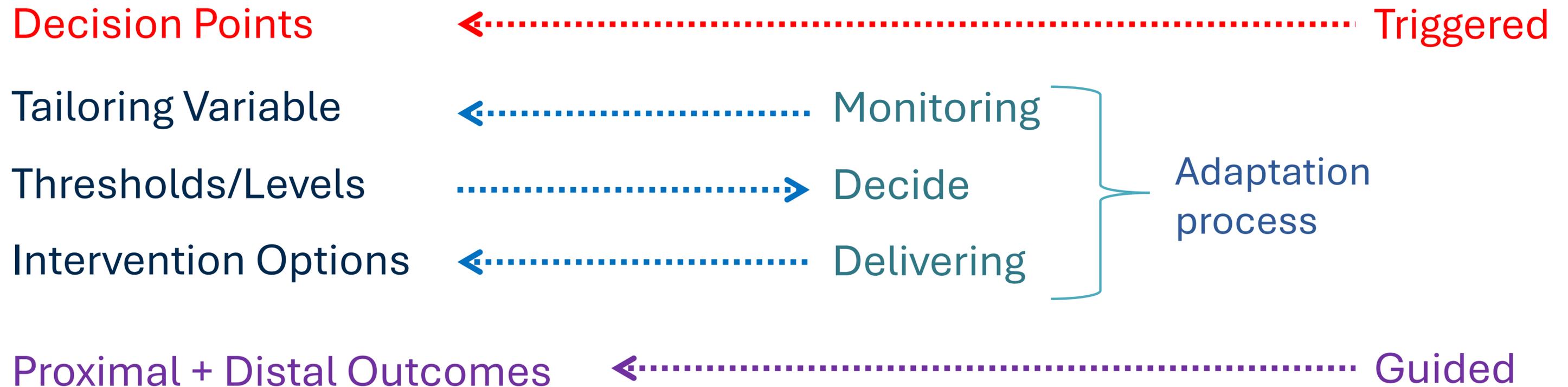
*Then, IO = Continue with App & keep assessing response status*

# Recall the foundational adaptive intervention



The decision points reflect the time-scale at which we adapt

# Recall the foundational adaptive intervention



# Recall the foundational adaptive intervention

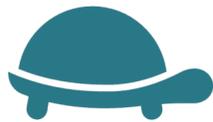
Typically, decisions are made on a relatively slower time-scale.

Decision Points



Triggered

Address conditions  
that unfold on a  
relatively slower  
time-scale



Adaptation  
process

Proximal + Distal Outcomes



Guided

# Recall the foundational adaptive intervention

Decisions are made on a relatively faster time-scale.



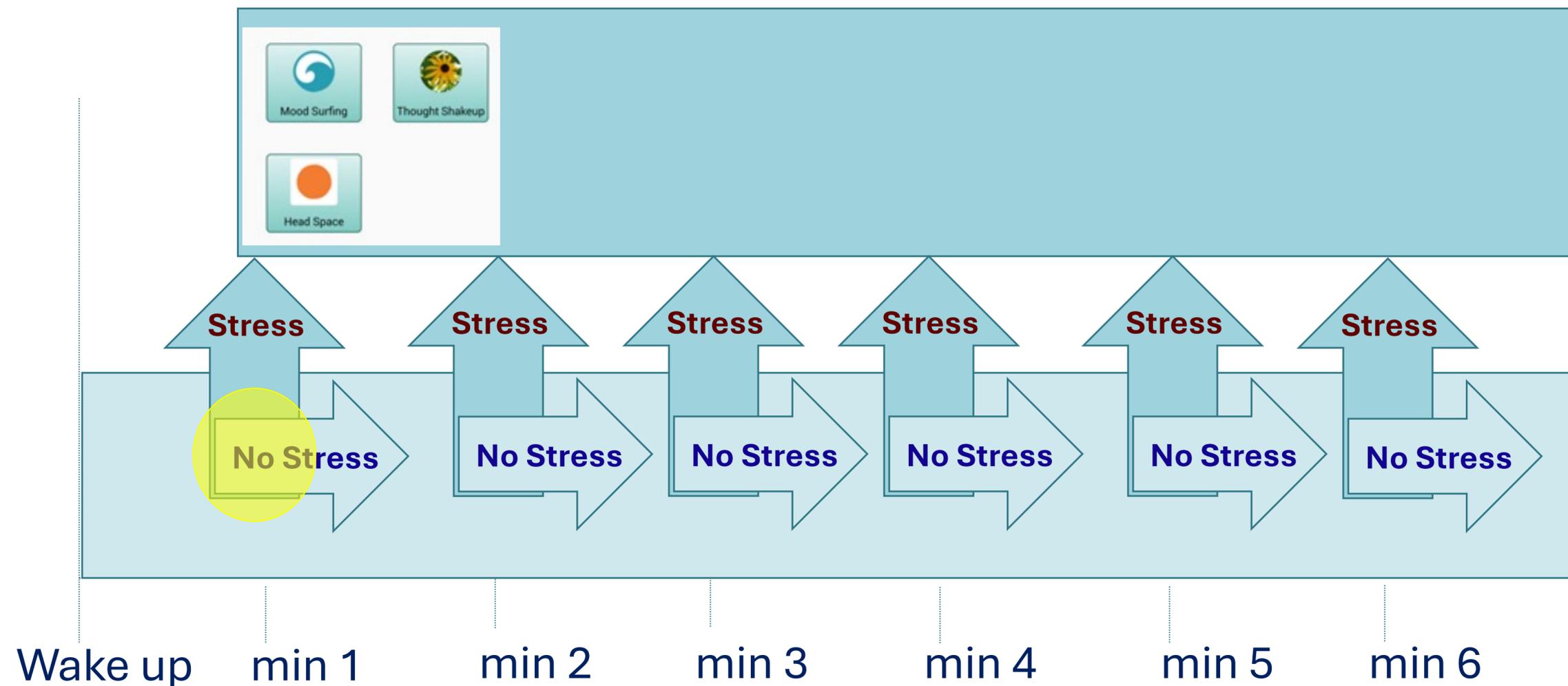
# Example JITAI in Smoking Cessation

- Goal: smoking cessation support
- Stress presents risk for lapse (slip)
  - State characterized by arousal and displeasure (Kristensen, 1996; Posner et al., 2005)



# Example JITAI in Smoking Cessation

If stress is detected, this JITAI intervenes with a stress management strategy



# Example JITAI in Smoking Cessation

As with foundational adaptive interventions, we can operationalize JITAIs using if-then decision rules

