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The Science Behind Headspace Health

DATE

Headspace Health Our care system

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Mental health is a continuum – so is our approach

Prevention

Psychiatry

Therapy

Behavioral Health Coaching

Self-Care Content:

mindfulness and meditation courses and programs

Technology platform

headspace health. Our stepped care system – enhanced by technology – uniquely delivers four levels of care simultaneously



Proprietary, Confidential, & Thoughtful



3

A care system backed by an extensive evidence base

Mindfulness and meditation

Mindfulness and meditation decrease perceived stress and reduce mental health symptoms in individuals with anxiety and depression disorders.¹

Behavioral health coaching

Health coaching is effective in improving individual physical and mental health.²

Teletherapy and psychiatry

Teletherapy and psychiatry deliver outcomes equal to in-person versions of treatments.³

<u>Sources</u> 1 Nature; Annual Review of Psychology 2 Patient Education and Counseling; Coaching Research Brief 3 <u>APA</u>

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Teletherapy and psychiatry

Behavioral health coaching

Mindfulness and meditation

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SELECTED RESEARCH AREAS

The largest body of peer-reviewed evidence in digital mental health

Mental wellbeing stress, resilience, life satisfaction, quality of life

Clinical outcomes depression, anxiety, sleep

Cognition and neuroscience HRV, attention

Healthcare costs and ROI: claims spending, workplace outcomes

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504

Peer-reviewed studies on product-specific outcomes 654

Research collaborators









Headspace improves mental health

Mindfulness and meditation lead to improvements in anxiety, depression, and general well-being



Depression

symptom reduction after 8 weeks

Journal of Occupational Health Psychology

Well-being

increase in life satisfaction after 30 days

PLOS One



Mindfulness and meditation helps employees, managers, and healthcare shift workers

Employees	Decreases in anxiety and
	depressive symptoms ¹

Increases in authentic leadership among Managers leaders and positive work attitudes among followers²

Healthcare Increases in positive mood, Workers mindfulness, acting with awareness³

Sources

- 1 Journal of Occupational Health Psychology
- 2 Journal of Business and Psychology
- 3 Journal of Pediatric Nursing

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Our care model delivers real-world impact

Coaching and clinical services improve depression, anxiety, productivity, and more



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17% +3 healthy days reduction in after 30 days outpatient costs <u>JMIR</u> **Procedia Computer Science**



Appendix Team overview Study Summaries Full publication list

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Meet our Science team: Clinical Product

We partner on product and service development, ensuring science is baked into our product and services by leveraging research, behavioral science and clinical expertise.



Dr. Lauren Lee (She/Her)

MS and PhD in Clinical Psychology VP of Clinical Product and **Content Development**

Expertise

Clinical product/program development Behavioral science Clinical/coaching operations

Experience and education

University of Arizona Lantern Health Omada Two Chairs Calm



Expertise Digital mental health product development Health psychology Clinical/coach training and operations

Experience and education

University of Texas at Austin VA Healthcare System Duke University Noom **Crossover Health**

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Dr. Matthew Chester (He/Him)

MS and PhD in Clinical Psychology **Clinical Product Specialist**



Dr. Michelle Davis (She/Her)

MS and PhD in **Clinical Psychology Clinical Product Specialist**

Expertise

Cognitive behavioral therapy Anxiety disorders and OCD Clinical intervention/product development

Experience and education

University of Texas at Austin VA Healthcare System **Baylor College of Medicine Big Health**



Meet our Science team: Research

We validate our impact on health outcomes via RCTs (Randomized Controlled Trials) and real world evidence (RWE) achieved via internal studies and external collaborations.



Dr. Emily Hu (She/Her) **PhD in Epidemiology** Director, Research

Expertise Epidemiology Chronic diseases Public health and prevention

Experience and education Johns Hopkins School of Public Health Foodsmart



Dr. Emily Shih (She/Her) PhD in Human Dev Psychology, **Research Scientist**

Expertise Human development **Emotion Regulation Stress Physiology**

Experience and education UC Riverside UC San Francisco



Yrvane Pageot (She/Her) MA in Health Psychology Research Associate

Expertise Health psychology Research collaborations

UCLA

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Experience and education

NYU Grossman School of Medicine



Sarah Kunkle (She/Her)

MPH in Epidemiology Science Strategy & Operations

Expertise Health economics and outcomes research Real world evidence

Industry-academic collaboration

Experience and education Columbia School of Public Health Fitbit 23andMe



Dr. Ulrich Kirk (He/Him) PhD in Neuroscience External PI

Expertise Neuroscience

Experience and education

University College London Baylor College of Medicine University of Toronto Virginia Tech University of Southern Denmark





