

A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR ENHANCING THE CLINICAL UTILITY OF A GENERIC VETERINARY HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE (HRQL) TOOL (VETMETRICA™) THROUGH THE ADDITION OF A DISEASE-SPECIFIC MODULE

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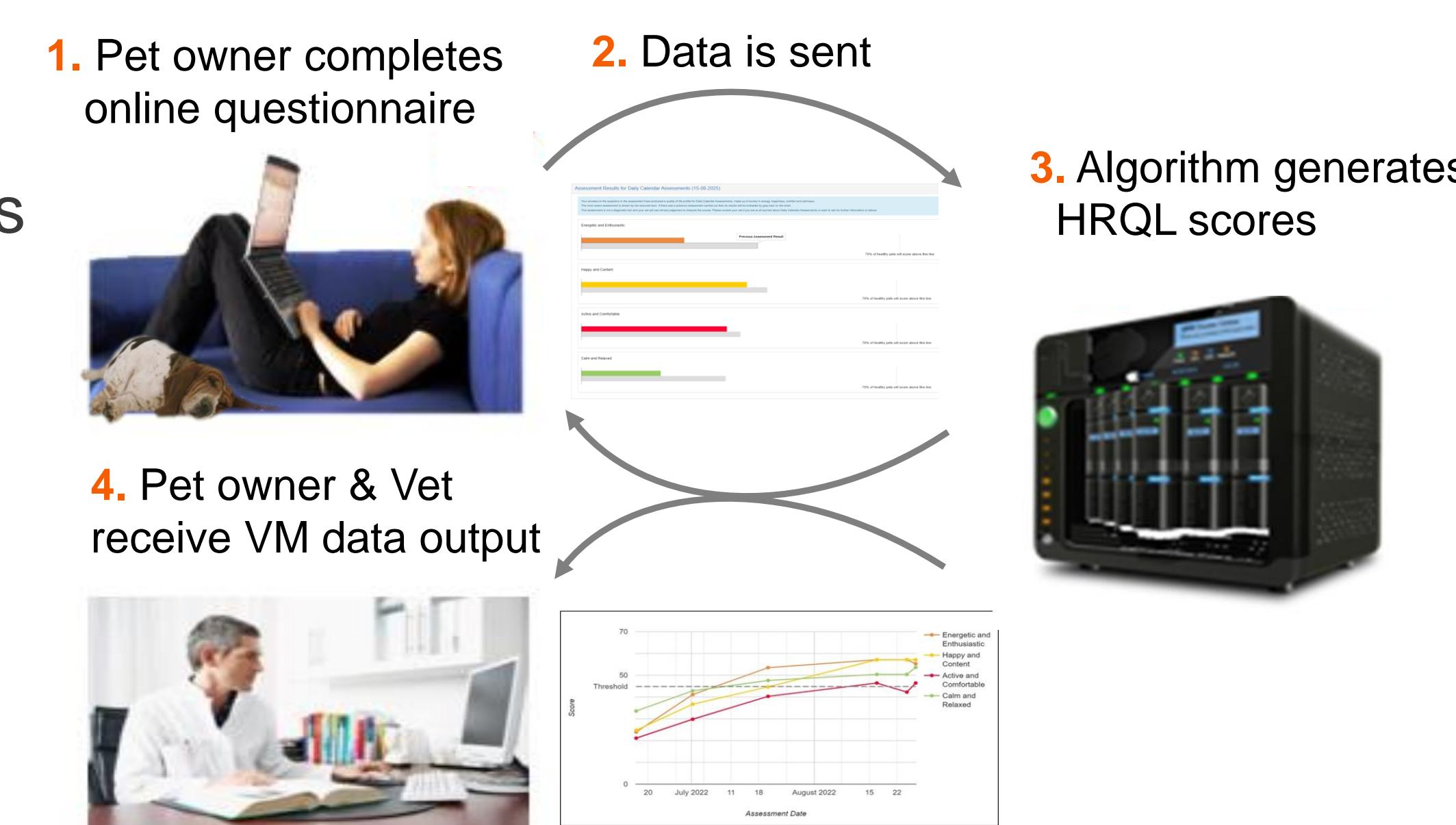
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BACKGROUND