*Every minute*

*If Stress = Yes*

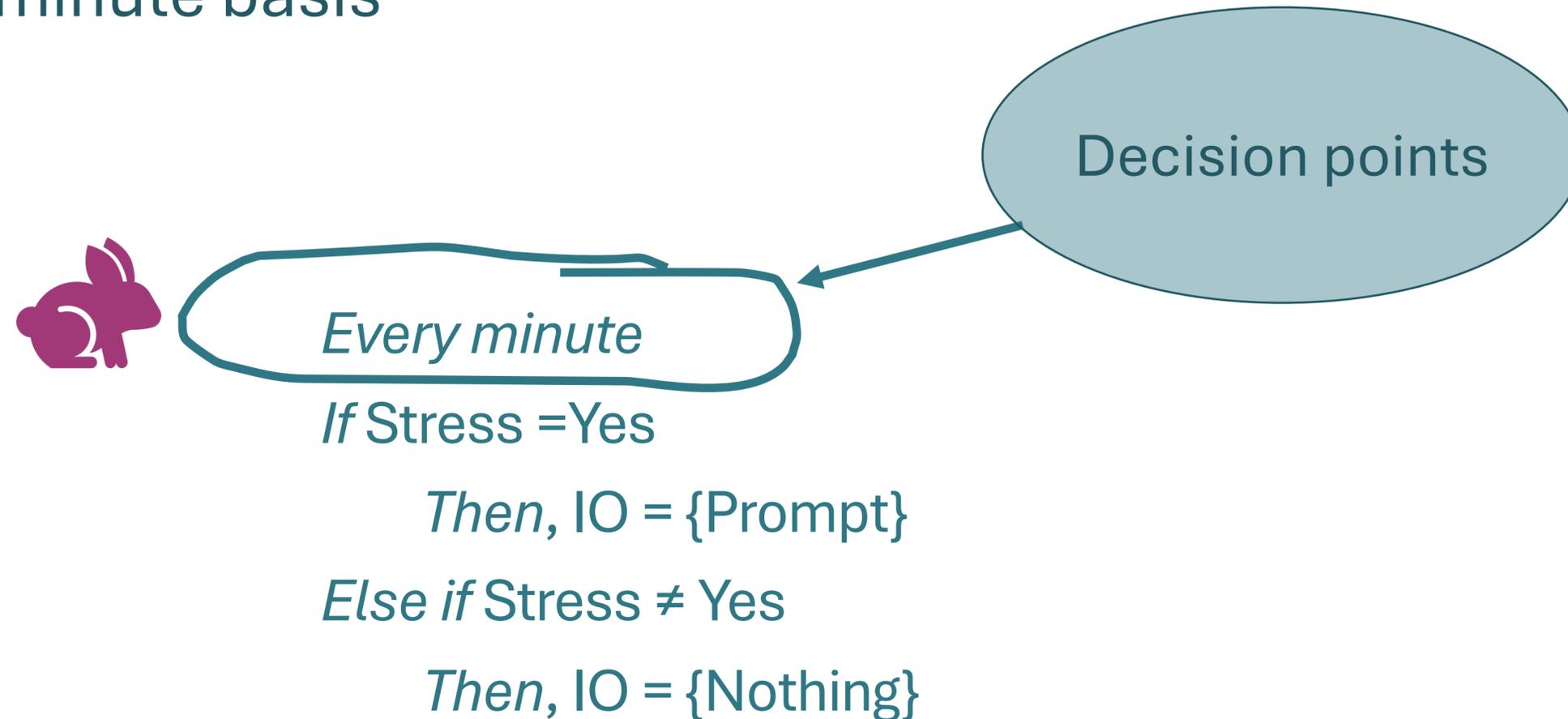
*Then, IO = {Prompt}*

*Else if Stress ≠ Yes*

*Then, IO = {Nothing}*

# Example JITAI in Smoking Cessation

But, unlike foundational adaptive interventions, this JITAI adapts on a minute-by-minute basis



# Outline

Defining Just In Time Adaptive Interventions (JITAI)

Components of a JITAI

Why use JITAI

Q&As about JITAI



# JITAI Components: Tailoring Variable

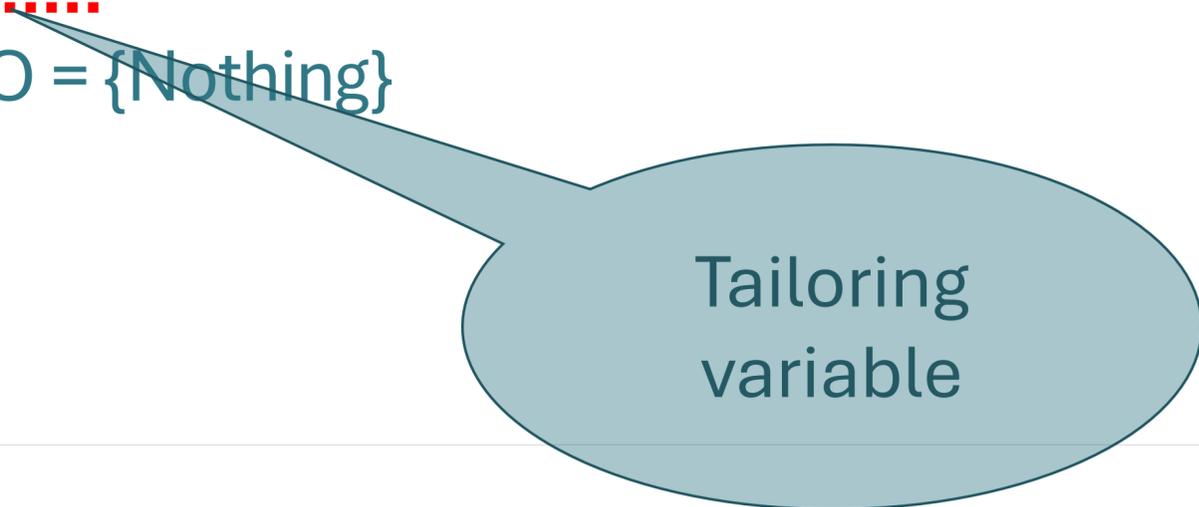
*Every minute*

*If Stress = Yes*  
.....

*Then, IO = {Prompt}*

*Else if Stress ≠ Yes*  
.....

