1.1 Accuracy of self-diagnosis in conditions commonly managed in primary care: diagnostic accuracy review

Annette Plüddemann, Hayley Jones, Carl Heneghan

With the increasing workload in general practice, some research has suggested that patients may be able to self-diagnose some common conditions (for example recurring uncomplicated urinary tract infections or high blood pressure). However, it is unclear what the accuracy of self-diagnosis by patients is compared to a clinical diagnosis. This systematic review aims to identify and assess all research studies that have evaluated how accurate patient self-diagnosis is compared to a clinical diagnosis for conditions commonly managed in primary care. This research will help us to understand whether patients could safely self-diagnose some common conditions. If this study shows that there are some conditions that patients could safely self-diagnose, this could lead to developing advice for patients about self-diagnosis and assessing how this could be implemented.