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Online Calculator for Clinical Decision Making for Physical Therapy

In the health care industry both published literature and online publications are important resources for obtaining information. Both online material and textbooks have their own uniqueness when it comes to accessibility and reliability. In the field of physical therapy, there is a limited amount of standardized practice and treatment guilds both online and published. Even though physical therapy books present reader's with several unique cases from all divisions of physical therapy, there are still a large number of cases with proven and/or failed regiments that have not been documented. As for universal practice, the physical therapist recommendations are almost taken at face value. Yet, due to the current lack of universal recommended practices, most physical therapists make recommendations based on what the physical therapy practitioner "knows has worked before."

Hypothesis:

The development of an online calculator will widen the ability of physical therapist in their clinical decision making.

Results:

The first phase of the beta version will begin with mock information created by online random numbers samples and ICD-9-CM codes. Only 250 four digit random numbers will be used ranging from ICD-9-CM code 042 to ICD-9-CM code 997.6. Another set of random

number is used to select gender and ages creating a non-bias data set. All this information is used to generate a (XY) scatter plot.

## Discussion

The main part of phase II (trial phase) is to compare the results from the calculator to the actual result. If the results differ an understanding of why that method of treatment was chosen compared to the results from the calculator. If the results match then the calculator will only need minor upgrades. The final phase will have cases that a physical therapist is currently working on.

## Conclusion:

By adding a sufficient number and variety of cases from each area of physical therapy practice, it is anticipated that the online calculator will have universal utility in the practice of physical therapy. Acting as its own template for future online clinical research this calculator and case registry/data warehouse will allow for new and novel means of data storage and management/utilization. This method of health care research can be used to provide solutions that are more user and patient friendly and that can be the basis for future research.