



Monitoring health as an opportunity to categorize preventative and early-treatment actions in a self-care journey: our experience with a Healthcare Magenta Scorecard

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Background: Applying a digital health intervention to measure health and wellbeing status offers opportunities to guide and augment healthcare and promotion. In our scenario, we consider mainly digital-native patients and present an evaluation of a new Healthcare Magenta Scorecard towards this end.

Methods: Grounded in the six domains of health and promotion (physical activity; sleep quality; nutrition; habits/lifestyle; mental health; quality of life) we developed a health Magenta Scorecard (Magenta Score), a mobile based Electronic Patient Reported Outcomes (e-PRO) that measures patients health and wellbeing every 3–5 months. The Magenta Scorecard was derived from previously published evidence-based instruments. We collected data as patients were onboarded into our healthcare system (T0 and T1, time span between measurements, 141 days) and provided correlations among our domains of care.

Results: A total of 1,622 participants responded to T0 and T1 our Magenta Scorecard. Participants mean age was 31.3 [95% confidence interval (CI): 31.2–31.5] years and female (63.4%). Fifty-five percent (n=892) of our sample were categorized as relating to Health and Wellbeing promotion, 8.5% (n=138) disease management, 35.7% (n=579) self-care care support and only 0.8% (n=13) pertained to case management. From our care coordination guided approach, our Magenta Scorecards reported mean improvement across the study cohort of $26 \pm$ standard deviation (SD) points, from T0 (649, 95% CI: 643–656) to T1 (675, 95% CI: 668–682). Our Magenta Scorecard domains had significant, albeit weak spearman correlations.

Conclusions: We demonstrated our Magenta Scorecard rationale and its guided approach. The Magenta Scorecard displayed adequate responsiveness and was significantly correlated across all of the domains investigated. Further prospective research is needed to validate our results in the long term.

Keywords: Mobile health; healthcare; telehealth; wellbeing

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Introduction

The rapid increase of internet users over the last few decades was followed by an incremental integration of health information technology (HIT) into the healthcare system globally. These technologies facilitate the collection and incorporation of patient-reported information into clinical practice. Electronic Patient Reported Outcomes (e-PRO) evaluation systems allow for continuous standardized patient assessments and have resulted in a lower response burden and better user experience compared to paper-based PRO evaluations (1-3). Additionally, e-PRO systems contain features that enable progress tracking by both clinicians and patients providing real-time assessment and feedback (2).

Most studies and implementations of e-PRO systems have focused on specific diseases or conditions such as oncology. These systems have the potential to improve the identification and monitoring of essential aspects of care, such as treatment-related adverse effects (4-7). These tools are growing in use and applicability and we believe that applying them to primary care and prevention could have myriad potential benefits (2,3,8). Thus, we developed a combination of e-PROs that measure a broad scope of health dimensions associated with an increased risk of chronic diseases: dietary habits, physical activity, sleep, and mental health.

This research piece is derived from the efforts of a primary-care driven, digital-first healthcare system that seeks to implement more preventative-focused actions, supported by digital-native patients invited to join self-care

journeys. These patients are supported by a nursing team that are guided by evidence-based medicine protocols. Our recent research has shown that 64% of acute conditions were resolved with the assistance of our telehealth platform, mainly driven by nurses (1). Thus, acute conditions are already partly being addressed by our digital ecosystem. However, preventative measures are still lacking a clearer and data-driven approach.

We aimed to develop a Healthcare Magenta Scorecard, mainly from the aggregation e-PROs, as a guide to understand which healthcare actions were lacking in our population and also as a method for patients to partake in their own selfcare. This study aims to describe the rationale of our healthcare scoreboard (Magenta Score) and some preliminary data from our initial efforts. As a secondary objective we investigated some psychometric properties among the domains that encompasses our Magenta Scorecard.

Methods

This is a single-center preliminary pilot study regarding the development of a health scorecard in our private healthcare system (Alice Healthcare, São Paulo, SP, Brazil). The study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki (as revised in 2013).

The rationale behind the development of our Magenta Scorecard

We believe that continuous improvement in 6 domains of health and wellbeing are crucial to health promotion and prevention. We realize that there is great heterogeneity in defining which are the most relevant domains that best translate into realising health and well being improvements. In our thesis, we chose test the following (9-21): physical activity, sleep quality, nutrition, habits/lifestyle, mental health, quality of life (QoL).