*Then, IO = {Nothing}*



Tailoring  
variable

# JITAI Components: Thresholds

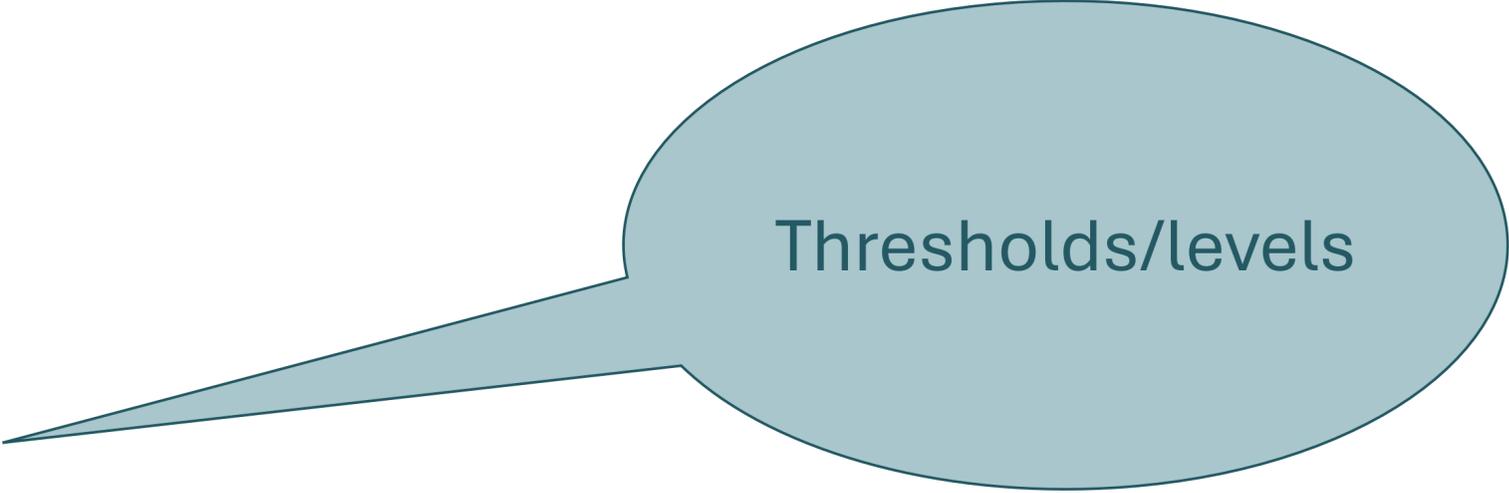
*Every minute*

*If Stress = Yes*

*Then, IO = {Prompt}*

*Else if Stress ≠ Yes*

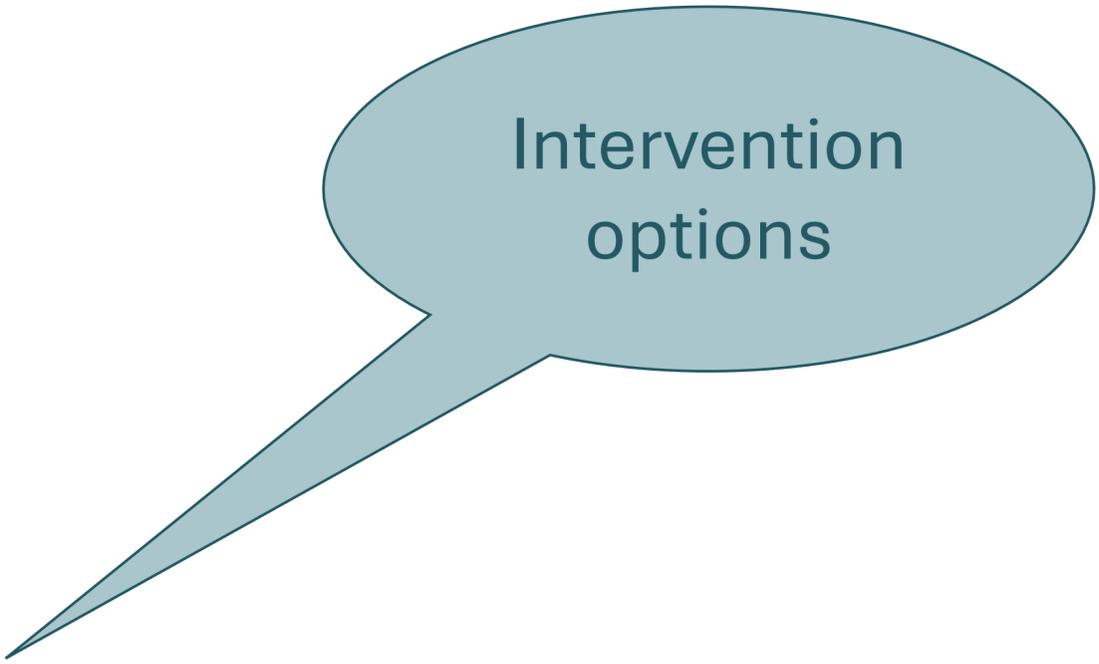
*Then, IO = {Nothing}*



Thresholds/levels

# JITAI Components: Intervention Options

*Every minute*  
*If Stress = Yes*  
    *Then, IO = {Prompt}*  
*Else if Stress ≠ Yes*  
    *Then, IO = {Nothing}*



