

# The Book of OHDSI

*Observational Health Data Science and Informatics*

*2019-03-13*



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# Welcome

This is a book about OHDSI, and is currently very much under development.

The book is written in RMarkdown with bookdown. It is automatically rebuilt from source by travis.



## Part I

# The OHDSI Community





# Chapter 1

## Mission, vision, values

### 1.1 Our Mission

To improve health by empowering a community to collaboratively generate the evidence that promotes better health decisions and better care.

### 1.2 Our Vision

A world in which observational research produces a comprehensive understanding of health and disease.

### 1.3 Our Objectives

- **Innovation:** Observational research is a field which will benefit greatly from disruptive thinking. We actively seek and encourage fresh methodological approaches in our work.
- **Reproducibility:** Accurate, reproducible, and well-calibrated evidence is necessary for health improvement.
- **Community:** Everyone is welcome to actively participate in OHDSI, whether you are a patient, a health professional, a researcher, or someone who simply believes in our cause.
- **Collaboration:** We work collectively to prioritize and address the real world needs of our community's participants.
- **Openness:** We strive to make all our community's proceeds open and publicly accessible, including the methods, tools and the evidence that we generate.
- **Beneficence:** We seek to protect the rights of individuals and organizations within our community at all times.



## Chapter 2

# Collaborators

Map of collaborators Forums Wiki Workgroups and chapters Symposia and hack-a-thons  
History of OHDSI?



## Chapter 3

# Open Science



## Chapter 4

# Where to begin

This chapter will discuss where to begin if one is new in OHDSI. For various activities, we can describe how one might get started.

For example, if interested in doing a network study, these are the steps. Same for interests in methods research, grant writing, etc.





## Part II

# Uniform Data Representation



## Chapter 5

# The Common Data Model

No single observational data source provides a comprehensive view of the clinical data a patient accumulates while receiving healthcare, and therefore none can be sufficient to meet all expected outcome analysis needs. This explains the need for assessing and analyzing multiple data sources concurrently using a common data standard. This standard is provided by the OMOP Common Data Model (CDM).

The CDM is designed to support the conduct of research to identify and evaluate associations between interventions (drug exposure, procedures, healthcare policy changes etc.) and outcomes caused by these interventions (condition occurrences, procedures, drug exposure etc.). Outcomes can be efficacious (benefit) or adverse (safety risk). Often times, specific patient cohorts (e.g., those taking a certain drug or suffering from a certain disease) may be defined for treatments or outcomes, using clinical events (diagnoses, observations, procedures, etc.) that occur in predefined temporal relationships to each other. The CDM, combined with its standardized content (via the Standardized Vocabularies), will ensure that research methods can be systematically applied to produce meaningfully comparable and reproducible results.

### 5.1 Design Principles

The CDM is designed to include all observational health data elements (experiences of the patient receiving health care) that are relevant for analysis use cases to support the generation of reliable scientific evidence about disease natural history, healthcare delivery, effects of medical interventions, the identification of demographic information, health care interventions and outcomes.

Therefore, the CDM is designed to store observational data to allow for research, under the following principles:

- **Suitability for purpose:** The CDM aims to provide data organized in a way optimal for analysis, rather than for the purpose of addressing the operational needs of health care providers or payers.
- **Data protection:** All data that might jeopardize the identity and protection of patients, such as names, precise birthdays etc. are limited. Exceptions are possible where the research expressly requires more detailed information, such as precise birth dates for the study of infants.
- **Design of domains:** The domains are modeled in a person-centric relational data model, where for each record the identity of the person and a date is captured as a minimum.
- **Rationale for domains:** Domains are identified and separately defined in an entity-relationship model if they have an analysis use case and the domain has specific attributes that are not otherwise applicable. All other data can be preserved as an observation in an entity-attribute-value structure.
- **Standardized Vocabularies:** To standardize the content of those records, the CDM relies on the Standardized Vocabularies containing all necessary and appropriate corresponding standard healthcare concepts.

- **Reuse of existing vocabularies:** If possible, these concepts are leveraged from national or industry standardization or vocabulary definition organizations or initiatives, such as the National Library of Medicine, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, etc.
- **Maintaining source codes:** Even though all codes are mapped to the Standardized Vocabularies, the model also stores the original source code to ensure no information is lost.
- **Technology neutrality:** The CDM does not require a specific technology. It can be realized in any relational database, such as Oracle, SQL Server etc., or as SAS analytical datasets.
- **Scalability:** The CDM is optimized for data processing and computational analysis to accommodate data sources that vary in size, including databases with up to hundreds of millions of persons and billions of clinical observations.
- **Backwards compatibility:** All changes from previous CDMs are clearly delineated in the github repository (<https://github.com/OHDSI/CommonDataModel>). Older versions of the CDM can be easily created from the CDMv5, and no information is lost that was present previously.

## 5.2 Data Model Conventions

There are a number of implicit and explicit conventions that have been adopted in the CDM. Developers of methods that run against the CDM need to understand these conventions.

### 5.2.1 General conventions of the model

The OMOP CDM is considered a “person-centric” model, meaning that the people (or patients) drive the event and observation tables. At a minimum, the tables have a foreign key into the PERSON table and a date. This allows for a longitudinal view on all healthcare-relevant events by person. The exceptions from this rule are the standardized health system data tables, which are linked directly to events of the various domains.

### 5.2.2 General conventions of schemas

New to CDM v6.0 is the concept of schemas. This allows for more separation between read-only and writeable tables. The clinical data, event, and vocabulary tables are in the ‘CDM’ schema and are considered read-only to the end user. This means that the tables can be queried but no information can be accidentally removed or written over except by the database administrator. Tables that need to be manipulated by web-based tools or end users have moved to the ‘Results’ schema. Currently the only two tables in the ‘Results’ schema are COHORT and COHORT\_DEFINITON, **add a sentence explaining that these tables describe groups of interest that the user might define, put in links to the later sections** though likely more will be added over the course of v6.0 point releases. These tables can be written to, meaning that a cohort created in ATLAS or by a user can be stored in the COHORT table and accessed at a later date. This does mean that cohorts in the COHORT table can be manipulated by anyone so it is always recommended that the SQL code used to create the cohort be saved along with the project or analysis in the event it needs to be regenerated.