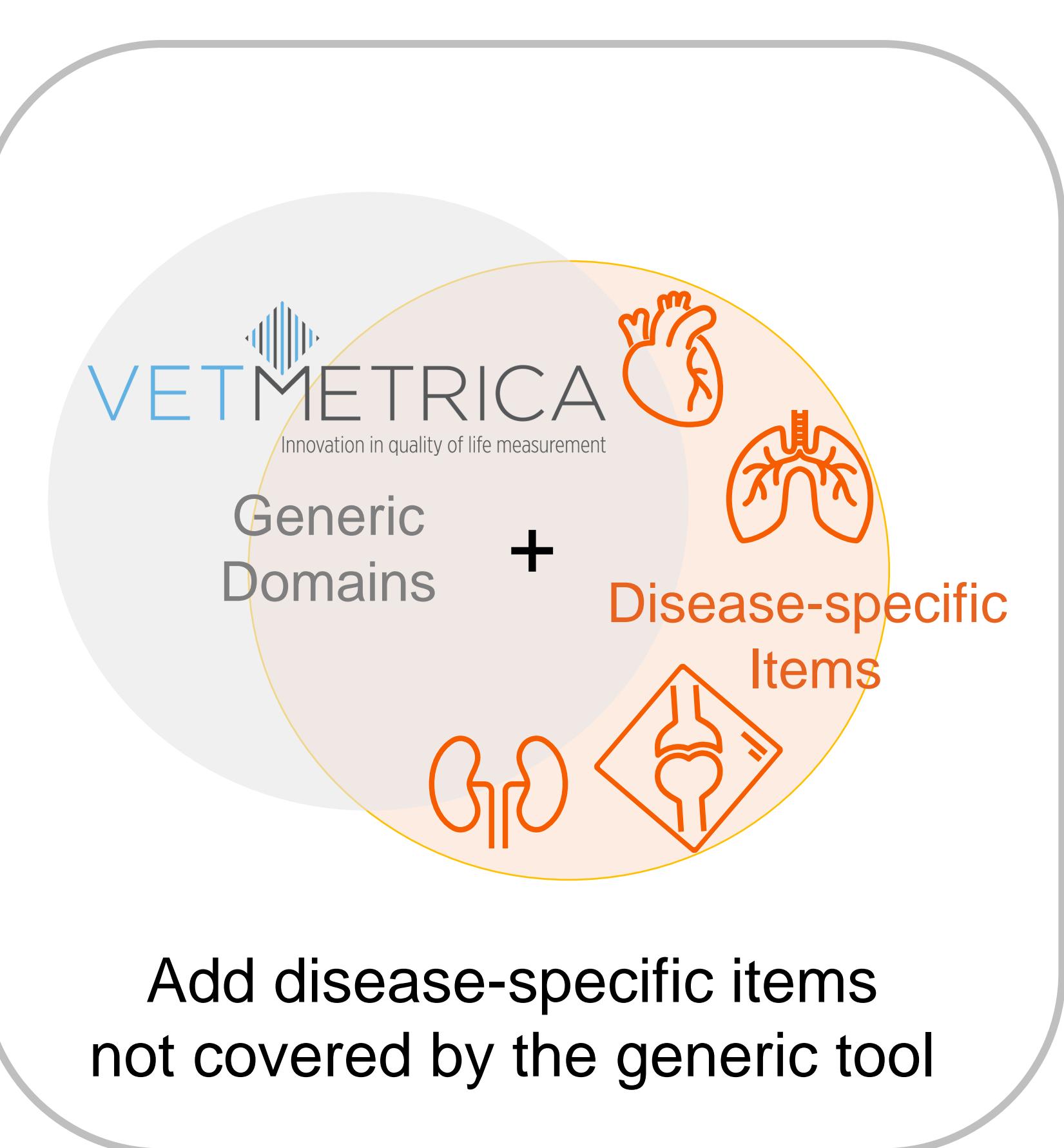
- A portfolio of validated **web-based** generic instruments designed to assesses **HRQL** in pets
- Pet owners of dogs and cats complete an online structured questionnaire in about 5 minutes
- Behavior-based questionnaire items rated by owner on a 7-point Likert scale (0-6)
- A sophisticated algorithm instantly generates scores in QOL domains, forming a HRQL profile
- Results are immediately available to both the pet owner and their primary care veterinarian



VetMetrica™ is sensitive to clinical change in conditions such as osteoarthritis, obesity, chronic kidney disease, and visual impairment.

Sensitivity in diseases that affect Quality of Life can be heightened by the addition of a disease-specific module designed to complement the existing instrument, enhancing its clinical utility, while maintaining the instrument's core psychometric properties.