Intervention  
options

# JITAI Components: Decision Rules

Decision rule that operationalizes the adaptation process

*Every minute*

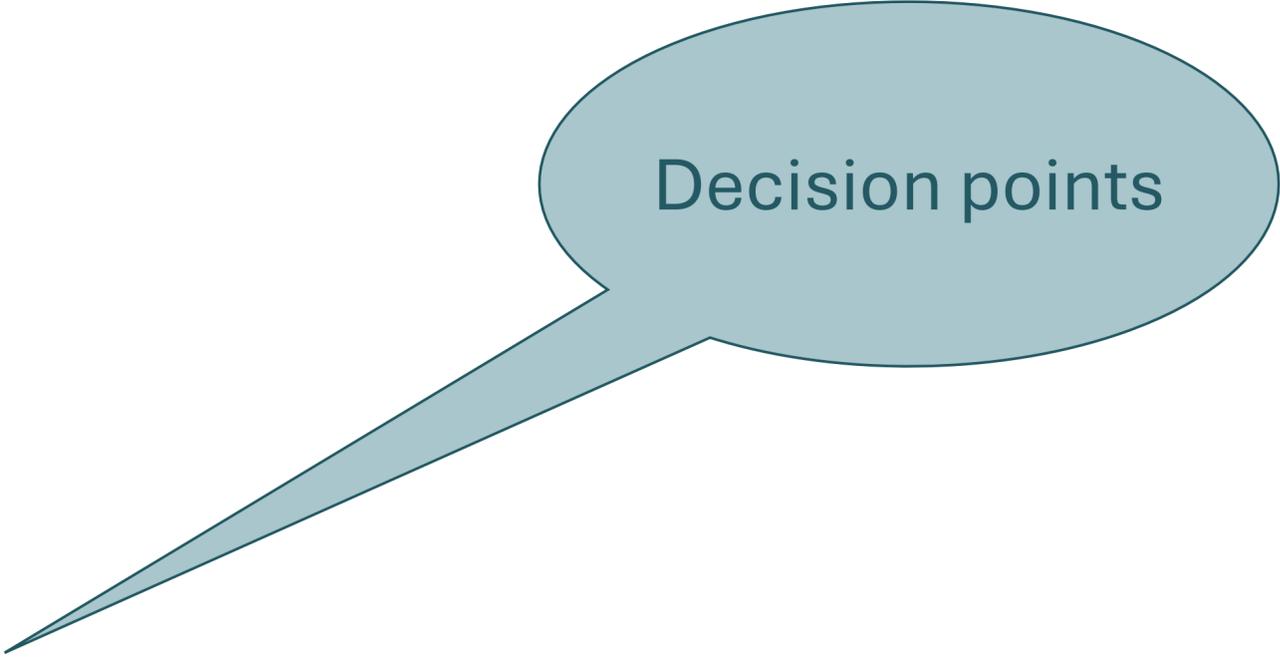
*If Stress = Yes*

*Then, IO = {Prompt}*

*Else if Stress ≠ Yes*

*Then, IO = {Nothing}*

# JITAI Components: Decision Points



Decision points

Every minute

If Stress = Yes

Then, IO = {Prompt}

Else if Stress ≠ Yes

Then, IO = {Nothing}

## Just-in-Time Adaptive Intervention

Contrast the time-scales at which decisions are made

## Foundational Adaptive Intervention

*Every minute*

*If Stress = Yes*

*Then, IO = {Prompt}*

*Else if Stress ≠ Yes*

*Then, IO = {Nothing}*

*Then, at weeks 2, 4 and 8*

*If Response Status = NR*

*Then, IO = {Add Coaching}*

*Else if Response Status = R*

*Then, IO = {Continue}*

# Just-in-Time Adaptive Intervention

*Every minute*

*If Stress = Yes*

*Then, IO = {Prompt}*

*Else if Stress ≠ Yes*

*Then, IO = {Nothing}*

# Foundational Adaptive Intervention

*Then, at weeks 2, 4 and 8*

*If Response Status = NR*

*Then, IO = {Add Coaching}*

*Else if Response Status = R*

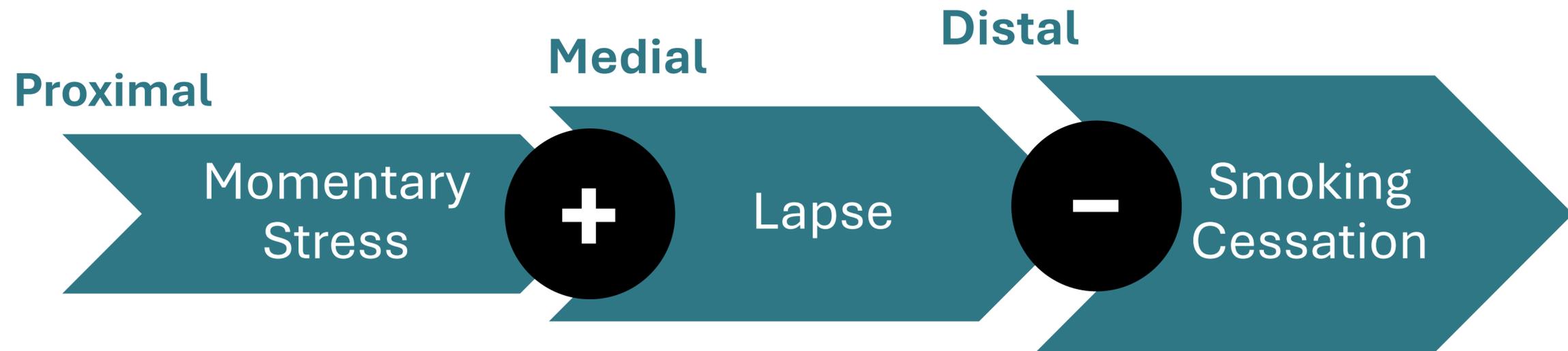
*Then, IO = {Continue}*

Notice the intervention options differ

# JITAI Components: Conceptual Model

**Typically, you'll  
consider multiple  
conceptual models  
that will drive the rationale for  
the design of your JITAI and its intended outcomes**