### 5.2.3 General conventions of data tables

The CDM is platform-independent. Data types are defined generically using ANSI SQL data types (VARCHAR, INTEGER, FLOAT, DATE, DATETIME, CLOB). Precision is provided only for VARCHAR. It reflects the minimal required string length and can be expanded within a CDM instantiation. The CDM does not prescribe the date and datetime format. Standard queries against CDM may vary for local instantiations and date/datetime configurations.

In most cases, the first field in each table ends in '\_ID', containing a record identifier that can be used as a foreign key in another table. For example, the `CONDITION_OCCURRENCE` table contains the field `VISIT_OCCURRENCE_ID` which is a foreign key to the `VISIT_OCCURRENCE` table where `VISIT_OCCURRENCE_ID` is the primary key.

#### 5.2.4 General conventions of fields

Variable names across all tables follow one convention:

Notation	Description
<code>__SOURCE_VALUE</code>	Verbatim information from the source data, typically used in ETL to map to <code>CONCEPT_ID</code> , and not to be used by any standard analytics. For example, <code>CONDITION_SOURCE_VALUE = '787.02'</code> was the ICD-9 code captured as a diagnosis from the administrative claim.
<code>__ID</code>	Unique identifiers for key entities, which can serve as foreign keys to establish relationships across entities. For example, <code>PERSON_ID</code> uniquely identifies each individual. <code>VISIT_OCCURRENCE_ID</code> uniquely identifies a <code>PERSON</code> encounter at a point of care.
<code>__CONCEPT_ID</code>	Foreign key into the Standardized Vocabularies (i.e. the <code>standard_concept</code> attribute for the corresponding term is true), which serves as the primary basis for all standardized analytics. For example, <code>CONDITION_CONCEPT_ID = 31967</code> ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/31967">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/31967</a> ) contains the reference value for the SNOMED concept of 'Nausea'
<code>__SOURCE_CONCEPT_ID</code>	Foreign key into the Standardized Vocabularies representing the concept and terminology used in the source data, when applicable. For example, <code>CONDITION_SOURCE_CONCEPT_ID = 45431665</code> ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/45431665">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/45431665</a> ) denotes the concept of 'Nausea' in the Read terminology; the analogous <code>CONDITION_CONCEPT_ID</code> might be 31967, since SNOMED-CT is the Standardized Vocabulary for most clinical diagnoses and findings.
<code>__TYPE_CONCEPT_ID</code>	Delineates the origin of the source information, standardized within the Standardized Vocabularies. For example, <code>DRUG_TYPE_CONCEPT_ID</code> can allow analysts to discriminate between 'Pharmacy dispensing' and 'Prescription written'

#### 5.2.5 Representation of content through Concepts

In CDM data tables the content of each record is represented using Concepts. Concepts are stored in event tables with their `CONCEPT_ID`s as foreign keys to the `CONCEPT` table, which contains Concepts necessary to describe the healthcare experience of a patient. If a Standard Concept does not exist or cannot be identified, the the `CONCEPT_ID` 0 is used, representing a non-existing concept or un-mappable source value.

Records in the `CONCEPT` table contain detailed information about each concept (name, domain, class etc.). Concepts, Concept Relationships, Concept Ancestors and other information relating to Concepts is contained in the tables of the Standardized Vocabularies.

### 5.2.6 Difference between Concept IDs and Source Values

Many tables contain equivalent information in multiple places: As a Source Value, a Source Concept and as a Standard Concept.

- Source Values contain the codes from public code systems such as ICD-9-CM, NDC, CPT-4, READ etc. or locally controlled vocabularies (such as F for female and M for male) copied from the source data. Source Values are stored in the `_SOURCE_VALUE` fields in the data tables.
- Concepts are CDM-specific entities that represent the meaning of a clinical fact. Most concepts are based on code systems used in healthcare (called Source Concepts), while others were created de-novo (`CONCEPT_CODE` = 'OMOP generated'). Concepts have unique IDs across all domains.
- Source Concepts are the concepts that represent the code used in the source. Source Concepts are only used for common healthcare code systems, not for OMOP-generated Concepts. Source Concepts are stored in the `_SOURCE_CONCEPT_ID` field in the data tables.
- Standard Concepts are those concepts that are used to define the unique meaning of a clinical entity. For each entity there is one Standard Concept. Standard Concepts are typically drawn from existing public vocabulary sources. Concepts that have the equivalent meaning to a Standard Concept are mapped to the Standard Concept. Standard Concepts are referred to in the `_CONCEPT_ID` field of the data tables.

Source Values are only provided for convenience and quality assurance (QA) purposes. Source Values and Source Concepts are optional, while **Standard Concepts are mandatory**. Source Values may contain information that is only meaningful in the context of a specific data source. This mandatory use of Standard Concepts is what allows all OHDSI collaborators to speak the same language. For example, let's look at the condition 'Pulmonary Tuberculosis' (TB). Figure 5.1 shows that the ICD9CM code for TB is 011.

Without the use of a standard way to represent TB the code 011 could be interpreted as 'Hospital Inpatient (Including Medicare Part A)' in the UB04 vocabulary, or as 'Nervous System Neoplasms without Complications, Comorbidities' in the DRG vocabulary. This is where Concept IDs, both Source and Standard, are valuable. The Concept ID that represents the 011 ICD9CM code is 44828631 (<http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/44828631>). This differentiates the ICD9CM from the UBO4 and from the DRG. The Standard Concept that ICD9CM code maps to is 253954 (<http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/253954>) as shown in figure 5.2 by the relationship 'Non-standard to Standard map (OMOP)'. This same mapping relationship exists between Read, ICD10, CIEL, and MeSH codes, among others, so that any research that references the standard SNOMED concept is sure to include all supported source codes.



