# Primary and Hospital Care

An open access, peer reviewed journal • www.primary-hospital-care.ch

# **Online-Appendix**

## What can diagnostic algorithms do for primary care?

Wangler J, Jansky M

**Original article** • doi:10.4414/phc-d.2022.20129 Prim Hosp Care Allg Inn Med. 2022;22(11):340–344.

### Table S1: Attitudes with regard to diagnostic algorithms.

Question: Which of the following statements do you tend to agree with? (Multiple answers possible) (N=3,110)

		Rotated Component Matrix			
	Agree	Comp. 1 (Variance Explan.: 25.1%)	Comp. 2 (Variance Explan.: 11.5%)	Comp. 3 (Variance Explan.: l.: 9.2%)	Comp. 4 (Variance Explan.: 8.2%)
Algorithms produce more clarity in differential diagnosis	55%	.782	.047	059	014
Many algorithms are not close enough to application or orientated to practice	43%	044	166	.725	102
Algorithms contribute to ensuring the most standardised and consistent procedure by physicians which is possible	59%	.417	.195	131	.511
Algorithms serve to economise medicine	36%	026	.136	127	.707
Algorithms are a valuable support if I would like security in clarification of symptoms	54%	.131	.754	012	173
Suggestions for actions giving algorithms are often not equivalent with my personal experience as a doctor	19%	247	028	.788	.037
Algorithms accelerate the work sequences in the surgery	25%	.337	.724	.104	.152
Often, there is not enough time for an application of algorithms in everyday surgery life	46%	.018	.303	618	.073

Algorithms make a better	47%	.478	.272	294	.293	
comprehensibility of diagnosis paths						
possible						
Algorithms are often products of the	15%	.190	151	.364	.495	
pharmaceutical industry so that certain						
drugs can be prescribed more quickly						
Algorithms facilitate cooperation	18%	.152	.626	079	.294	
between general practitioners and						
specialists						
I prefer to rely on my own mode of	25%	.241	013	608	128	
procedure rather than a diagnosis						
algorithm						
It is occasionally difficult for me to assess	49%	.079	521	.128	.428	
the quality of algorithms						
		Extraction Met	hod.: Principal Cor	mponent Analysis		
		Rotation Method.: Varimax, Kaiser Normalization				
		Rotations converge in 7 iterations				
		Total Variance Explained: 54 %				
		Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Sampling Adequacy: .76				
	Bartlett Significance Level: p < 0.001					

### Table S2: Requirements of diagnostic algorithms.

Question: What must a diagnosis algorithm provide from your point of view so that it can be used in general practitioners' treatment? (Multiple replies possible) (N=3.110)

		Rotated Component Matrix			
	Agree	Comp. 1 (Variance Explan.: 24.1%)	Comp. 2 (Variance Explan.: 12.5%)	Comp. 3 (Variance Explan.: l.: 11.5%)	Comp. 4 (Variance Explan.: 10.5%)
It must be evidence-based, the benefit empirically proven	64%	027	.790	.011	.242
It must contain 'red flags', i.e. particularly important indicators identifying a clinical picture in need of clarification	76%	.202	.715	.164	061
It must have been included in guidelines (S3) and may only then be recommended	26%	.092	.237	134	.723
It must be as simple as possible to apply	84%	.216	.354	.536	220
It must be tailor-made to fit the specific perspective of a general practitioner	55%	.026	.043	.818	.186
It must give specific statements about when to wait with controls and when a transfer to a specialist or to a specialised hospital has to take place	41%	.661	.020	.100	.195
It must make statements about specific laboratory reference figures (e.g. for blood examinations)	32%	.751	.044	.146	087
In the clarification steps, it must concern itself with medication which may be connected with the symptoms	29%	.694	.148	051	.091
It must be coherent with the fees ordinance, with the result that the recommendations for action given by	42%	.106	097	.346	.657

the algorithm are cost-covering for the doctor	
	Extraction Method.: Principal Component Analysis Rotation Method.: Varimax. Kaiser Normalization
	Rotations converge in 5 iterations
	Total Variance Explained: 59 % Kaiser-Mever-Olkin Sampling Adequacy: .71
	Bartlett Significance Level: p < 0.001