# JITAI Components: Conceptual Model



# JITAI Components: Proximal Outcome

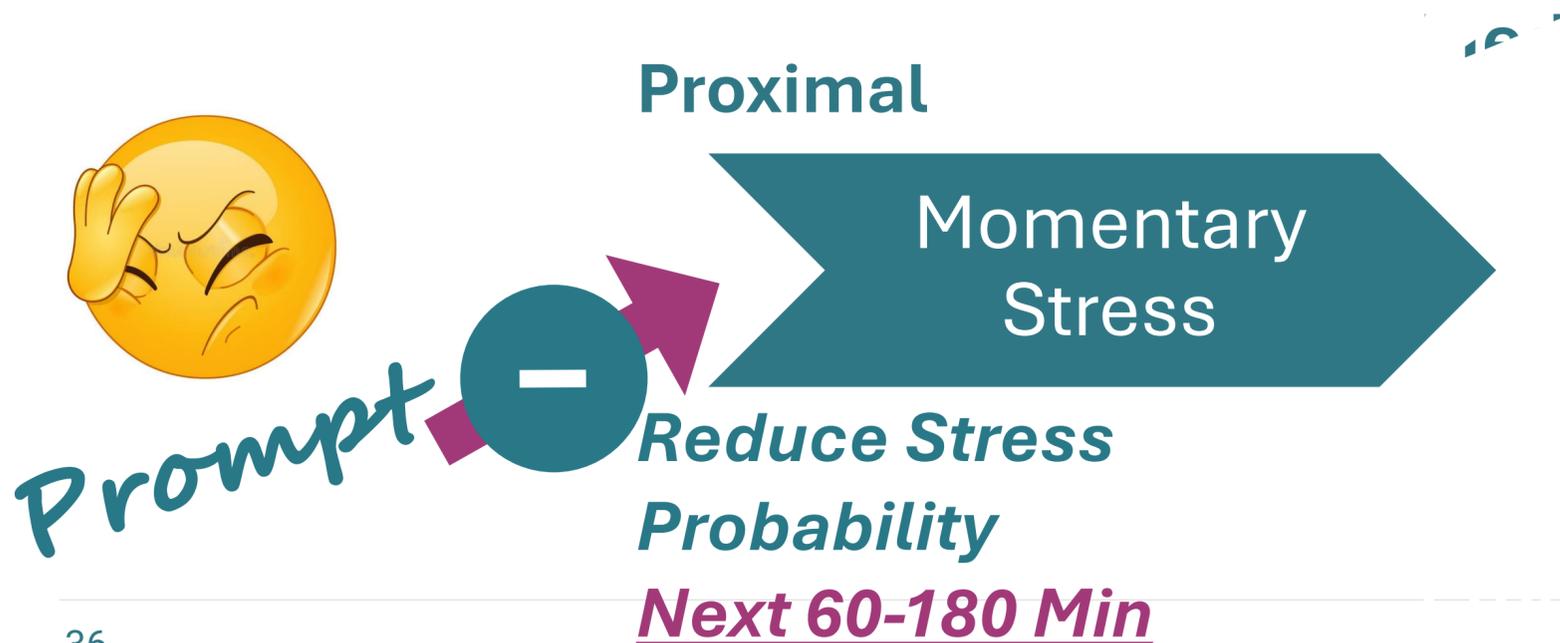
## Every Minute

If Stress = Yes

Then, IO = {Prompt}

Else if Stress  $\neq$  Yes

Then, IO = {Nothing}



# JITAI Components: Medial Outcome

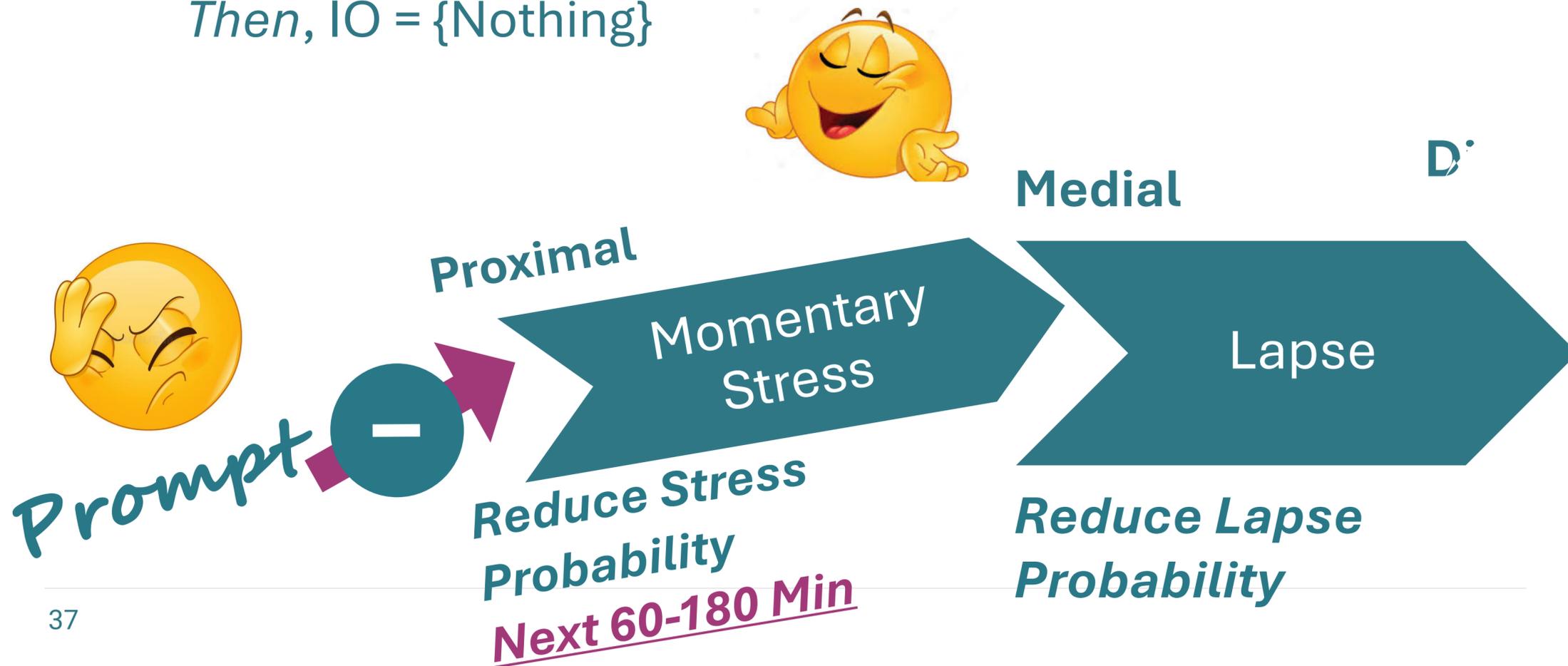
## Every Minute

If Stress = Yes

Then, IO = {Prompt}

Else if Stress  $\neq$  Yes

Then, IO = {Nothing}



# JITAI Components: Distal Outcome

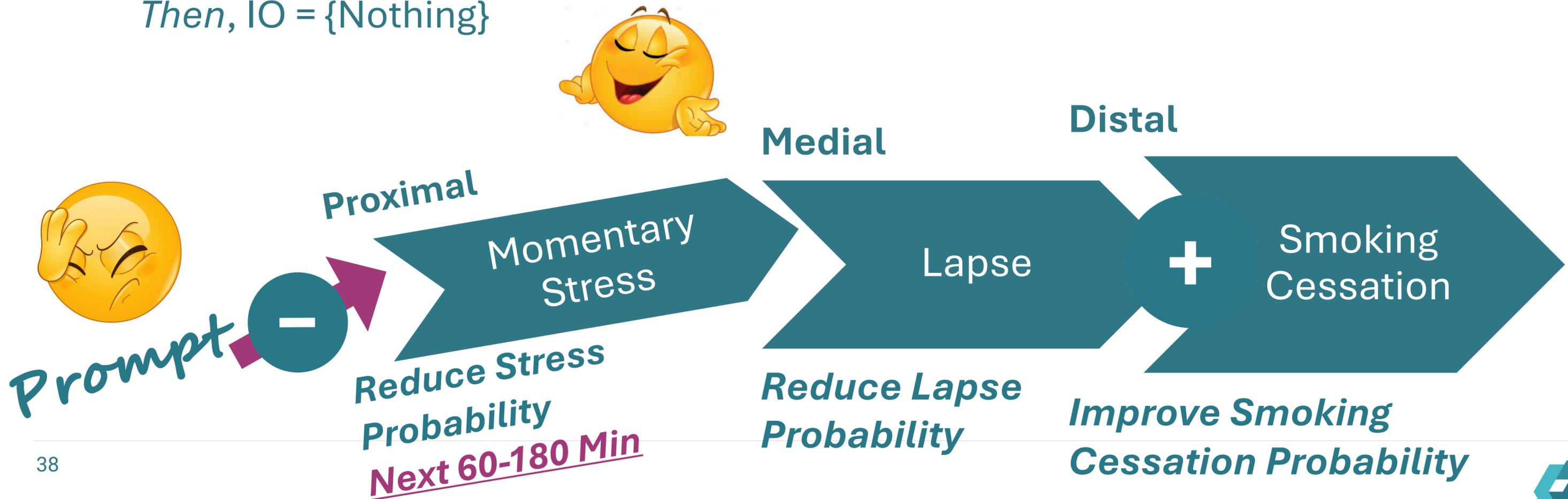
## Every Minute

If Stress = Yes

Then, IO = {Prompt}

Else if Stress  $\neq$  Yes

Then, IO = {Nothing}



# Outline

Defining Just In Time Adaptive Interventions (JITAI)

Components of a JITAI

**Why use JITAI**

Q&As about JITAI



# Why use a JITAI?

- 1. Health context is dynamic and changing rapidly**
- 2. Engagement is dynamic and changing rapidly**
- 3. Increase resource efficiency or minimize burden**