An example of how this relationship is depicted in the tables is shown in figure ([link to figure in CONDITION\\_OCCURRENCE](#))

## 5.3 OMOP CDM Standardized Tables

The OMOP CDM contains 16 Clinical data tables, 10 Vocabulary tables, 2 Metadata tables, 4 Health System data tables, 2 Health Economics data tables, 3 standardized derived elements, and 2 results schema tables. To illustrate how these tables are utilized in practice the data of one person will be used as a common thread throughout the rest of the chapter. While part of the CDM the Vocabulary tables are not covered here, rather, they are detailed in depth in Chapter 6.

### 5.3.1 Running Example: Endometriosis

Endometriosis is a painful condition whereby cells normally found in the lining of a woman's uterus occur elsewhere in the body. Severe cases can lead to infertility, bowel, and bladder problems. The following sections will detail one patient's experience with this disease and how her clinical experience might be represented in the Common Data Model.

 Pulmonary tuberculosis

DETAILS	
Domain ID	Condition
Concept Class ID	3-dig nonbill code
Vocabulary ID	ICD9CM
Concept ID	44828631
Concept code	011
Invalid reason	Valid
Standard concept	Non-standard
Synonyms	Pulmonary tuberculosis
Valid start	12/31/1969
Valid end	12/30/2099

Figure 5.1: ICD9CM code for Pulmonary Tuberculosis

TERM CONNECTIONS (82)			
RELATIONSHIP	RELATES TO	CONCEPT ID	VOCABULARY
ICD-9-CM to MedDRA (MSSO)	Pulmonary tuberculosis	36110777	MedDRA
Non-standard to Standard map (OMOP)	Pulmonary tuberculosis	253954	SNOMED
Subsumes	Other specified pulmonary tuberculosis	44830894	ICD9CM
	Other specified pulmonary tuberculosis, bacteriological or histological examination not done	44836741	ICD9CM
	Other specified pulmonary tuberculosis, bacteriological or histological examination unknown (at present)	44836742	ICD9CM
	Other specified pulmonary tuberculosis, tubercle bacilli found (in sputum) by microscopy	44821641	ICD9CM
	Other specified pulmonary tuberculosis, tubercle bacilli not found (in sputum) by microscopy, but found by bacterial culture	44833188	ICD9CM

Figure 5.2: SNOMED code for Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Lauren had been experiencing endometriosis symptoms for many years; however, it took a ruptured cyst in her ovary before she was diagnosed.

“Every step of this painful journey I’ve had to convince everyone how much pain I was in.”

Figure 5.3: Read more about Lauren and endometriosis at <https://www.endometriosis-uk.org/laurens-story>





### 5.3.2 PERSON table

As the Common Data Model is a person-centric model (see section 5.2.1) let's start with how she would be represented in the PERSON table. For the full PERSON table specification please see the CDM wiki <https://github.com/OHDSI/CommonDataModel/wiki/PERSON>.

#### What do we know about Lauren?

- She is a 36-year-old woman
- Her birthday is 12-March-1982
- She is white
- She is english

With that in mind, her PERSON table might look something like this:

Column Name	Value	Explanation
person_id	1	Person_id should be an integer, either directly from the source or generated as part of the build process.
gender_concept_id	8532	The concept_id referring to female gender is 8532 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/8532">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/8532</a> ).
year_of_birth	1982	
month_of_birth	3	
day_of_birth	12	
birth_datetime	1982-03-12 00:00:00	When the time is not known midnight is used.
death_datetime		
race_concept_id	8527	The concept_id referring to white race is 8527 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/8527">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/8527</a> ).
ethnicity_concept_id	38003564	Typically hispanic status is stored for ethnicity. The concept_id 38003564 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/38003564">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/38003564</a> ) refers to 'Not hispanic'.
location_id		Her address is not known.
provider_id		Her primary care provider is not known.
care_site_id		Her primary care site is not known.
person_source_value	1	Typically this would be her identifier in the source data, though often is it the same as the person_id.
gender_source_value	F	The gender value as it appears in the source is stored here.
gender_source_concept_id	0	If the gender value in the source was coded using a vocabulary recognized by OHDSI, that concept_id would go here. For example, if her gender was 'Sex-F' in the source and it was stated to be in the PCORNet vocabulary concept_id 44814665 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/44814665">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/44814665</a> ) would go in this field.
race_source_value	white	The race value as it appears in the source is stored here.

Column Name	Value	Explanation
race_source_concept_id	0	Same principle as gender_source_concept_id.
ethnicity_source_value	english	The ethnicity value as it appears in the source is stored here.
ethnicity_source_concept_id	0	Same principle as gender_source_concept_id.

### 5.3.3 OBSERVATION\_PERIOD table

The OBSERVATION\_PERIOD table is designed to define the amount of time for which a patient's clinical events are recorded in the source system. For US healthcare insurance claims this is typically the enrollment period of the patient. When working with data from electronic health records (EHR) often the first record in the system is considered the observation\_period\_start\_date and the latest record is considered the observation\_period\_end\_date with the understanding that only the clinical events that happened within that particular system were recorded. For the full OBSERVATION\_PERIOD table specification please see the CDM wiki ([https://github.com/OHDSI/CommonDataModel/wiki/OBSERVATION\\_PERIOD](https://github.com/OHDSI/CommonDataModel/wiki/OBSERVATION_PERIOD)).

#### How can we determine Lauren's observation period?

Lauren's information is most similar to EHR data in that we only have records of her encounters from which to determine her observation period.

Encounter_ID	Start_Date	Stop_Date	EncounterClass
70	2010-01-06	2010-01-06	outpatient
80	2011-01-06	2011-01-06	outpatient
90	2012-01-06	2012-01-06	outpatient
100	2013-01-07	2013-01-07	outpatient
101	2013-01-14	2013-01-14	ambulatory
102	2013-01-17	2013-01-24	inpatient

Based on the encounter records her OBSERVATION\_PERIOD table might look something like this:

Column Name	Value	Explanation
observation_period_id	1	This is typically an autogenerated field that creates a unique id number for each record in the table.
person_id	1	This comes from the PERSON table and links PERSON and OBSERVATION_PERIOD.
observation_period_start_date	2010-01-06	This is the start date of her earliest encounter on record.
observation_period_end_date	2013-01-24	This is the end date of her latest encounter on record.
period_type_concept_id	44814725	The best option in the Vocabulary with the concept class 'Obs Period Type' is 44814724 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/44814724">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/44814724</a> ), which stands for 'Period covering healthcare encounters'.

