Clinical Decision Support:

Investing right

When your clinicians are caring for patients, the stakes are high and every decision counts. They will need the best evidence and clinical guidance at their fingertips to answer even the most complex questions with confidence.

But there are many clinical decision support technologies on the market, and some are more proven than others.

How do you choose the right one?

Getting the right answers fast

When making medical decisions, care teams often face "information overload." Even for the most highly educated and skilled care teams, medical decision-making is challenging given the volume of data that exists and the fact that new findings are being published all the time.

The right clinical decision support solution can help your care team:

- Reach a diagnosis faster.
- Reassure the clinician that the intended course of action is appropriate.
- Avoid unnecessary consulting of senior colleagues or specialists.

Getting the right diagnosis quickly not only improves operational efficiency but also gives the clinician peace of mind—a benefit that is difficult to calculate.

Not all Clinical Decision Support technology is created equal

Your solution should:

- Allow clinical questions to be answered more quickly.
- Help confirm or change medical decisions.
- Help improve care quality metrics and patient outcomes.

More than 100 research studies demonstrate that widespread use of UpToDate® is associated with improved patient outcomes, clinician satisfaction in electronic health records (EHRs), and hospital performance.
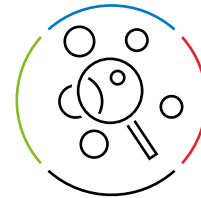
Researchers at Harvard University[2] concluded that, at more than 1,000 hospitals studied over a three-year period, use of UpToDate was associated with improved quality of care for every condition on the Hospital Quality Alliance Metrics and an estimated 372,000 hospital days were saved per year.

Saw a patient with saddle nose - looked it up on UpToDate - probably relapsing polychondritis - suggested referral to ENT for biopsy that confirmed the diagnosis. Without UpToDate, this clinician would have: spent ages looking through journals.[1]

Changing medical decisions

A study at the National University Hospital in Singapore[3] has shown that around 30% of the time that a clinician views an UpToDate topic, they change a medical decision.

A 2018 study[4] estimated 237 million medication errors occurred in the National Health Service in England, and clinical decision support solutions may have saved up to 1,000 lives and £100 million in care costs each year from 2023 to 2024.

Improving patient safety and potentially saving lives

Organizations have been able to realize value by partnering with the right Clinical Decision Support solution. UpToDate can help save more lives every day. The benefit is gained whether in combination with other EHRs or as a convenient reference for care teams in any setting.

The researchers at Harvard found that hospitals using UpToDate experienced shortened hospital stays for their patients, fewer patient deaths, and better-quality performance.

"There are economic savings if we know how to treat patients instead of sending them to university hospitals. Of course better healthcare helps reduce illnesses overall and that is balancing cost and quality."

Marian Jaalama, MD, Medical Specialist in Gynecology and Obstetrics, Kanta-Häme Central Hospital

Tangible benefits included:

- **Better-quality performance**
- **Reduced length of stay in hospitals**
- **Fewer deaths**

Clinical Decision Support that is proven and trusted

The right solution is all about accessibility at the point of care and getting the right answers fast.

While other solutions offer summaries of individual studies or electronic libraries of texts and journals, UpToDate places the latest evidence in context and provides graded, evidence-based treatment recommendations. This means that your care teams can quickly answer their most challenging clinical questions at the point of care and determine how to best care for their patients.

"UpToDate stands out because, in addition to providing the best evidence available, it also offers the necessary practicality to optimize the daily routine of the clinical staff."

Dr. Willian Dalprá, Technical Director,Hospital Divina Providência, Brazil

[1] Addison, J., Whitcombe, J., & William Glover, S. (2013). How doctors make use of online, point-of-care clinical decision support systems: a case study of UpToDate©. Health information and libraries journal, 30(1), 13–22. https://doi.org/10.1111/hir.12002

[2] Isaac, T., Zheng, J. and Jha, A. (2012), Use of UpToDate and outcomes in US hospitals. J. Hosp. Med., 7: 85-90. https://doi.org/10.1002/jhm.944

[3] Phua, J., See, K. C., Khalizah, H. J., Low, S. P., & Lim, T. K. (2012). Utility of the electronic information resource UpToDate for clinical decision-making at bedside rounds. Singapore medical journal, 53(2), 116–120. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22337186/

[4] More than 200 million medication errors occur in NHS per year, say researchers. The University of Manchester. 23 February 2018. https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/more-than-200-million-medication-errors-occur-in-nhs-per-year-say-researchers/