Digital Adaptation Kits
What are they and why should I use them?

What are Digital Adaptation Kits (DAKs)?

Digital adaptation kits (DAKs) are part of the WHO SMART Guidelines approach, which empowers countries to integrate recommended clinical and public health practices, and data recommendations into digital systems. DAKs are:

- A software-neutral, systematic approach to digitize clinical and public health content and ensure use of standards (e.g. International Classification of Diseases—ICD).
- Structured documentation based on WHO clinical, health system and data use recommendations to inform the design of digital systems.

Challenges with paper-based systems at point of care:

- Narrative format of guidelines requires significant efforts to accurately translate for use in digital systems.
- Paper service registers hamper timely uptake of care standards.
- Inadequate mechanisms to assess consistency of health protocols to recommendations within paper systems.

What is in a SMART DAK?

<table>
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<th>Health interventions and recommendations</th>
<th>Relevant health interventions and recommendations from WHO guidelines and guidance</th>
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<td>Roles, responsibilities, competencies and essential interventions performed by targeted personas</td>
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<td>Brief narrative description of how the targeted personas may engage with the digital system</td>
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<td>Functional and non-functional requirements</td>
<td>A non-exhaustive list of key functions and non-functional requirements for a digital tracking and decision support system</td>
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DAKs aim to improve quality of care and interoperability by:

- Defining the expected data, functionality, and health content to be incorporated into digital systems.
- Providing clear descriptions of the decision-support logic, algorithms and indicator calculations for embedding within digital systems.
- Detailing the core data elements, coded to the ICD and other terminology standards to ensure consistency of how data is represented.
- Distilling workflows to help with the coordination of care between actors, augmented by digital systems.

How does it work?

DAKs support country’s digitization journeys, regardless of where they are in that journey:

- Ministries of health can oversee and ensure validity of the underlying data and health content within the digital systems.
- Software developers and technologists have clarity and a structured process for incorporating WHO recommendations into digital systems.
- Health workers can access updated guidelines for decision support logic within the digital system to deliver quality care to clients.
- Digital system established
  - Update and incorporate content within digital system to align with WHO and national recommendations
- Digital system in planning stages
  - Kickstart the requirements gathering process for designing digital systems
- Updating paper registers and job aids
  - Align and update paper forms to be consistent with WHO recommendations

INTERESTED IN IMPLEMENTING DAKS?

For all SMART Guidelines, including DAKs visit: https://www.who.int/teams/digital-health-and-innovation/smart-guidelines

For information on how to introduce DAKs within your systems contact: SMART_DAKS@who.int