### 5.3.4 VISIT\_OCCURRENCE

The VISIT\_OCCURRENCE table houses information about a patient's encounters with the health care system. Within the OHDSI vernacular these are referred to as visits and are considered to be discreet events. There are 12 categories of visits though the most common are inpatient, outpatient, emergency and long term care. For the full VISIT\_OCCURRENCE table specification please see the CDM wiki ([https://github.com/OHDSI/CommonDataModel/wiki/VISIT\\_OCCURRENCE](https://github.com/OHDSI/CommonDataModel/wiki/VISIT_OCCURRENCE)).

#### How do we represent Lauren's encounters as visits?

Revisiting the encounters we used to determine her observation period:

Encounter_ID	Start_Date	Stop_Date	EncounterClass
70	2010-01-06	2010-01-06	outpatient
80	2011-01-06	2011-01-06	outpatient
90	2012-01-06	2012-01-06	outpatient
100	2013-01-07	2013-01-07	outpatient
101	2013-01-14	2013-01-14	ambulatory
<b>102</b>	<b>2013-01-17</b>	<b>2013-01-24</b>	<b>inpatient</b>

As an example let's represent the inpatient encounter as a record in the VISIT\_OCCURRENCE table.

Column Name	Value	Explanation
visit_occurrence_id	514	This is typically an autogenerated field that creates a unique id number for each visit on the person's record in the converted CDM database.
person_id	1	This comes from the PERSON table and links PERSON and VISIT_OCCURRENCE.
visit_concept_id	9201	The concept_id referring to an inpatient visit is 9201 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/9201">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/9201</a> ).
visit_start_date	2013-01-17	The start date of the visit.
visit_start_datetime	2013-01-17 00:00:00	The date and time of the visit started. When time is unknown midnight is used.
visit_end_date	2013-01-24	The end date of the visit. If this is a one-day visit the end date should match the start date.
visit_end_datetime	2013-01-24 00:00:00	The date and time of the visit end. If time is unknown midnight is used.
visit_type_concept_id	32034	This column is intended to provide information about the provenance of the visit record, i.e. does it come from an insurance claim, hospital billing record, EHR record, etc. For this example the concept_id 32035 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/32035">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/32035</a> ) is used as the encounters are similar to electronic health records
provider_id*	NULL	If the encounter record has a provider associated, the id for that provider goes in this field. This should be the provider_id from the PROVIDER table that represents the provider on the encounter.
care_site_id	NULL	If the encounter record has a care site associated, the id for that care site goes in this field. This should be the care_site_id from the CARE_SITE table that codes for the care site on the encounter.

Column Name	Value	Explanation
visit_source_value	inpatient	The visit value as it appears in the source goes here. In this context ‘visit’ means outpatient, inpatient, emergency, etc.
visit_source_concept_id	0	If the visit value from the source is coded using a vocabulary that is recognized by OHDSI, the concept_id that represents the visit source value would go here.
admitted_from_concept_id	0	If known, this is the concept_id that represents where the patient was admitted from. This concept should have the concept class ‘Place of Service’ and the domain ‘Visit’. For example, if a patient was admitted to the hospital from home, the concept_id would be 8536 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/8536">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/8536</a> ).
admitted_from_source_value	NULL	This is the value from the source that represents where the patient was admitted from. Using the above example, this would be ‘home’.
discharge_to_concept_id	0	If known, this is the concept_id that represents where the patient was discharged to. This concept should have the concept class ‘Place of Service’ and the domain ‘Visit’. For example, if a patient was released to an assisted living facility, the concept_id would be 8615 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/8615">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/8615</a> ).
discharge_to_source_value	0	This is the value from the source that represents where the patient was discharged to. Using the above example, this would be ‘assisted living facility’.
preceding_visit_occurrence_id	NULL	The visit_occurrence_id for the visit immediately preceding the current one in time for the patient.

\*A patient may interact with multiple health care providers during one visit, as is often the case with inpatient stays. These interactions can be recorded in the VISIT\_DETAIL table. While not covered in depth in this chapter, you can read more about the VISIT\_DETAIL table on the CDM wiki ([https://github.com/OHDSI/CommonDataModel/wiki/VISIT\\_DETAIL](https://github.com/OHDSI/CommonDataModel/wiki/VISIT_DETAIL))

### 5.3.5 CONDITION\_OCCURRENCE

Records in the CONDITION\_OCCURRENCE table are diagnoses, signs, or symptoms of a condition either observed by a Provider or reported by the patient.

#### What are Lauren’s conditions?

Revisiting her account she says “About 3 years ago I noticed my periods, which had also been painful, were getting increasingly more painful. I started becoming aware of a sharp jabbing pain right by my colon and feeling tender and bloated around my tailbone and lower pelvis area. My periods had become so painful that I was missing 1-2 days of work a month. Painkillers sometimes dulled the pain, but usually they didn’t do much.”