# Why use a JITAI?

1. Health context is dynamic and changing rapidly

# Why use a JITAI?

Address rapidly changing conditions

- ✓ These conditions can represent states of vulnerability or opportunity with respect to the proximal outcome



Conditions that represent risk for an adverse proximal outcome



Conditions in which delivering an intervention is expected to promote a desirable proximal outcome

# Why use a JITAI?

**2. Engagement is dynamic and changing rapidly**

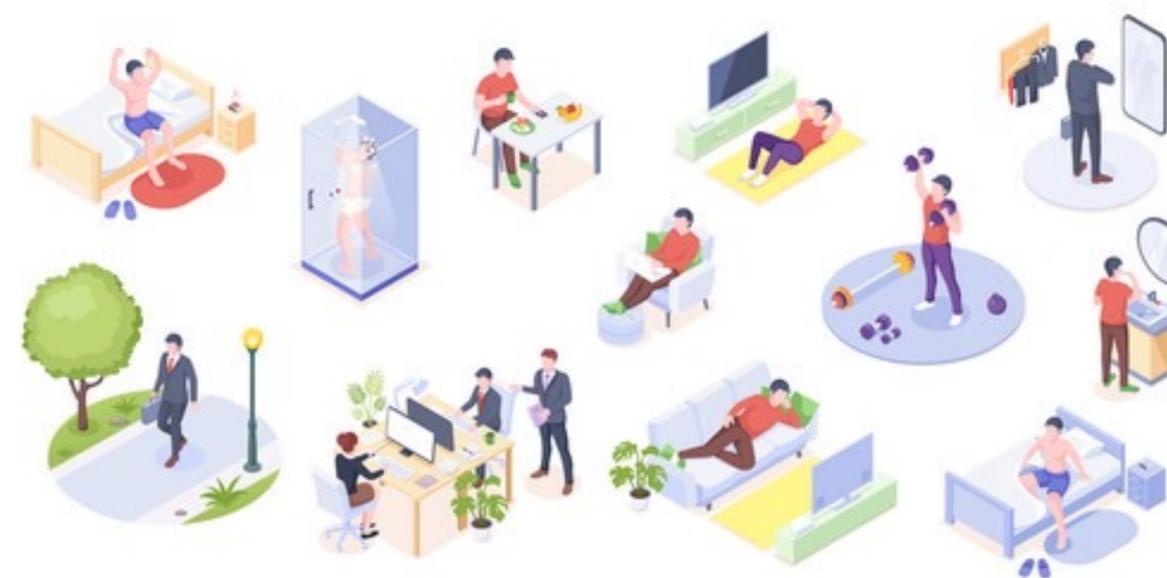
# Why use a JITAI?

Delivering an intervention when people are receptive

- ✓ States of vulnerability/opportunity may unfold in daily life where people experience multiple competing demands.

## Receptivity

Conditions in which an individual is likely to effectively engage with a specific intervention option.



# Why use a JITAI?

*Every minute*

*If Stress =Yes **and min since last intervention >60 and driving=No***

*Then, IO = {Prompt}*

*Else if Stress  $\neq$  Yes **or min since last intervention  $\leq$ 60 or driving=Yes***

*Then, IO = {Nothing}*

# Why use a JITAI?

**3. Increase resource efficiency or minimize burden**

# Why use a JITAI?

Minimize the delivery of unnecessary or harmful treatment

- ✓ States of vulnerability/opportunity may unfold rapidly– sometimes multiple times per day, requiring frequent interventions which can be burdensome

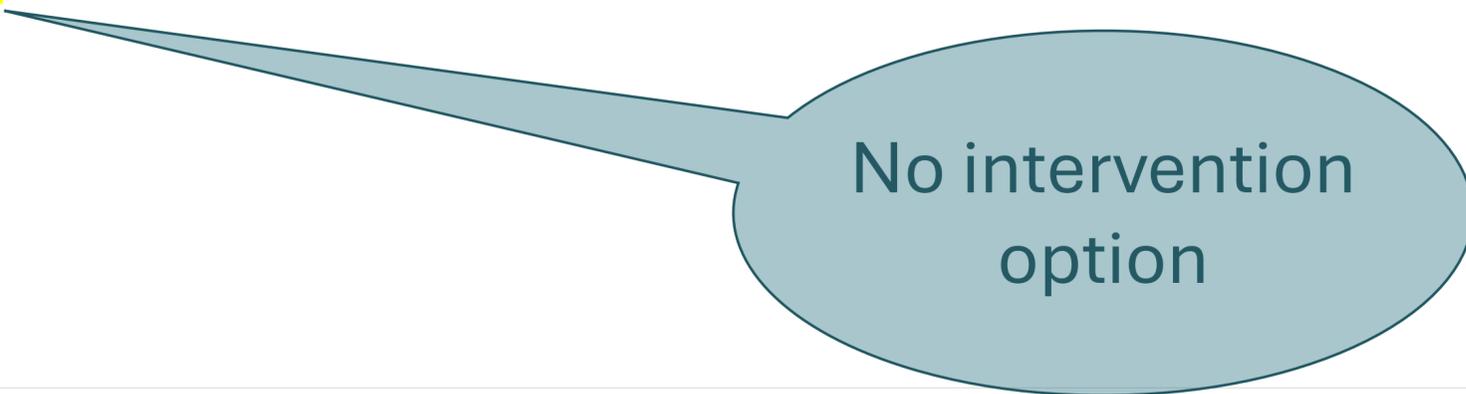
*Every minute*

*If Stress =Yes **and min since last intervention >60 and driving=No***

*Then, IO = {Prompt}*

*Else if Stress ≠ Yes **or min since last intervention ≤60 or driving=Yes***

*Then, IO = {Nothing}*



No intervention option

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# Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