Mindfulness and Meditation: Workplace Populations

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Improved work stress and well-being among employees

Objective: Examine the effects of Headspace on improving psychological well-being and reducing job strain and ambulatory blood pressure during the workday

Population: 238 healthy employees in the UK reporting some work stress from Google and Roche

Study design: Randomized controlled trial: Headspace or waitlist control

Intervention: Headspace for 8 weeks + 8 week follow-up

RESULTS

Participants randomized to the Headspace intervention group

weeks

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- reported significant
- improvements in well-being,
- distress, job strain, and
- perceptions of workplace social
- support compared to the control group.
- **Anxiety symptoms:** 19% reduction after 8
- **Depression symptoms:** 29% reduction after 8 weeks
- Systolic blood pressure: Slightly reduced at 8 weeks.
- Improvements in well-being, depressive symptoms, and job strain were sustained at 16-week follow-up,

CONCLUSIONS

Guided mindfulness meditations delivered via smartphone can improve outcomes related to work stress and well-being, with potentially lasting effects.









Headspace increases mindfulness and positive mood among medical staff

Objective: Assess the potential for a mindfulness meditation practice to improve medical residents' well-being

Population: 43 resident physicians from Stanford **University Hospital**

Study Design: Single-arm longitudinal study

Intervention: Headspace for 4 weeks

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RESULTS

- Mindfulness: 16% increase after 4 weeks
- **Positive mood:** 8% increase after 4 weeks
- Improvements in mindfulness were correlated with frequent use of the Headspace app.

CONCLUSIONS

Results of this feasibility study suggest that Headspace can be used to build valuable mindfulness skills and improve mood in physicians.



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Increased awareness and compassion among novice pediatric nurses

Objective: Examine the effectiveness of smartphone delivered mindfulness in improving nurses' compassion, fatigue, burnout, compassion satisfaction, and mindfulness compared to a traditional intervention

Population: 95 novice pediatric nurses

Study Design: Randomized controlled trial: Headspace or a traditionally delivered mindfulness intervention (i.e., administered by a trained Buddhist priest).

Intervention: Headspace for 4 weeks

Higher among the Headspace group relative to the traditional intervention group

Lower risk among participants in the Headspace relative to participants in the traditional intervention group

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RESULTS

Acting with awareness:

Compassion fatigue:

Note: only among participants with subclinical post-traumatic symptoms

CONCLUSIONS

Headspace may benefit novice nurses by teaching important coping skills to manage stress.







Headspace reduces health care workers' stress: a large multi-site study of NHS staff

Objective: Investigate the effectiveness of Headspace in reducing health care worker stress

Population: 2182 NHS staff

Study Design: Randomized controlled trial: Headspace or active control (Moodzone)

Intervention: Headspace for 4.5 months

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RESULTS

- Headspace led to greater reductions in stress and other mental health outcomes compared to the active control group.
- In the Headspace group:
- **Stress**: Reduced by 21% after 4.5 months
- **Depression**: Reduced by 24%
- **Anxiety**: Reduced by 30%
- Self-compassion: Increased by 13%

CONCLUSIONS

Headspace may help health care workers reduce stress and improve other mental health outcomes





Online mindfulness training can improve the well-being of police officers and staff

Objective: Examine the effects of online mindfulness training on well-being in police officers and staff

Population: 1,337 police employees

Study Design: Randomized controlled trial: Mindfit Cop (online mindfulness course for policing) or waitlist control

Intervention: Headspace for 24 weeks

The Headspace group saw improvements in well-being, life satisfaction, performance, presenteeism, and resilience after 24 weeks.

Headspace was most beneficial for participants who reported low job control.

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RESULTS

CONCLUSIONS

Headspace is an effective form of online mindfulness training to improve the well-being of police officers and staff.







Mindfulness and meditation: Everyday Well-being

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Headspace improves psychological well-being as measured by resilience, life satisfaction, and stress

Objective : Examine the effects of mindfulness meditation on psychosocial well-being

Population: 74 healthy adults

Study Design: Randomized controlled trial: Headspace or waitlist control

Intervention: Headspace for 30 days

RESULTS

Participants randomized to the Headspace reported improvements in psychological well-being after 10 and 30 days:

10 days: 8% increase

10 days: 12% decrease 30 days: 32% decrease

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Resilience:

10 days: 4.5% increase

30 days: 11% increase

Life satisfaction:

30 days: 15% increase (30 days)

Stress:

CONCLUSIONS

Using the Headspace app can improve self-reported psychological outcomes, with greater improvements after 30 days.