The SNOMED code for painful menstruation cramps, otherwise known as dysmenorrhea, is 266599000. Let’s see how that would be represented in the CONDITION\_OCCURRENCE table:

Column	Value	Explanation
condition_occurrence_id	964	This is typically an autogenerated field that creates a unique id number for each condition on the person's record in the converted CDM database.
person_id	1	This comes from the PERSON table and links PERSON and CONDITION_OCCURRENCE.
condition_concept_id	194696	The concept_id that represents the SNOMED code 266599000 is 194696 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/194696">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/194696</a> )
condition_start_date	2010-01-06	The date when the instance of the Condition is recorded.
condition_start_datetime	2010-01-06 00:00:00	The date and time when the instance of the Condition is recorded. Midnight is used when the time is unknown
condition_end_date	NULL	If known, this is the date when the instance of the Condition is considered to have ended.
condition_end_datetime	NULL	If known, this is the date and time when the instance of the Condition is considered to have ended.
condition_type_concept_id	32020	This column is intended to provide information about the provenance of the condition, i.e. does it come from an insurance claim, hospital billing record, EHR record, etc. For this example the concept_id 32020 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/32020">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/32020</a> ) is used as the encounters are similar to electronic health records. Concept_ids in this field should be in the 'Condition Type' vocabulary.
condition_status_concept_id	0	If known, the condition_status_concept_id represents when and/or how the condition was diagnosed. For example, a condition could be an admitting diagnosis, in which case the concept_id 4203942 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/4203942">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/4203942</a> ) would be used.
stop_reason	NULL	If known, the reason that the Condition was no longer present, as indicated in the source data.
provider_id	NULL	If the condition record has a diagnosing provider listed, the id for that provider goes in this field. This should be the provider_id from the PROVIDER table that represents the provider on the encounter.
visit_occurrence_id	509	If known, this is the visit (represented as visit_occurrence_id taken from the VISIT_OCCURRENCE table) during which the condition was diagnosed.
visit_detail_id	NULL	If known, this is the visit detail encounter (represented as visit_detail_id from the VISIT_DETAIL table) during which the condition was diagnosed.
condition_source_value	266599000	This is the value from the source that represents the condition. In Lauren's case of dysmenorrhea the SNOMED code for that condition is stored here and the standard concept_id mapped from that code is stored in CONDITION_CONCEPT_ID.

Column	Value	Explanation
condition_source_concept_id	194696	If the condition value from the source is coded using a vocabulary that is recognized by OHDSI, the concept_id that represents that value would go here. In the example of dysmennorhea the source value is a SNOMED code so the concept_id that represents that code is 194696. In this case it is the same as the condition_concept_id since the SNOMED vocabulary is the standard condition vocabulary
condition_status_source_value	0	If the condition status value from the source is coded using a vocabulary that is recognized by OHDSI, the concept_id that represents that source value would go here.

### 5.3.6 DRUG\_EXPOSURE

The DRUG\_EXPOSURE captures records about the utilization of a Drug when ingested or otherwise introduced into the body. Drugs include prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vaccines, and large-molecule biologic therapies. Radiological devices ingested or applied locally do not count as Drugs.

Drug Exposure is inferred from clinical events associated with orders, prescriptions written, pharmacy dispensings, procedural administrations, and other patient-reported information.

#### What are Lauren's drug exposures?

We know that Lauren was given 60 acetaminophen 325mg oral tablets for 30 days (NDC code 69842087651) at her visit on 2010-01-06 to help with her dysmenorrhea pain. Here's how that might look in the DRUG\_EXPOSURE table:

Column	Value	Explanation
drug_exposure_id	1001	This is typically an autogenerated field that creates a unique id number for each drug_exposure on the person's record in the converted CDM database.
person_id	1	This comes from the PERSON table and links PERSON and DRUG_EXPOSURE.
drug_concept_id	1127433	The NDC code for acetaminophen maps to the RxNorm code 313782 which is represented by the concept_id 1127433 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/1127433">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/1127433</a> ).
drug_exposure_start_date	2010-01-06	The start date of the drug exposure
drug_exposure_start_datetime	2010-01-06 00:00:00	The start date and time of the drug exposure. Midnight is used when the time is not known.
drug_exposure_end_date	2010-02-05	The end date of the drug exposure. Depending on different sources, it could be a known or an inferred date and denotes the last day at which the patient was still exposed to the drug. In this case the end is inferred since we know Lauren had a 30 days supply.

Column	Value	Explanation
drug_exposure_end_datetime	2010-02-05 00:00:00	The end date and time of the drug exposure. Similar rules apply as to drug_exposure_end_date. Midnight is used when time is unknown
verbatim_end_date	NULL	If the source provides an end date rather than just days supply that date goes here.
drug_type_concept_id	38000177	This column is intended to provide information about the provenance of the drug, i.e. does it come from an insurance claim, prescription record, etc. For this example the concept_id 38000177 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/38000177">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/38000177</a> ) is used as the drug record is from a written prescription. Concept_ids in this field should be in the 'Drug Type' vocabulary.
stop_reason	NULL	The reason the Drug was stopped. Reasons include regimen completed, changed, removed, etc.
refills	NULL	The number of refills after the initial prescription. The initial prescription is not counted, values start with null. In the case of Lauren's acetaminophen she did not have any refills so the value is NULL.
quantity	60	The quantity of drug as recorded in the original prescription or dispensing record.
days_supply	30	The number of days of supply of the medication as prescribed.
sig	NULL	The directions ('signetur') on the Drug prescription as recorded in the original prescription (and printed on the container) or dispensing record.
route_concept_id	4132161	This concept is meant to represent the route of the drug the patient was exposed to. Lauren took her acetaminophen orally so the concept_id 4132161 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/4132161">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/4132161</a> ) is used.
lot_number	NULL	An identifier assigned to a particular quantity or lot of Drug product from the manufacturer.
provider_id	NULL	If the drug record has a prescribing provider listed, the id for that provider goes in this field. This should be the provider_id from the PROVIDER table that represents the provider on the encounter.
visit_occurrence_id	509	If known, this is the visit (represented as visit_occurrence_id taken from the VISIT_OCCURRENCE table) during which the drug was prescribed.
visit_detail_id	NULL	If known, this is the visit detail (represented as visit_detail_id taken from the VISIT_DETAIL table) during which the drug was prescribed.
drug_source_value	69842087651	This is the source code for the Drug as it appears in the source data. In Lauren's case she was prescribed acetaminophen and the NDC code is stored here.

Column	Value	Explanation
drug_source_concept_id	750264	This is the concept_id that represents the drug source value. In this example the concept_id is 750264 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/750264">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/750264</a> ).
route_source_value	NULL	The information about the route of administration as detailed in the source.
dose_unit_source_value	NULL	The information about the dose unit as detailed in the source.