Our decision to scrutinize these domains is the fact that previous research has proven benefits in early-action from these conditions. Our score ranks our patients' health status from 0 to 1,000, categorizing into 3 levels our health status and wellbeing: poor [<500]; good [$500-750$]; and excellent [>750].

These categories serve as a guide to stratify which patients are in need of a more detailed follow-up and care approach by our care coordination team, and also to foster engagement and ongoing compliance in using a mobile-based app.

Highlight box

Key findings

- We demonstrate the results of the development and implementation of a health scorecard (Magenta Score), which is a broad and multidimensional mobile-based tool that measures health and wellbeing in a health insurance environment.

What is known and what is new?

- There are some promising emergent initiatives on the topic, but few reports regarding usefulness, specially in the decision-making process.
- We describe the rationale that underpins the development and implementation of this novel tool and present early findings.

What is the implication, and what should change now?

- Further studies are needed to explore how healthcare decisions could be supported by such prospective health and wellbeing data collection.

Data capturing and guided approach

We administered the score card every 3–5 months and patients supplied responses to questionnaires by means of a mobile app. As most of the information about the health plan (accredited network, available medical network, pending health actions) is within the mobile application, the scorecard was a pending action when joining the health plan and a new assessment was encouraged every 3–5 months. We included a convenience sample, which is those that responded to the scorecard from December 2021 to November 2022. We included only patients that responded at the scorecard completely two times in a more than 3-month timespan. Incomplete scorecard responders were excluded. There were no extra incentives regarding to responding the scorecard besides measuring patient health and wellbeing status. Data was captured inside our healthcare standard alone native IOS and/or Android mobile-app. For data collected we used a sliding scale or descriptive alternatives according to scorecard phases. Data was sent to the investigator by online update applied to central database. Data was captured prospectively into a mobile app by participants themselves and data extracted retrospectively from our database for this manuscript needs.

Score categorization from our Magenta Scorecard divided patients into 4 categories, which guided our approach and the resources available, as follows:

- (I) Case management: in-person primary-care physician and nursing strategies, focused on personal frequent consultations and health specialist intensive support. Example: obese and depressive patient with previous suicidal attempts.
- (II) Disease management: primary care nursing and physician intensive care, may require health specialist support (preferable from mobile/telehealth sources). Example: patients with uncontrolled diabetes, with disease-related complications.
- (III) Self-care support: primary care nursing and physician care, does not require health specialist support. Example: patient with controlled type II diabetes and no organ-target disease.
- (IV) Health and wellbeing promotion: primary care nursing a physician care based on health-care journeys. Patients may join into mobile-based health prevention and promotion journeys if they choose to do so. Example: middle-age patients with no health conditions, willing to improve their food ingestion quality.

Characteristics of our domain selection

Physical activity

Engaging in physical activity reduces the risk of death up to 40% (9). In our Magenta Scorecard we incorporated the short version of International Physical Activity Questionnaire (IPAQ) (10,11) in which metabolic equivalent of tasks (METs) were translated into our Magenta Score as follows:

- ❖ More than 3,000 METs/week: excellent Magenta Scorecard: >750).
 - ◆ Action: digital compliments for exercising maintenance and provision of digital group classes.
- ❖ More than 1,680–3,000 METs/week: good (Magenta Scorecard: 500–750).
 - ◆ Action: suggest an online approach focused on physical education and provision of digital group classes.
- ❖ <600 METs/week: poor (Magenta Scorecard: <500).
 - ◆ Action: strongly suggest online consultation with physical education professionals.

Sleep quality

Several robust systematic reviews support the association of poorer sleep quality and increased risk of mortality (12–14). For our scoreboard, we adapted the mini sleep questionnaire (MSQ) (15), which focuses on sleep quality and wake complaints (insomnia and excessive daytime sleepiness). Each item is scored on a seven-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (never) to 7 (always), and is based on symptoms occurring over the past 7 days. Scores are categorized as: 10–24, good sleep quality; 25–27, mild sleep difficulties; 28–30, moderate sleep difficulties; ≥31, severe sleep difficulties. The MSQ questionnaire has been validated as a good method for screening sleep disorders and also as a tool for measuring sleep-related QoL (16). The questionnaire is short and easy to apply. Health actions triggered by MSQ responses occur as follow:

- ❖ Good/mild sleep difficulties (Magenta Scorecard: >750).
 - ◆ Action: maintenance of good habits, e-leaflets for good sleep maintenance.
- ❖ Moderate sleep difficulties (Magenta Scorecard: 500–750).
 - ◆ Action: synchronous online advising with a nurse and/or psychologist; offer talking circles.
- ❖ Severe sleep difficulties (Magenta Scorecard: <500).
 - ◆ Action: synchronous online consultation

(with a primary care physician and/or sleep specialist; offer talking circles.

lifestyle habits and digital materials for health promotion.

Nutrition

Research has proven that improved food intake is associated with a decrease in mortality (17). We opted to measure the quality of food intake by adapting recommendations from Brazil's Ministry of Health recommendations (18). In this part of the scoreboard, we consider both healthy and unhealthy food intake in order to build a score that represents the overall patient nutritional pattern.

- ❖ Patients with excellent pattern of food intake (Magenta Scorecard: >750).
 - ◆ Action: maintenance of good habits; offer self-care journeys.
- ❖ Patients with good patterns of food intake (Magenta Scorecard: >500–750).
 - ◆ Action: main offer self-care e-journeys, maintenance of good habits, offer talking circles.
- ❖ Patients with poor patterns of food intake (Magenta Scorecard <500).
 - ◆ Action: improvement of habits related to nutrition; offer talking circles; offer self-care journeys.
- ❖ Patients who spontaneously desires to improve the quality of food intake (own initiative).
 - ◆ Action: offer self-care e-journeys.

Habits/lifestyle

Alcohol and smoking are modifiable risk factors and ceasing the use of such substances has been proven to reduce morbidity and mortality (19-21). In our Magenta Scorecard, we considered the number of cigarettes/week² and weekly doses of alcohol to determine longitudinal tracking in primary care.

- ❖ More than 5 cigarettes per week or more than 14 doses of alcohol per week: poor (Magenta Scorecard <500).
 - ◆ Action: strongly suggest an online nursing consultation to assess motivation to change habits, health literacy and referral to substance abuse cessation programs.
- ❖ Less than 5 cigarettes per week and less than 14 doses of alcohol per week: good and excellent (Magenta Scorecard >500).
 - ◆ Action: digital compliments for healthy

Mental health

Anxiety and depression screening compose the Mental Health domain of Magenta Scorecard. It is administered using the reduced versions of the Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD) scale for anxiety symptoms (22,23) and the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ) (24) for depression symptoms. In the case of scores greater than 2 points in any of the scales, the extended version of the scale with altered score is applied (22), in order to deeply investigate mental health conditions.

- ❖ Patients with negative screening for anxiety and depression (GAD-2 and PHQ-2 scores <3): excellent (Magenta Scorecard: >750).
 - ◆ Action: asynchronous psychoeducational materials that aim to empower patients' habits, behaviors and health promotion.
- ❖ Patients with GAD-7 or PHQ-9 ≥ 10 : good (Magenta Scorecard: 500–750).
 - ◆ Action: in-person online consultation with a primary care physician.
- ❖ Patients with GAD-7 or PHQ-9 <10: good (Magenta Scorecard: 500–750).
 - ◆ Action: e-leaflets for mental health promotion, talking circles referral, offer self-care e-journeys.
- ❖ Patients with GAD-7 or PHQ-9 ≥ 10 : poor (Magenta Scorecard <500).
 - ◆ Action: in-person online consultation (primary care physician).
- ❖ Patients with GAD-7 or PHQ-9 <10: poor (Magenta Scorecard <500).
 - ◆ Action: e-leaflets for mental health promotion, offer self-care e-journeys.

QoL

We measured QoL as a subjective indicator to determine how globally QoL is perceived from their perspective (25,26). We opted to employ the EuroQol short version (5Q-5D-5L), which contains questions regarding mobility, self-care, usual activities, pain/discomfort, and anxiety/depression (25,27).

Magenta Scorecard

Magenta Scorecard is the summary of the score (mean score) of all the 6 domains described above.