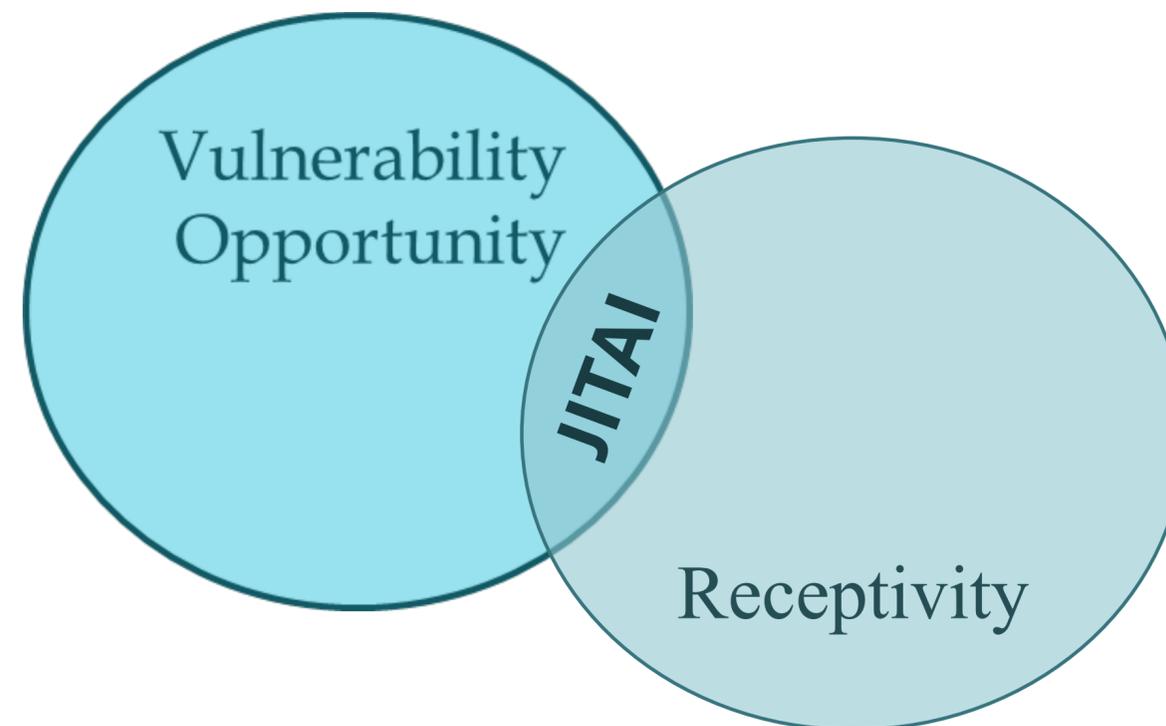
The goal: engage you and help you generate additional questions

1. Go to Kahoot.it (we recommend using your phone)
2. Type the PIN
3. Select a nickname (not your real name)
4. Let's play

# Q1: JITAI should always deliver an intervention when the person is vulnerable

A1: No.

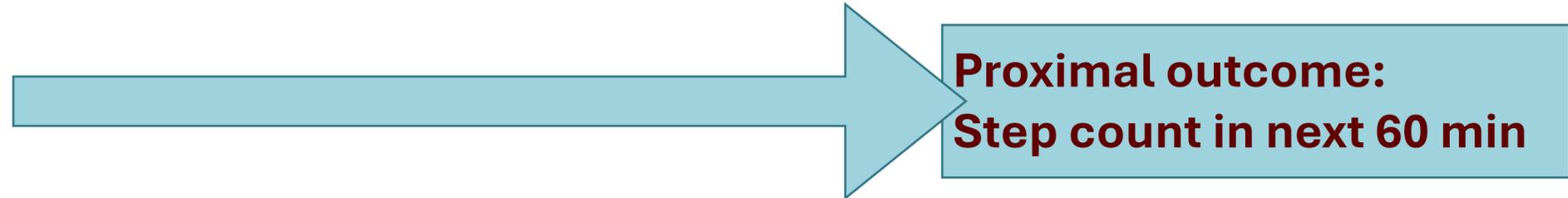
- JITAIs can be designed to deliver interventions when the person experiences an opportunity for positive change
- JITAIs can avoid intervention when the individual is not receptive, even if they are vulnerable or experience an opportunity for positive change.



## Q2: What is the difference between a state of opportunity and a state of receptivity?

A2: Receptivity is intervention specific and focused on engagement with the focal intervention; opportunity is not intervention specific and focused on a proximal outcome

### Opportunity



Receptivity	High likelihood of effective engagement with a specific intervention option
Opportunity	High likelihood of promoting a desirable proximal outcome via intervention
Vulnerability	High likelihood of an adverse proximal outcome, that can be prevented via intervention

## Q2: What is the difference between a state of opportunity and a state of receptivity?

A2: Receptivity is intervention specific and focused on engagement with the focal intervention; opportunity is not intervention specific and focused on a proximal outcome

**Not Receptive  
to Mobile-Based  
Prompt**



**Engagement  
with prompt**



**Proximal outcome:  
Step count in next 60 min**

Receptivity	High likelihood of effective engagement with a specific intervention option
Opportunity	High likelihood of promoting a desirable proximal outcome via intervention
Vulnerability	High likelihood of an adverse proximal outcome, that can be prevented via intervention

## Q3: Part-way through intervention, a researcher can change the decision rules in a JITAI.

A3: No. As with any high-quality intervention, all of the components (including decision rules and associated thresholds/cutpoints) in a JITAI are protocolized ahead of time. Recall that a JITAI is an intervention design, not a research design.

### *Every minute*

*If Stress  $\geq \delta$*

*Then, IO = {Prompt}*

*Else if Stress  $< \delta$*

*Then, IO = {Nothing}*

**Q3: Part-way through intervention, a researcher can change the decision rules in a JITAI.**

**A3: No.**

**Caveat for the connoisseur!**

**Day 3, you'll learn about pJITAI (Personalized JITAI), which include an additional component (an algorithm) capable of individualizing aspects of the JITAI to the needs of the individual.**

**Nonetheless, all components are protocolized!**

Q3: Part-way through intervention, a ~~researcher~~ can change the decision rules in a JITAI.

*an algorithm (which, itself, is part of the JITAI!)*

A3: ~~No.~~ *Yes!!*

Caveat for the connoisseur!

Day 3, you'll learn about pJITAI (Personalized JITAI), which include an additional component (an algorithm) capable of individualizing aspects of the JITAI to the needs of the individual.

Nonetheless, all components are protocolized!

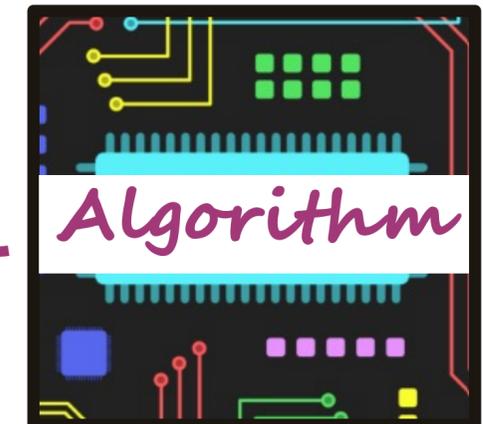
*Every minute*

*If Stress  $\geq \delta_{ti}$*

*Then, IO = {Prompt}*

*Else if Stress  $< \delta_{ti}$*

*Then, IO = {Nothing}*



## Q4: What is the first step in applying a JITAI to your dataset?

A4: There is no first step because a JITAI is not a data analytic method

A JITAI is an intervention design.

A JITAI is not an experimental design.

A JITAI is not a data analytic method.

# Q5: JITAs always promote intervention engagement

A5: It depends on how well they are designed

What is engagement?

Energy investment in a specific stimulus or task

Engagement with what?