### 5.3.7 PROCEDURE\_OCCURRENCE

The PROCEDURE\_OCCURRENCE table contains records of activities or processes ordered by, or carried out by, a healthcare provider on the patient to have a diagnostic or therapeutic purpose. Procedures are present in various data sources in different forms with varying levels of standardization. For example:

- Medical Claims include procedure codes that are submitted as part of a claim for health services rendered, including procedures performed.
- Electronic Health Records that capture procedures as orders.

**What procedures did Lauren have?** From her description we know she had a ultrasound of her left ovary on 2013-01-14 that showed a 4x5cm cyst. Here's how that would look in the PROCEDURE\_OCCURRENCE table:

Column	Value	Explanation
procedure_occurrence_id	1277	This is typically an autogenerated field that creates a unique id number for each procedure_occurrence on the person's record in the converted CDM database.
person_id	1	This comes from the PERSON table and links PERSON and PROCEDURE_OCCURRENCE
procedure_concept_id	4127451	The SNOMED procedure code for a pelvic ultrasound is 304435002 which is represented by the concept_id 4127451 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/4127451">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/4127451</a> ).
procedure_date	2013-01-14	The date on which the procedure was performed.
procedure_datetime	2013-01-14 00:00:00	The date and time on which the procedure was performed. Midnight is used when time is unknown.
procedure_type_concept_id	38000275	This column is intended to provide information about the provenance of the procedure, i.e. does it come from an insurance claim, EHR order, etc. For this example the concept_id 38000275 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/38000275">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/38000275</a> ) is used as the procedure record is from an EHR record. Concept_ids in this field should be in the 'Procedure Type' vocabulary.



Column	Value	Explanation
modifier_concept_id	0	This is meant for a concept_id representing the modifier on the procedure. For example, if the record indicated that a CPT4 procedure was performed bilaterally then the concept_id 42739579 ( <a href="http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/42739579">http://athena.ohdsi.org/search-terms/terms/42739579</a> ) would be used.
quantity	0	The quantity of procedures ordered or administered.
provider_id	NULL	If the procedure record has a provider listed, the id for that provider goes in this field. This should be the provider_id from the PROVIDER table that represents the provider on the encounter.
visit_occurrence_id	740	If known, this is the visit (represented as visit_occurrence_id taken from the VISIT_OCCURRENCE table) during which the procedure was performed.
visit_detail_id	NULL	If known, this is the visit detail (represented as visit_detail_id taken from the VISIT_DETAIL table) during which the procedure was performed.
procedure_source_value	304435002	The source code for the Procedure as it appears in the source data. This code is mapped to a standard procedure Concept in the Standardized Vocabularies and the original code is, stored here for reference.
procedure_source_concept_id	4127451	This is the concept_id that represents the procedure source value.
modifier_source_value	NULL	The source code for the modifier as it appears in the source data.



## Chapter 6

# Standardized Vocabularies

The OMOP Standardized Vocabulary: Christian's (almost) finished paper + <http://www.ohdsi.org/web/wiki/doku.php?id=documentation:vocabulary>



## Chapter 7

# Extract Transform Load

Leads: Mui van Zandt & Clair Blacketer

Business Rules and Conventions: From the CDM Wiki + Themis

Conversion to OMOP CDM (ETL - Extract, Transform, Load): [http://www.ohdsi.org/web/wiki/doku.php?id=documentation:etl\\_best\\_practices](http://www.ohdsi.org/web/wiki/doku.php?id=documentation:etl_best_practices)

- WhiteRabbit and Rabbit-in-a-Hat: <http://www.ohdsi.org/web/wiki/doku.php?id=documentation:software:whiterabbit>
- Usagi: <http://www.ohdsi.org/web/wiki/doku.php?id=documentation:software:usagi>
- Achilles: <http://www.ohdsi.org/web/wiki/doku.php?id=documentation:software:achilles>
- Athena: [http://www.ohdsi.org/web/wiki/doku.php?id=documentation:vocabulary\\_etl](http://www.ohdsi.org/web/wiki/doku.php?id=documentation:vocabulary_etl)

Mapping and QA of codes to Standard Concepts

- Mapping codes locally versus through the OHDSI Standard Vocabularies
- Usagi
- Systematic mapping of Drug codes
- Systematic mapping of Condition codes
- Systematic mapping of Procedure codes
- Systematic mapping of other codes



# Chapter 8

## Data Quality

### 8.1 Introduction

Kahn et al. define data quality as consisting of three components: (1) conformance (do data values adhere to do specified standard and formats?; subtypes: value, relational and computational conformance); (2) completeness (are data values present?); and (3) plausibility (are data values believable?; subtypes uniqueness, atemporal; temporal) (Kahn et al., 2016)

Two types of DQ checks can be distinguished(Weiskopf and Weng, 2013)

- general checks
- study-specific checks

### 8.2 Achilles Heel tool

Since 2015, a component of the OHDSI Achilles tool called Heel was used to check data quality.(Huser et al., 2018)

#### 8.2.1 Precomputed Analysis

#### 8.2.2 Example DQ rule

#### 8.2.3 Overview of existing DQ Heel checks

(overview of existing Heel rules) Each check has a rule\_id.

Checks are classified into CDM conformance checks and DQ checks.

### 8.3 Study-specific checks

The chapter has so far focused on general DQ checks. For example, if a study used HbA1c measurement, additional data checking is warranted.





## Part III

# Data Analytics



## Chapter 9

# Data Analytics Use Cases

- Population characterization
- Population-level estimation
- Patient-Level prediction

What is the difference between these

What use cases are often observed? Drug safety, Drug utilization, etc.

What type of questions can be answered by the data, and what type can't?



## Chapter 10

# OHDSI Analytics Tools

ATLAS: <http://www.ohdsi.org/web/wiki/doku.php?id=documentation:software:atlas>

ARACHNE: Network Research

Methods Library: <https://ohdsi.github.io/MethodsLibrary/>

Best practices enforced in all OHDSI methods.

Ethical consideration: e.g. should always communicate uncertainty. Prespecification of research questions, etc.

Analytic use cases

What is the difference between characterization, population-level estimation, patient-level prediction?

