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From Text to Algorithms

Simplifying Occupational Health Guidelines with Embedded Decision Support

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Background and aims

- Multitude of ‘bulky’ clinical practice guidelines in PDF-format
- Use of guidelines in practice is considered bothersome
- Enhance the use of CPGs
- Simplify access & make use of CPGs easier and person-centred through embedded decision support

Aim: to improve access to and use of guidelines in occupational health practice and hence improve the quality of care and making it more personalized.

Methods

- ‘Transforming’ guideline documents into easy-to-use algorithms enabling patient relevant (core) EBM recommendations to be applied interactively in (real time) practice
- Guideline panel worked together with Alii on the ‘translation’
- Occupational health physicians and guideline developers checked and tested if decision support presented exactly the same evidence/knowledge as the guideline

Results

- 8 existing CPGs available as decision (support) models, with options to select:
  - ‘prevention’, ‘diagnosis’ or ‘intervention’
  - who needs the information (employee or employer), and
  - which complaint(s) and/or situation is (are) applicable
  - the decision support lists relevant recommendations
  - summary of these recommendations can be copied to patient file, e.g.
- 2 models being developed
- Tracking data of use decision models
- Pilot developing CPG on same platform

Limits and conclusions

- Developed with occupational physicians' input, no input from patients
- No evaluation yet of use and impact of use

- Feasible to 'summarize' CPG into decision models to make them more accessible and user friendly
- Dissemination of CPG still needed
- The model needs explaining (acceptance & understanding) and training (apply/capability)