Table 1 Scoreboard data categorized in our 6 domains of health

Variables	Baseline (T0) (n=1,622)		T1 (n=1,622)	
	Mean [SD]	95% CI	Mean [SD]	95% CI
Sleep quality*	585 [198]	575–595	626 [213]	615–636
Quality of life*	716 [144]	709–723	731 [152]	724–738
Physical activity*	457[340]	440–473	467 [346]	450–484
Nutrition*	638 [163]	630–646	671 [158]	664–679
Mental health**	688 [243]	676–700	697 [260]	684–709
Habit/lifestyle*	849 [160]	841–857	861 [150]	854–868
Magenta Score*	649 [132]	643–656	675 [143]	668–682

Wilcoxon W test. *, P<0.001; **, P=0.085. CI, confidence interval; SD, standard deviation.

Statistical analysis

We used descriptive statistics including means and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) to describe sample characteristics. The distribution of the data was checked by the Shapiro-Wilk test and also visual distribution. For continuous data, if considered as normal, Student's paired *t*-tests were applied, otherwise a non-parametric alternative was used, such as Wilcoxon (2 sets of data) or Kruskal-Wallis (>2 sets of data). After Kruskal-Wallis test, pairwise analysis was performed in order to identify differences with Dwass-Steel-Critchlow-Fligner pairwise comparisons. For those patients with more than one measure of Magenta Score throughout the year were created a sample group to evaluate the evolution through time. For this sample, Wilcoxon rank test was performed to compare the initial Magenta Score value with the final Magenta Score value.

A correlation matrix was constructed using the Spearman correlation test in order to summarize the strength and direction of a relationship between domains. In order to categorize the strength of the correlation, Cohen criteria were used: (I) ≤ 0.39 weak correlation; (II) 0.4–0.69 moderate correlation; (III) 0.7–0.89 strong correlation; (IV) ≥ 0.9 very strong correlation (28). For all analysis, we considered an alpha less than 0.05 as significant.

Results

Sample characteristics

Data was collected cross-sectionally from December 2021 to November 2022 and included 5,757 participants. Of 5,757 potential participants considered for enrollment

in this study, 4,095 participants were excluded after applying inclusion and exclusion criteria. 1,662 participants completed follow-up at both T0 and T1 milestones and were included in the final data analysis.

The mean age of our sample was 31.3 years (95% CI: 31.2–31.5), ranging from 18 to 89 years old. Most of the participants were female (63.4%). From our sample, 0.8% were categorized as case management, 8.4% disease management, 35.3% self-care care support and 55.5% health and wellbeing promotion.

Magenta Scorecard measures: the impact of our healthcare actions

From our sample, 0.8% were categorized as case management, 8.6% disease management, 35.6% self-care care support and 55% health and wellbeing promotion, respectively.

From 5,757 participants, 1,622 responded at T0 and T1 and were included in the final analyses. The mean interval between measurements was $141 \pm$ standard deviation (SD) days. At baseline, 25% were categorized as excellent, 61% as good and 14% as poor. After the study period, 34% were categorized as excellent; 53% as good and 13% as poor. *Table 1* and *Figure 1* depicts our baseline scores categorized by our Magenta Scorecard domains.

Only patients that responded to both baseline T0 and T1 (n=1,622) questionnaires were analyzed. The Magenta Scorecard scores improved from 649 ± 132 to 675 ± 143 , paired samples *t*-test, $P < 0.001$. Our analysis demonstrated that the only parameter that did not display a statistically significant difference was Mental Health ($P = 0.085 > 0.05$).

Magenta Score and our guided approach

The results of *Table 2* and *Figure 2* demonstrate that scores derived from Magenta Score were significantly different. From the Dwass-Steel-Critchlow-Fligner pairwise comparisons we can conclude that there is a difference for all domains examined except between case management and disease management, which are the more resource demanding scenarios. Our Magenta Scorecard domains had significant, however, weak spearman correlations (*Table 3*) in pairwise comparisons.