OBJECTIVE

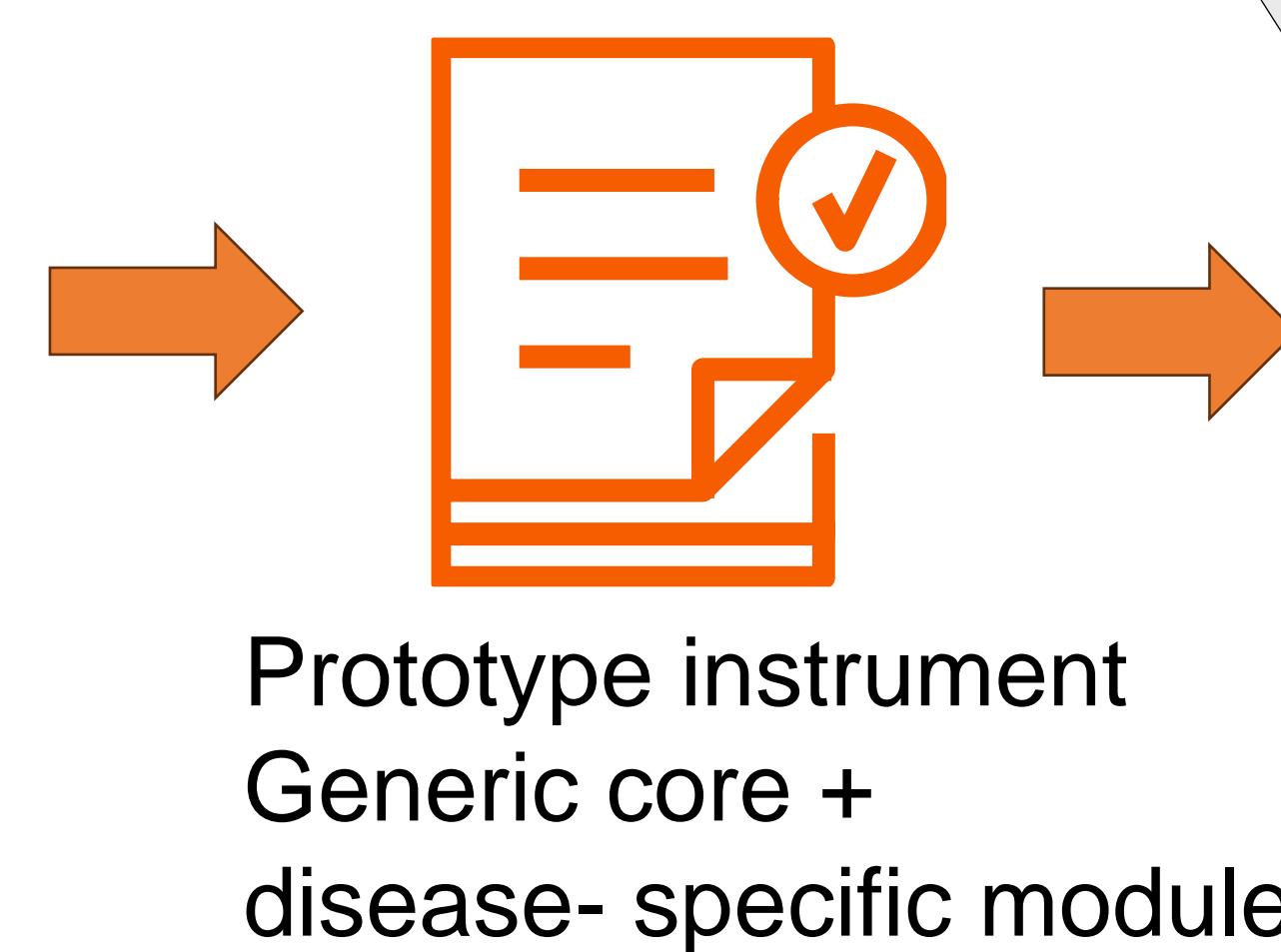


CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

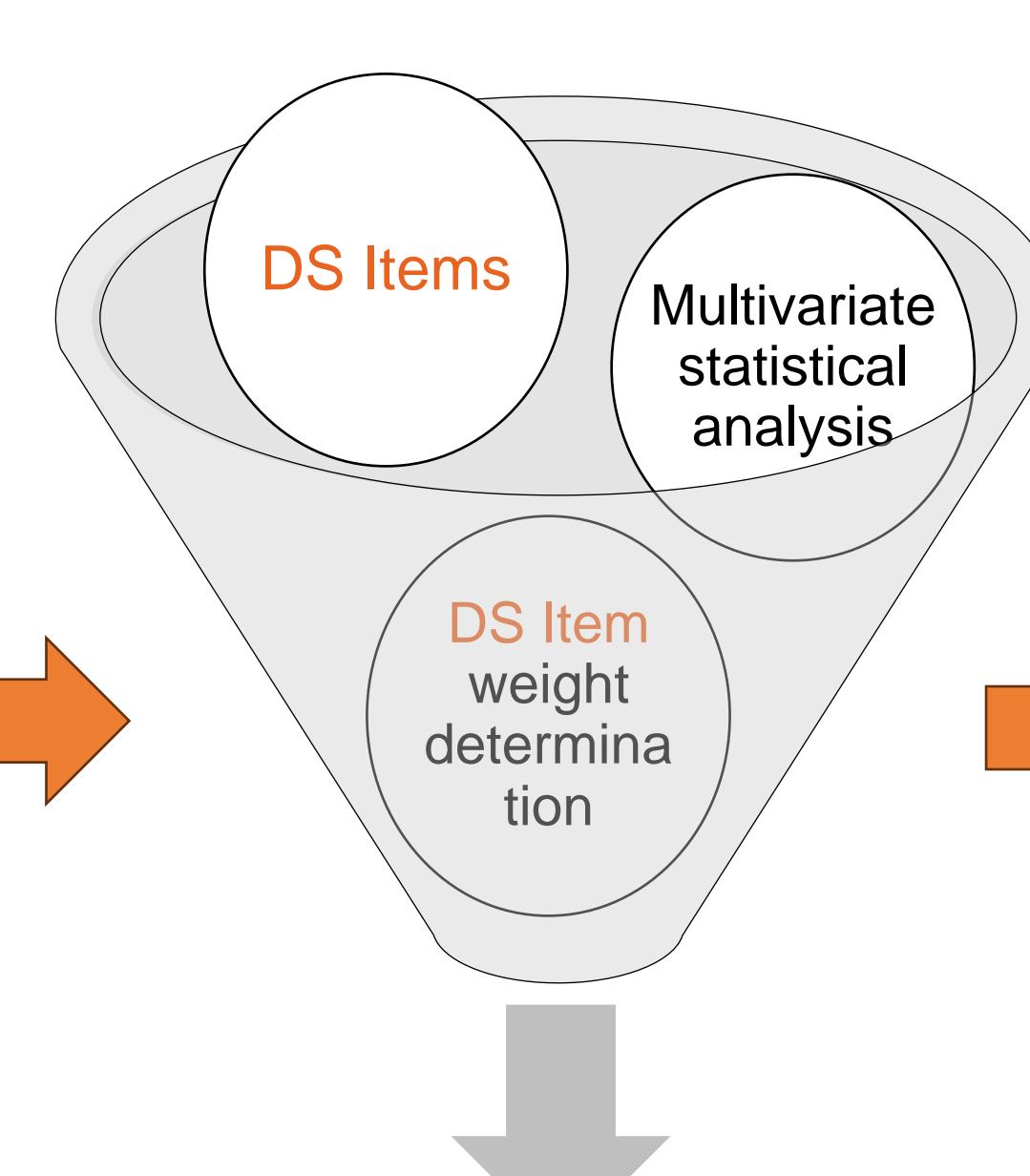
Interviews with caregivers and specialists generate disease-specific items



Add disease-specific items not covered by the generic tool



Prototype instrument
Generic core + disease-specific module



Psychometric testing of the combined instrument

Scoring Algorithm
Integrates generic scores with the disease-specific scores

IMPLICATIONS FOR OUTCOMES RESEARCH



1. One assessment



2. HRQL scores generated by two different algorithms

Generic HRQL scores + Disease specific HRQL scores

Generic scores

- Broad application across diseases
- Enables cross-disease comparison
- Essential when comorbidities are present

Generic + Disease-Specific scores

- Comprehensive assessment
- Enables cross-disease comparison
- Sensitive to disease related changes
- Useful for regulatory purposes

Modular enhancement of VetMetrica™ offers a practical and innovative pathway for advancing outcomes measurement in veterinary medicine.

Integrating disease-specific modules increases the instrument's sensitivity and effectiveness across a wider range of conditions while preserving its psychometric strengths.

This flexibility enables both generic and disease-specific assessments, supporting precise health state evaluation and value-based decisions.

The methodology also provides a scalable template for extending VetMetrica™ to new diseases and species.

CONCLUSION

By augmenting rather than replacing the established VetMetrica™ instruments, this modular approach offers an efficient path to enhanced clinical utility.

The methodology provides a template for developing complementary modules across multiple disease states, creating a flexible assessment system that combines generic health assessment with disease-specific precision where required.

References

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