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Can Computers Predict Medical Problems

The Veterans Health Administration plans to test whether computerized clinical reasoning and prediction systems can use massive amounts of stored medical records to improve care, efficiency and patient outcomes. The VA system stores data on 30 million veterans. This includes clinical data and 2 billion clinical notes growing at one hundred thousand notes per day.

They plan to test these computerized prediction systems for two years hoping they can be used for diagnosis and for predictions of readmissions to hospitals, patient falls, or other problems. They also want to use it for Obamacare’s comparative effectiveness research, which some say will lead to rationing of care.