Discussion

Our results demonstrate that our Magenta Scorecard (Magenta Score) may be a useful tool to categorize and

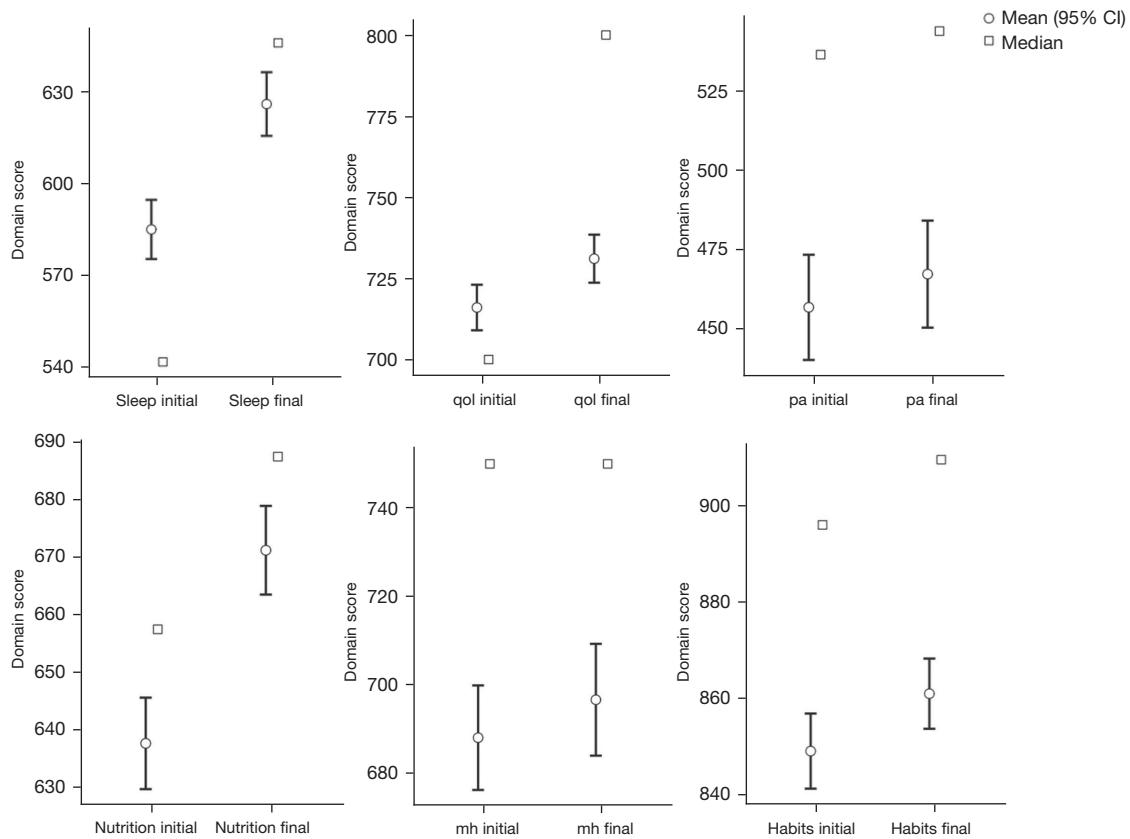


Figure 1 Initial and final values by domain. CI, confidence interval; qol, quality of life; pa, physical activity; mh, mental health.

Table 2 Pairwise comparisons between our guided approach scenarios

	Mean [SD], baseline, n=575	Case management (n=38)	Disease management (n=408)	Self-care support (n=1,718)	Health & wellbeing (n=2,702)
Case management (n=38)	523 [152]	N/A	0.691**	0.002**	<0.001**
Disease management (n=408)	547 [132]		N/A	<0.001**	<0.001**
Self-care support (n=1,718)	615 [137]			N/A	<0.001**
Health & wellbeing (n=2,702)	698 [121]				N/A
P value*	0.001*				

*, Kruskal-Wallis; **, Dwass-Steel-Critchlow-Fligner pairwise comparisons. SD, standard deviation; N/A, not applicable.

prioritize healthcare delivery and action. It may be a useful adjunct to triage and individualize the care plan for patients entering the healthcare system. We can allocate resources for effectively and efficiently with respect to preventative measures and case/disease management. A patient’s Magenta Score may potentially be used as a valuable “healthcare compass” aiding the predictability, and allocation of costs in a more targeted manner. Future cost-effectiveness studies

are needed to explore this area.

