

Categories of CDS

Category	Description	Complexity	Notes
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize evidence that can help the decision-maker understand choices and consequences Help answer background questions (ones we ask when we are unfamiliar with a problem) Help answer foreground questions (about choices related to the specific patient or problem) 	Low to moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to be frequently reviewed and updated Need to be integrated into the electronic record to be efficient and useful Includes textbooks, journal articles etc.
Alerts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review health events to identify acceptable data and or meaningful associations between data Based on simple “if-then-act” statements and are automated 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implicit (i.e.,) CDS embedded in lab results as they are thoughtfully grouped and colored to reveal abnormal patterns Explicit (i.e.,) alerts may be noted in the prescribing module when a clinician is alerted to a possible drug-drug interaction More efficient than clinicians at detecting patterns
Reminders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipate health events, usually prompting for data or actions required to detect or avoid specific health events Help us to not forget the things we already know about and intend to do 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prompt us to ask questions that may otherwise be missed Mostly based on the demographics in a scheduling system Can be passed on to patients Easily use mobile devices

Assists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate application of knowledge to specific patient circumstances for diagnosis, therapy or prediction • Help us to make sense of complex patterns in health data 	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most common as clinical calculators (e.g.,) cardiovascular risk calculators or renal dosing algorithms • Algorithms, formulas and prediction patterns need to be validated in clinical practice
Guides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to organize care across time, space and person • The most complex of clinical decision support tools 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May appear as evidence-based order sets, care maps, clinical pathways, etc. • Explicitly or implicitly reflect recommendations about the best care for a particular problem and patient type • Always reflect a set of health care goals