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Improvements in stress, affect, and irritability following brief use of the Headspace app

Objective: Examine the effects of Headspace use on affect, irritability, and stress compared to an active control treatment

Population: 69 adults

Study Design: Randomized controlled trial: Headspace or audiobook control

Intervention: 10 days of Headspace

RESULTS

Compared to the control group, the Headspace group showed greater improvements in well-being:

Irritability: 27% decrease after 10 days

Stress: 15% decrease after 10 days

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Affect balance: 200% increase after 10 days

CONCLUSIONS

Brief mindfulness training using the Headspace app is beneficial for several aspects of psychosocial well-being.



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Headspace reduces compulsive internet use

Objective: Examine the impact of brief mindfulness on compulsive internet use and mental health symptoms

Population: 994 adults

Study Design: Randomized controlled trial: Headspace, progressive muscle relaxation [PMR], or waitlist control

Intervention: Headspace for 2 weeks

RESULTS

greater reduction in Headspace group compared to PMR group

greater reduction in Headspace group compared

to control group

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Compulsive internet use:

Anxiety and depressive symptoms:

CONCLUSIONS

Brief mindfulness meditation training with Headspace can reduce compulsive internet use, as well as symptoms of depression and anxiety.





Headspace rated as acceptable in enhancing sleep quality in diverse population

Objective: Evaluate the acceptability and feasibility of Headspace to improve sleep quality among a diverse group of adults

Population: 17 racially diverse (53% Black, 12% Asian, 18% Hispanic) adults with a body mass index \geq 25 and with poor sleep quality

Study Design: Mixed methods (i.e., intervention followed by focus group)

Intervention: Headspace for 30 days and a sleep hygiene presentation

• Participants with > 50% intervention adherence reported that the app helped them **fall** asleep faster • Participants who used the app at

night, exclusively, reported **falling** asleep faster and staying asleep

Acceptability: 100% of participants rated the app as acceptable and appreciated the ability to personalize their app experience

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RESULTS

Sleep:

CONCLUSIONS

Using Headspace to enhance sleep quality is acceptable and feasible. Tailoring content for Black/African American individuals may improve uptake in this population.



Mindfulness and meditation: **Cognitive and Physical** Health Outcomes

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Focus music improves heart rate variability and attention

Objective: Examine the effects of a music intervention on improving cognitive performance and cardiovascular health

Population: 108 healthy adults

Study Design: Randomized controlled trial: jazz, piano, lo-fi, or waitlist control

Intervention: 15 min and 45 min music durations for 3 days

For participants in the Headspace groups, **music** familiarity was associated with improvements in: • Attentional capacity HRV

headspace health

RESULTS

- Compared to participants in the control group,
- participants in the all 3 music
- groups showed
- improvements in:
- Sustained attention
- Heart rate variability (HRV)

CONCLUSIONS

Focus music content in the Headspace app may positively impact focus and related measures of physiological functioning.



Sleep music, sleepcasts, and mindfulness improve sleep quality and sleep arousal

Objective: Examine the effects of three interventions on sleep arousal, sleep quality, and cognitive functioning

Population: 38 healthy volunteers

Study Design: Within-subject crossover design with 3 interventions: sleep music, sleepcasts, guided mindfulness

Intervention: 1 week control followed by 1 week of each of the 3 interventions (4 weeks total)

Sleep music and sleepcasts were associated with improvements in **sleep** efficiency and HRV during the pre-sleep period

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RESULTS

The guided mindfulness

- intervention
- was associated with:
- Improvements in **sleep quality**
- Increased attentional vigilance
 - Improvements in **HRV** during the pre-sleep and sleep periods

CONCLUSIONS

Sleep music, sleepcasts, and guided mindfulness may lead to improvements in subjective and objective sleep quality among healthy participants.



Smartphone mindfulness meditation training reduces pro-inflammatory gene expression in stressed adults

Objective: Examine the effects of Headspace on pro-inflammatory gene expression compared to a problem-solving control program

Population: 100 customer service employees

Study Design: Randomized controlled trial: Headspace or active control

Intervention: Headspace for 30 days

expression: Headspace group had reduced activity of the pro-inflammatory transcription control pathway

compared to the control

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RESULTS

Pro-inflammatory gene

Perceived stress: Both groups experienced decreases in perceived stress

CONCLUSIONS

Mindfulness training may be an effective method for improving immune cell gene expression in stressful work environments.