Doing studies in a distributed database network (Martijn has several slide decks on that).

Case study: Perhaps on how to install the tools?



## Chapter 11

# SQL and R

DatabaseConnector and SqlRender

Querying the CDM

Probably borrow heavily from <https://github.com/OHDSI/QueryLibrary>





## Chapter 12

# Building the building blocks: cohorts

Introduction: a cohort is a group of people that meet a set of criteria for a particular span of time etc. Cohorts are used throughout OHDSI's analytical tools as the primary building blocks.

Using ATLAS: use material from Patrick's tutorial on cohort building

Using SQL: For advanced users, explain how cohorts can be created programmatically.

Case study: some example cohort definitions



## Chapter 13

# Characterization

ATLAS' incidence rate calculator + cohort characterization tool

FeatureExtraction package: <https://github.com/OHDSI/FeatureExtraction>

Case study: characteristics + IRs of some cohorts

Example .. <http://www.pnas.org/content/113/27/7329>



## Chapter 14

# Population-level estimation

Leads: Martijn Schuemie & Marc Suchard

(Borrow from PLE tutorial: <https://www.ohdsi.org/past-events/2017-tutorials-population-level-estimation/>)

Effect estimation: counterfactuals, time travel, RCTs Cohort method

Large scale propensity models: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29939268>

Self-controlled designs

SCC

SCCS

Best practices: [http://www.ohdsi.org/web/wiki/doku.php?id=development:best\\_practices\\_estimation](http://www.ohdsi.org/web/wiki/doku.php?id=development:best_practices_estimation)

Negative and positive controls, empirical calibration

Case study: CohortMethod and SCCS vignettes



## Chapter 15

# Patient Level Prediction

Clinical decision making is a complicated task in which the clinician has to infer a diagnosis or treatment pathway based on the available medical history of the patient and the current clinical guidelines. Clinical prediction models have been developed to support this decision making process and are used in clinical practice in a wide spectrum of specialties. These models predict a diagnostic or prognostic outcome based on a combination of patient characteristics, e.g. demographic information, disease history, treatment history. The number of publications describing clinical prediction models has increased strongly over the last 10 years. An example is the Garvan model that predicts the 5-years and 10-years fractures risk in any elderly man or woman based on age, fracture history, fall history, bone mass density or weight (Nguyen et al., 2008). Many prediction models have been developed in patient subgroups at higher risk that need more intensive monitoring, e.g. the prediction of 30-day mortality after an acute myocardial described by Lee et al. (1995). Also, many models have been developed for asymptomatic subjects in the population, e.g. the famous Framingham risk functions for cardiovascular disease (Wilson et al., 1998), or the models for breast cancer screening (Engel and Fischer, 2015).

Surprisingly, most currently used models are estimated using small datasets and contain a limited set of patient characteristics. For example, in a review of 102 prognostic models in traumatic brain injury showed that three quarters of the models were based on samples with less than 500 patients (Perel et al., 2006). This low sample size, and thus low statistical power, forces the data analyst to make stronger modelling assumptions. The selection of the often limited set of patient characteristics is strongly guided by the expert knowledge at hand. This contrasts sharply with the reality of modern medicine wherein patients generate a rich digital trail, which is well beyond the power of any medical practitioner to fully assimilate. Presently, health care is generating huge amount of patient-specific information contained in the Electronic Health Record (EHR). This includes structured data in the form of diagnose, medication, laboratory test results, and unstructured data contained in clinical narratives. Currently, it is unknown how much predictive accuracy can be gained by leveraging the large amount of data originating from the complete EHR of a patient.

Massive-scale, patient-specific predictive modeling has become reality due the OHDSI initiative in which the common data model (CDM) allows for uniform and transparent analysis at an unprecedented scale. These large standardized populations contain rich data to build highly predictive large-scale models and also provide immediate opportunity to serve large communities of patients who are in most need of improved quality of care. Such models can inform truly personalized medical care leading hopefully to sharply improved patient outcomes. Furthermore, these models could assist in the design and analysis of randomized controlled trials (RCT) by enabling a better patient stratification or can be utilized to adjust for confounding variables in observational research. More accurate prediction models contribute to targeting of treatment and to increasing cost-effectiveness of medical care.

Advances in machine learning for large dataset analysis have led to increased interest in applying patient-level prediction on this type of data. However, many published efforts in patient-level-prediction do not follow the model development guidelines, fail to perform extensive external validation, or provide insufficient

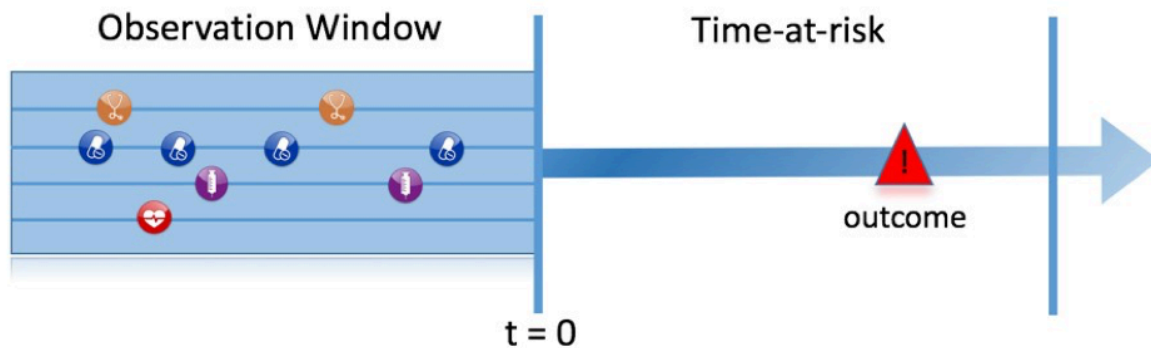


Figure 15.1: The prediction problem

model details that limits the ability of independent researchers to reproduce the models and perform external validation. This makes it hard to fairly evaluate the predictive performance of the models and reduces the likelihood of the model being used appropriately in clinical practice. To improve standards, several papers have been written detailing guidelines for best practices in developing and reporting prediction models.