Define the stimuli and tasks



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<https://doi.org/10.1037/amp0000983>

## Engagement in Digital Interventions

Inbal Nahum-Shani<sup>1</sup>, Steven D. Shaw<sup>2</sup>, Stephanie M. Carpenter<sup>1</sup>,  
Susan A. Murphy<sup>3</sup>, and Carolyn Yoon<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

<sup>2</sup> The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

<sup>3</sup> Department of Statistics & Computer Science, Harvard University

<sup>4</sup> Stephen M. Ross School of Business, University of Michigan

The notion of “engagement,” which plays an important role in various domains of psychology, is gaining increased currency as a concept that is critical to the success of digital interventions. However, engagement remains an ill-defined construct, with different fields generating their own domain-specific definitions. Moreover, given that digital interactions in real-world settings are characterized by multiple demands and choice alternatives competing for an individual’s effort and attention, they involve fast and often impulsive decision-making. Prior research seeking to uncover the mechanisms underlying engagement has nonetheless focused mainly on psychological factors and social influences and neglected to account for the role of neural mechanisms that shape individual choices. This article aims to integrate theories and empirical

## Q5: JITAs always promote intervention engagement

A5: It depends on how well they are designed

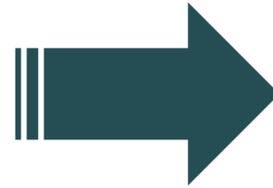
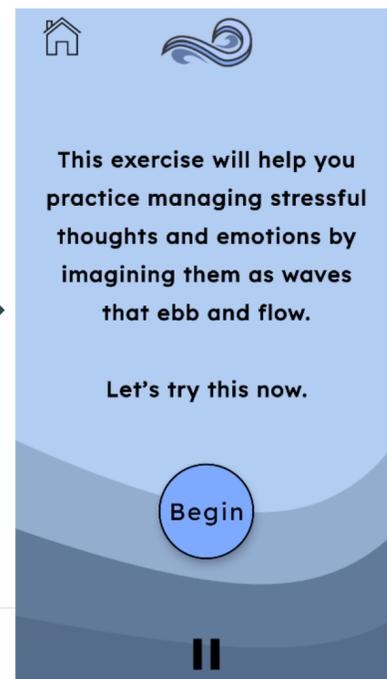
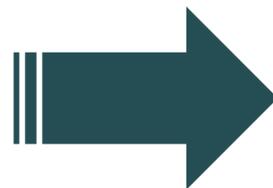
*Every minute*

*If Stress =Yes and min since last intervention >60 and driving=No*

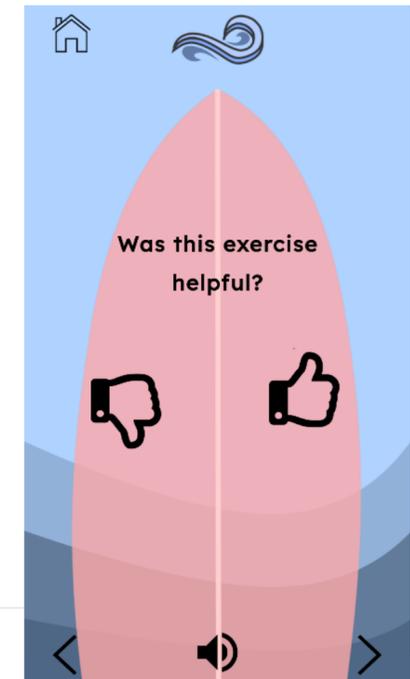
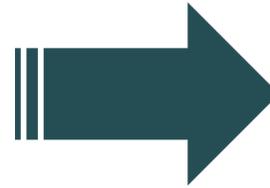
*Then, IO = {Prompt}*

*Else if Stress ≠ Yes or min since last intervention ≤60 or driving=Yes*

*Then, IO = {Nothing}*

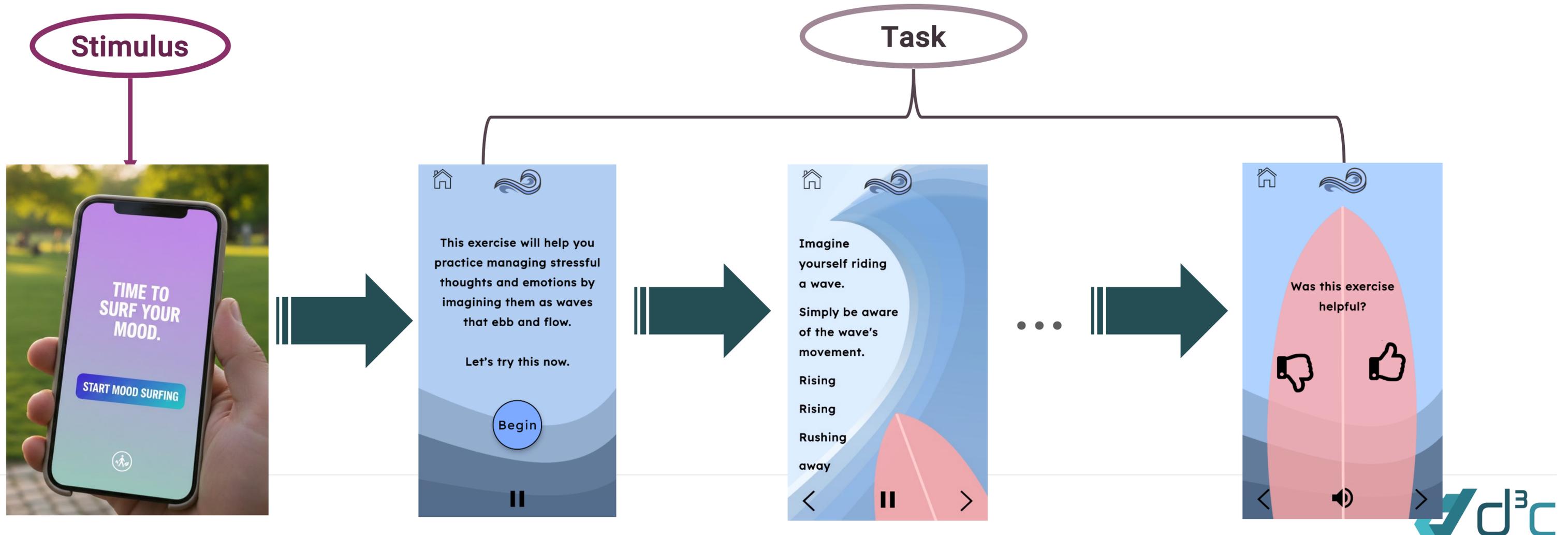


...



# Q5: JITAIs always promote intervention engagement

A5: It depends on how well they are designed



## Q5: JITAIs always promote intervention engagement

A5: It depends on how well they are designed

Receptivity to the prompt → high likelihood of effective engagement in the series of stimuli and tasks composing the prompt

To design engaging JITAIs, we need to map out the stimuli and tasks comprising the JITAI and make sure they are

- delivered when individuals are receptive to them
- and are designed in a way that is engaging