

What is claimed is:

1. An article of manufacture for use with a data processing system, comprising a storage medium having stored therein a medical provider information stored program, and a medical provider database describing clinical services or procedures available from each provider by clinical codes or procedure codes in said data processing system, said data processing system being configured by said medical provider information stored program when executed by said data processing system to use said clinical codes or said procedural codes to identify a medical provider from said medical provider database for providing a specific medical service to a patient.

2. The article of manufacture as recited in claim 1 in which a patient assessment stored program is additionally provided in said storage medium, said patient assessment stored program including a plurality of patient complaint based branched chain logic algorithms, each of said plurality of patient complaint based branched chain logic algorithms being configured to present a series of questions answerable by "yes" or "no" when said patient assessment stored program is executed by said data processing system, each of the answers to said questions being used by said data processing system when said patient assessment stored program is executed by said data processing system to make a categorization of the patient as either:

- (a) having a sufficiently low post-test probability of a specific illness or injury under consideration so as to eliminate possible need for further investigation, medical care, or other health care, for the specific illness or injury under consideration; or
- (b) not having a sufficiently low post-test probability of the specific illness or injury under consideration so as to eliminate possible need for further investigation, medical care, or other health care, for the specific illness or injury under consideration;

the answers further being used with the categorization to recommend an appropriate intervention for the specific illness or injury under consideration, said data processing system further being configured by said patient assessment stored program and said medical provider information stored program when executed by said data processing system to link said patient assessment stored program to said medical provider information stored program and said medical provider database with said clinical codes or said procedure codes.

3. The article of manufacture as recited in claim 2 in which said patient assessment stored program is configured to make a medical care recommendation and said medical care provider information stored program is configured to make a medical provider selection for the patient based on the medical care recommendation using the clinical codes when said patient assessment stored program and said medical provider stored program are executed on said data processing system.

4. The article of manufacture as recited in claim 2 in which said medical provider information stored program includes software that selects a medical provider for the patient, said data processing system further being configured by said medical provider information stored program when executed by said data processing system to make a medical provider selection for the patient from said medical provider database based on said clinical codes and the patient information.

5. The article of manufacture as recited in claim 4 in which said medical provider information stored program further includes software that refers the patient to the medical provider.

6. An article of manufacture for use with a data processing system, comprising a storage medium having stored therein

a medical provider information stored program, said data processing system including a medical care provider database describing providers and clinical services, procedures, or other health care available from each provider by clinical codes or procedure codes stored in said data processing system, wherein providers include physicians, clinics, hospitals, therapists, dentists, and nurses, and providers are described by stored background information in said memory, practice information including at least one of location, billing information, and language spoken, said data processing system being configured by said medical provider information stored program when executed by said data processing system to use at least one of said clinical codes or said procedural codes to identify a medical provider from said medical provider database for providing a specific medical service to a patient, wherein said clinical codes or said procedural codes are based on at least one of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), the Physician's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), Current Dental Terminology (CDT), and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), and wherein said clinical or procedural codes prospectively describe the availability of said clinical services from each provider or provider location.

7. The article of manufacture as recited in claim 6 in which a patient assessment stored program is additionally provided in said storage medium, said patient assessment stored program including a plurality of patient complaint based branched chain logic algorithms, each of said plurality of patient complaint based branched chain logic algorithms being configured to present a series of questions answerable with "yes" or "no" when said patient assessment stored program is executed by said data processing system, each of the answers to said questions being used by said data processing system when said patient assessment stored program is executed by said data processing system to make a categorization of the patient as either:

- (a) having a sufficiently low post-test probability of a specific illness, injury, condition, or etiology under consideration so as to clinically eliminate possible need for further investigation, medical care, or other health care, for the specific illness, injury, condition, or etiology under consideration; or
- (b) not having a sufficiently low post-test probability of the specific illness, injury, condition, or etiology under consideration so as to clinically eliminate possible need for further investigation, medical care, or other health care, for the specific illness, injury, condition, or etiology under consideration;

the answers further being used with the categorization to identify a set of appropriate interventions for injuries and illnesses which cannot be clinically eliminated, wherein an appropriate intervention in the set of appropriate interventions has at least one characteristic selected from the group consisting of level of intervention, timing of the intervention, place of intervention, nature of intervention, type of provider, said data processing system further being configured by said patient assessment stored program and said medical provider information stored program when executed by said data processing system to link said patient assessment stored program to said medical provider information stored program and said medical provider data base with said clinical codes or said procedure codes, said data processing system further being configured by said medical provider information stored program to make a medical provider or medical provider location selection from said medical provider database based on said clinical codes and the patient information.