



How clinical decision support tools can enhance efficiency

Improving efficiency has been a priority for the NHS for many years, but the pandemic pushed this even higher up the agenda. With longer waiting lists and staff shortages, the NHS needs solutions that help clinicians make the right decisions, first time. Enter clinical decision support (CDS).

What is clinical decision support?

Clinical decision support tools from Wolters Kluwer synthesise huge quantities of information and provide expert recommendations - even when evidence is unclear.

CDS tools like **UpToDate®** and **UpToDate® LexiDrug™** reinforce existing guidelines and complement the clinician's own professional expertise. And integrating CDS technology into Electronic Patient Record (EPR) systems allows clinicians access to evidence-based clinical content and expert recommendations within their workflow.

Wolters Kluwer has partnered with a number of NHS organisations to integrate UpToDate into their EPR, including Great Ormond Street NHS Trust (GOSH), Cambridge University Hospitals, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH) and St. George's University Hospitals Trust.

Efficiencies in care

More than 100 independent research studies show the use of UpToDate is associated with improved outcomes and hospital performance. One study, conducted at several acute trusts in the North West of England and published in the Health Information and Libraries Journal, reported that **57%** of clinicians said UpToDate had reduced treatment delays.

A survey conducted by Wolters Kluwer in 2022 found that **22%** of clinical decisions were changed after users consulted UpToDate while **48%** of decisions were reinforced. Unnecessary referrals can therefore be avoided, preventing patients from returning to backlogged waiting lists or undergoing unnecessary procedures.

Facing the unknown

CDS is particularly valuable when healthcare professionals face new conditions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, UpToDate played an important role in helping clinicians access guidance and recommendations. During that time, our epidemiology and infectious diseases clinical experts updated COVID-19 topics over 500 times, equipping the frontline with the latest understanding of the virus and illness.

More recently, in response to the World Health Organization declaring mPox a global health threat for the second time in three years, we created a dedicated [mPox resource centre](#). This free-to-access online resource ensures clinicians receive timely access to vital information as soon as it is published.

The future of CDS

The healthcare industry is facing a massive, technological shift impacting how care is delivered. Teams continue to face new and existing challenges, including information overload, burnout and financial pressure.

Health leaders want to use – and trust – the potential benefits of AI to address these complex challenges while mitigating risks to patient safety.

For over 30 years, when clinicians around the world have had questions, they've trusted UpToDate and the team of clinical experts for answers. Our CDS solution has been enhanced with AI features for years, and [we're just getting started](#). Join us as we continue to innovate and equip the healthcare industry with the evidence-based content of UpToDate, strategically powered with AI-enhanced technology.



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