Abstract Information

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Abstract :

An important element in enhancing global healthcare delivery is the digitalization of healthcare systems. This has led to improved access, enhanced quality of care, greater accountability, and reduced costs.

This transition presents an opportunity for healthcare systems worldwide to digitize existing paper-based processes and leverage the additional benefits offered by digital tools. The benefits include the integration of clinical decisions in line with evidence-based treatment guidelines and the standardization of approaches in calculating health indicators for more accurate public health reporting and monitoring.

However, integrating clinical guidelines derived from research into digital healthcare systems remains unsatisfactory as the integration is often marred by errors and inconsistencies that compromise the quality of care.

This absence of standardized documentation for translating research-based guidance into digital systems frequently results in subjective interpretations by the implementers and the software vendors, leading to erroneous representations of clinical content.

To address this challenge, our implementation research utilizes the WHO SMART (Standards-based, Machine-readable, Adaptive, Requirements-based, and Testable) guideline framework to develop a digital adaptation kit designed for managing depressive and psychotic disorders.

This digital adaptation kit will serve as a bridge to translate clinical guidelines into precise technical specifications for software development to be used to manage psychiatric disorders.

Guided by global normative clinical guidelines for psychiatric disorders, this digital adaptation kit will include standards-based clinical workflows, data dictionaries, and algorithms for clinical decision-making and treatment of these disorders. This approach has been applied in the development of the WHO Digital Adaptation Kit for Family Planning and Antenatal Care which

are now global references for the development of digital tools to support these program areas. Our aim is to ensure that digital health tools for psychiatric conditions strictly adhere to clinical guidelines, leading, ultimately, to improved patient outcomes.