Improved stress and abdominal fat distribution among adults with overweight

Objective: Examine effects of mindfulness meditation on food cravings and metabolic health

Population: 161 participants with overweight and moderate stress

Study Design: Randomized controlled trial: Headspace, Headspace + healthy eating, healthy eating (active control), or waitlist control

Intervention: Headspace for 8 weeks

• 26% lower stress for those who used Headspace (8% for control)

Body fat: Reduced body fat (measured by sagittal diameter) for those who used Headspace

• Those high in **binge eating** had greater reductions in body fat if they were randomized to Headspace compared to control

Adherence: Adherence was associated with greater reductions in stress, cravings, and adiposity

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RESULTS

Perceived stress:

CONCLUSIONS

Headspace is an effective resource for reducing stress and improving abdominal fat distribution patterns among adults with overweight and moderate stress.



Mindfulness and meditation: Clinical populations





Clinician-supported Headspace, depression, and anxiety

Objective: Examine the effectiveness of Headspace in depression self-management, as an alternative to a cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) self-help intervention

Population: 54 adults with mild to moderate depression

Study Design: Feasibility study; single-arm

Intervention: 30 sessions of Headspace in addition to 6 support sessions over 8 weeks

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RESULTS

• **Depression:** Reduced by 44% • **Anxiety:** Reduced by 46% • Acceptability:

Clinician-supported Headspace was deemed acceptable by participants and clinicians. • **Engagement**: Engagement with Headspace and coaching sessions was high. Greater engagement with the Headspace app was associated with a greater reduction in depression symptom severity

CONCLUSIONS

A blended intervention combining Headspace with clinician support has potential as an initial treatment for moderate to moderately severe depression.



Headspace as an intervention for cancer patients and their caregivers

Objective: Evaluate Headspace as a tool to help patients and caregivers cope with cancer-related distress

Population: 72 patients and 26 caregivers

Study Design: Feasibility study; Randomized controlled trial: Headspace or waitlist control

Intervention: 8 weeks daily Headspace meditation sessions + Coping with Cancer course

Patients: Experienced improvements in depression, anxiety, pain intensity, and well-being.

Caregivers: Experienced improvements in fatigue

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RESULTS

CONCLUSIONS

Results of this study demonstrate that there is potential for Headspace to improve quality of life for cancer patients and their caregivers.



Improved quality of life among breast cancer patients

Objective: Evaluate the efficacy of Headspace to improve quality of life among women with breast cancer

Population: 112 women diagnosed with breast cancer

Study Design: Randomized controlled trial: Headspace or waitlist control

Intervention: Headspace for 8 weeks

Quality of life*: 14% increase in Headspace group

Mindfulness*: 12% increase in Headspace group

*Statistically significantly greater than control group

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RESULTS

CONCLUSIONS

Headspace can be an effective intervention for women seeking to improve quality of life and mindfulness following a diagnosis of breast cancer.



Improvement in asthma and mental health symptoms among patients with asthma

Objective: Examine the feasibility Headspace in improving patient-reported outcomes for mild and moderate asthma patients

Population: 144 participants with a clinical asthma diagnosis

Study Design: Randomized controlled trial: Headspace or waitlist control

Intervention: Headspace for 3 months

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RESULTS

- **Depression:** improvements at 6 weeks and 3 months
- Reductions were statistically significantly greater compared to the control group
- Asthma-related quality of life: improvements at 6 weeks and 3 months
- Asthma control: improvements at 6 weeks and 3 months
- Mindfulness: improvements at 6 weeks and 3 months

CONCLUSIONS

Headspace demonstrates potential benefits for asthma symptoms, asthma-related quality of life, and mental health symptoms.



Headspace may help improve mental health among postpartum women

Objective: Examine the feasibility, acceptability, and preliminary efficacy of Headspace for postpartum women

Population: 27 women with moderate to moderately severe depressive symptoms seeking postpartum care

Study Design: Mixed-methods, 1-arm feasibility trial

Intervention: Headspace for 6 weeks

Depressive symptoms: improvements at 6 weeks

Perceived stress improvements at 6 weeks

Sleep quality: improvements at 6 weeks

weeks

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RESULTS

Mindfulness: improvements at 6

CONCLUSIONS

A Headspace intervention for postpartum women with moderate to moderately severe depressive symptoms is feasible and acceptable and may improve mental health symptoms.



