

CAF/17/01 - Deriving and validating a clinical prediction rule for the diagnosis of asthma in primary care

Asthma is common in Scotland, causing considerable illness, healthcare usage, and public expense. Accurate diagnosis is essential for good asthma management. Yet, uncertainty about the best way to diagnose asthma can lead to missed diagnoses and under-treatment, or over-diagnosis leading to unnecessary treatment and healthcare costs. This project aims to make it easier for doctors and nurses to identify and interpret the important information gathered from a patient suspected of having asthma. Using an existing research database, we can identify which features predict who has asthma and use this information to develop an asthma prediction 'rule'. The 'rule' will be tested using anonymous routine data from UK general practices and a Netherlands-based asthma referral service.

The prediction 'rule' will help doctors and nurses make sense of information in a standardised way, improving the accuracy with which asthma is diagnosed. Patients will benefit from being accurately diagnosed and receiving appropriate treatment.