Our Magenta Scorecard was empirically developed based on medical and non-medical resources to measure parameters of well-being and disease. Since the beginning of the “outcomes measurement movement” most of the stakeholders focused on measurement of disease-related outcomes (29). It is becoming clearer that measuring non-medical parameters, such as habits/lifestyle may be as

important as measuring disease itself. One recent study (30) has proposed a “whole person score” which is in line with our Magenta Score approach. These authors considered: physical Health, emotional Health, resource utilization, socioeconomics, ownership, and nutrition and lifestyle as pillars to measure non-medical parameters and they focus on non-medical actions in order to promote health and well-being. Their approach focuses on efforts such as social status and ownership. Their further results will be important as a guide to the improvement of our Magenta Score (30).

One limitation of our study concerns patient engagement rates. As we use mobile-based e-PROs, we need to address some challenges, especially by using gamification strategies for serial measurements over time. e-PRO completion

may empower and prompt patients to engage in the care process (31-33), the rates of continual responses are below expected. Patient engagement rates are below ideal and may be skewed by factors, such as patient health status and the type of survey. Electronic-based questionnaires may have a response rate as low as 46%. Comprehensive and long e-PROs, such as Magenta Score may have even lower response rates (34). As such, we still need to conduct a prospective validation study to verify whether our scorecard has acceptable psychometric properties.

The only domain that did not significantly improve over time was mental health. As it covers mostly anxiety and depressive conditions, it is likely that our timespan was not long enough to elicit changes. We hypothesize that maybe a 6-month measurement would be a more accurate timeframe for mental health conditions. In addition, it is now clear that the young population is suffering chronically from mental disorders, with the previous coronavirus disease (COVID) pandemic as a major contributor (35,36). In line with these assumptions, correlations were weaker for QoL × habits/lifestyle and habits/lifestyle × mental health which may be a result of the challenge for re-adapting day-to-day life patterns in the post-covid era (35,36).

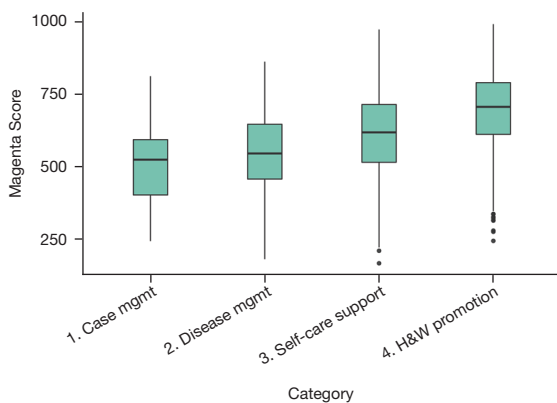


Figure 2 Box plot of Magenta Score by category. mgmt, management; H&W, health and wellbeing.

Conclusions

We present the rationale for our Magenta Scorecard and its guided approach. The Magenta Scorecard demonstrated responsiveness across the two serial measurements investigated and was significantly correlated with all the

Table 3 Magenta Scorecard domains: correlations

	Quality of life		Nutrition		Habits		Physical activity		Mental health		Sleep quality	
	Spearman's rho	P value	Spearman's rho	P value	Spearman's rho	P value	Spearman's rho	P value	Spearman's rho	P value	Spearman's rho	P value
Quality of life	-	-										
Nutrition	0.338	<0.001***	-	-								
Habits	0.193	<0.001***	0.209	<0.001***	-	-						
Physical activity	0.333	<0.001***	0.375	<0.001***	0.094	<0.001***	-	-				
Mental health	0.443	<0.001***	0.241	<0.001***	0.113	<0.001***	0.251	<0.001***	-	-		
Sleep quality	0.416	<0.001***	0.273	<0.001***	0.155	<0.001***	0.249	<0.001***	0.531	<0.001***	-	-

***, P<0.001.

construct domains examined. Further research is needed to validate our results in the long term and additional strategies for patient engagement should be explored.

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Footnote

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Conflicts of Interest: All authors have completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form (available at <https://mhealth.amegroups.com/article/view/10.21037/mhealth-22-56/coif>). All authors report that they are Alice employees with close relations with the company. The authors have no other conflicts of interest to declare.

Ethical Statement: The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved. The study explored and exposed our Magenta Scorecard framework and used anonymous data collected previously for operational/healthcare purposes. There was no analysis from health individual personal data. As anonymous preliminary data, it fits as waived from ethical approval (including informed consent) (Resolution 674, Capítulo IX, Art. 26, 2022). The study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki (as revised in 2013).

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