Coaching and Clinical Services: Depression & anxiety Resilience & quality of life Healthcare costs & utilization

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Ginger members experience significant reductions in depression symptoms

Objective: Investigate the utilization and effectiveness of the Ginger platform for reducing depression symptoms

Population: 1662 Ginger members

Study Design: Retrospective observational study

Intervention: On-demand behavioral health coaching, clinical services (therapy, psychiatry), and self-guided content



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RESULTS

Depression: significant reductions in members experiencing symptoms

• **Baseline:** 46.5% screened positive • Follow-up: 28.7% screened positive

Improvements in depression symptoms were consistent across care modalities

CONCLUSIONS

Ginger members show significant reductions in depression symptoms.



Ginger members experience significant reductions in anxiety symptoms

Objective: Investigate association between care engagement and improvement in anxiety symptoms

Population: 1611 Ginger members aged 18+ years who screened positive for anxiety

Study Design: Retrospective observational study

Intervention: On-demand behavioral health coaching, clinical services (therapy, psychiatry) and self-guided content

Members who received coaching or clinical services (therapy or psychiatry) showed greater reductions in depression and anxiety symptoms than members who did not engage in care

Members who engaged in "hybrid care" (coaching + clinical) showed the highest rates of improvement in depression and anxiety symptoms

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RESULTS

Anxiety: reductions in anxiety symptoms across all types of care

CONCLUSIONS

Use of any care modality on the Ginger platform was associated with decreases in anxiety symptoms. Engagement with combined care (teletherapy and text-based coaching) showed the greatest likelihood of decreasing anxiety symptoms.



Health-related quality of life among Ginger members

Objective: Describe changes in health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in members and association with text-based behavioral coaching and clinical sessions.

Population: 288 Ginger members ages 18+

Study Design: Retrospective observational study

Intervention: On-demand behavioral health coaching; Clinical services (therapy and psychiatry)

Healthy mental health days: +3 in 30 days

Productive days: +3 in 30 days

Member engagement with clinical sessions significantly predicted changes in unhealthy mental health days

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RESULTS

CONCLUSIONS

Short-term engagement with virtual care can improve HRQoL for members with subclinical and clinical symptoms.





Resilience among individuals accessing the Ginger platform

Objective: Understand individual needs, particularly those that might not be captured in traditional clinical assessments.

Population: 9165 Ginger members ages 18+

Study Design: Retrospective observational study

Intervention: On-demand behavioral health coaching, clinical services (therapy, psychiatry) and self-guided content and assessments

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RESULTS

Resilience

• The majority (81%) of participants reported low resilience at baseline • Resilience was lower for younger members • Resilience was higher for members with no or mild depression or anxiety.

Despite having relatively higher resilience scores, members with no or mild depression or anxiety still had low resilience scores on average.

CONCLUSIONS

Study findings suggest a need for mental health support among individuals who might not typically be recommended for treatment based on results from traditional clinical assessments.



Reductions in outpatient costs for **Ginger members**

Objective: examine the associations between use of an on-demand digital mental health platform and healthcare utilization costs compared to a matched control cohort.

Population: 2148 Ginger members who signed up between Jan 1, 2018 and June 30, 2020 and matched control cohort.

Study Design: event study + control cohort.

Intervention: On-demand behavioral health coaching, clinical services (therapy, psychiatry) and self-guided content and assessments

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RESULTS

Total healthcare + pharmacy costs: no significant differences between cohorts

Outpatient costs:

16.8% reduction in outpatient costs in Ginger cohort vs. control

CONCLUSIONS

Virtual care interventions do not significantly increase total health care costs. In fact, results show that engaging in Ginger is associated with a reduction in outpatient costs, suggesting that novel behavioral health interventions can shift the modality of care without increasing overall health care spending and serve as a scalable approach to addressing the current mental health demands.



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Recommendation systems support engagement in self-guided content

Objective: describe and evaluate 2 knowledge-based content recommendation systems to bolster engagement in self-guided mental health content.

Population: 14,018 Ginger members

Study Design: Retrospective observational study (in-app and offline evaluation)

Intervention: On-demand behavioral health coaching, clinical services (therapy, psychiatry) and self-guided content and assessments

conversation-based recommendations had a 16.1% higher relevance rate (studied via subject matter expert annotations) compared to a random control

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RESULTS

Content completion:

• Content consumed in the recommendations section had the highest completion rates (42.6%) compared to other sections of the app, (37.35%).

• Conversation-based content recommendations had 11.4% higher completion rates than onboarding response-based recommendations

Content relevance:

CONCLUSIONS

Recommender systems can help scale and supplement care with personalized content and self-care recommendations. **Conversation-based** recommendation algorithm allows for dynamic recommendations based on information gathered during coaching sessions, which is a critical capability, given the changing nature of mental health needs during treatment.





Publication list

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Publications highlighted in this deck

Workplace

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