The Transparent Reporting of a multivariable prediction model for Individual Prognosis Or Diagnosis (TRIPOD) statement (<https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/tripod-statement/>) provides clear recommendations for reporting prediction model development and validation and addresses some of the concerns related to transparency. However, data structure heterogeneity and inconsistent terminologies still make collaboration and model sharing difficult as different researchers are often required to write new code to extract the data from their databases and may define variables differently.

In our paper (Reps et al., 2018), we propose a standardised framework for patient-level prediction that utilizes the OMOP Common Data Model (CDM) and standardized vocabularies, and describe the open-source software that we developed implementing the framework’s pipeline. The framework is the first to support existing best practice guidelines and will enable open dissemination of models that can be extensively validated across the network of OHDSI collaborators.

Figure 15.1, illustrates the prediction problem we address. Among a population at risk, we aim to predict which patients at a defined moment in time ( $t = 0$ ) will experience some outcome during a time-at-risk. Prediction is done using only information about the patients in an observation window prior to that moment in time.

As shown in Figure 15.2, to define a prediction problem we have to define  $t=0$  by a Target Cohort (T), the outcome we like to predict by an outcome cohort (O), and the time-at-risk (TAR). Furthermore, we have to make design choices for the model we like to develop, and determine the observational datasets to perform internal and external validation. This conceptual framework works for all type of prediction problems, for example those presented in Figure 15.3.

In the next sections we will explain the best practices for model specification, implementation, and evaluation using OHDSI’s Patient-Level Prediction (PLP) framework as guidance.

## 15.1 Study specification

The first step is to clearly define the prediction problem. Interestingly, in many published papers the prediction problem is poorly defined, e.g., it is unclear how the index date (start of the Target Cohort) is exactly defined. A poorly defined prediction problem does not allow for external validation by others let alone implementation in clinical practice. In the PLP framework we have enforced that we have to define the prediction problem we like to address, in which population we will build the model, which model we will



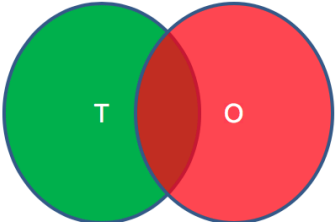
Input parameter	Design choice	<p>We extract data for the patients in the Target Cohort (T) of which some will experience the outcome (O) in T</p> 
Target cohort (T)		
Outcome cohort (O)		
Time-at-risk		
Model development -which algorithm(s)? -which parameters? -which covariates?		

Figure 15.2: Design choices

Type	Structure	Example
Disease onset and progression	Amongst patients who are newly diagnosed with <b>&lt;insert your favorite disease&gt;</b> , which patients will go on to have <b>&lt;another disease or related complication&gt;</b> within <b>&lt;time horizon from diagnosis&gt;</b> ?	Among newly diagnosed AFib patients, which will go onto to have ischemic stroke in next 3 years?
Treatment choice	Amongst patients with <b>&lt;indicated disease&gt;</b> who are <b>treated with either &lt;treatment 1&gt; or &lt;treatment 2&gt;</b> , which patients were treated with <b>&lt;treatment 1&gt;</b> (on day 0)?	Among AFib patients who took either warfarin or rivaroxaban, which patients got warfarin? (as defined for propensity score model)
Treatment response	Amongst patients who are new users of <b>&lt;insert your favorite chronically-used drug&gt;</b> , which patients will <b>&lt;insert desired effect&gt;</b> in <b>&lt;time window&gt;</b> ?	Which patients with T2DM who start on metformin stay on metformin after 3 years?
Treatment safety	Amongst patients who are new users of <b>&lt;insert your favorite drug&gt;</b> , which patients will experience <b>&lt;insert your favorite known adverse event from the drug profile&gt;</b> within <b>&lt;time horizon following exposure start&gt;</b> ?	Among new users of warfarin, which patients will have GI bleed in 1 year?
Treatment adherence	Amongst patients who are new users of <b>&lt;insert your favorite chronically-used drug&gt;</b> , which patients will achieve <b>&lt;adherence metric threshold&gt;</b> at <b>&lt;time horizon&gt;</b> ?	Which patients with T2DM who start on metformin achieve $\geq 80\%$ proportion of days covered at 1 year?

Figure 15.3: Examples of prediction problems

build and how we will evaluate its performance. In this section we will guide you through this process and we will use a “Disease onset and progression” prediction type as an example.

### 15.1.1 Problem definition

Atrial fibrillation is a disease characterized by an irregular heart rate that can cause poor blood flow. Patients with atrial fibrillation are at increased risk of ischemic stroke. Anticoagulation is a recommended prophylaxis treatment strategy for patients at high risk of stroke, though the underuse of anticoagulants and persistent severity of ischemic stroke represents a substantial unmet medical need. Various strategies have been developed to predict risk of ischemic stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation. CHADS2 (Gage et al., 2001) was developed as a risk score based on history of congestive heart failure, hypertension, age  $\geq 75$ , diabetes and stroke. CHADS2 was initially derived using Medicare claims data, where it achieved good discrimination (AUC=0.82). However, subsequent external validation studies revealed the CHADS2 had substantially lower predictive accuracy (Keogh et al., 2011). Subsequent stroke risk calculators have been developed and evaluated, including the extension of CHADS2Vasc. The management of atrial fibrillation has evolved substantially over the last decade, for various reasons that include the introduction of novel oral anticoagulants. With these innovations has come a renewed interest in greater precision medicine for stroke prevention.

We will apply the PLP framework to observational healthcare data to address the following patient-level prediction question:

Amongst patients who are newly diagnosed with Atrial Fibrillation, which patients will go on to have Ischemic Stroke within 1 year?

We will define ‘patients who are newly diagnosed with Atrial Fibrillation’ as the first condition record of cardiac arrhythmia, which is followed by another cardiac arrhythmia condition record, at least two drug records for a drug used to treat arrhythmias, or a procedure to treat arrhythmias. We will define ‘Ischemic stroke events’ as ischemic stroke condition records during an inpatient or ER visit; successive records with  $> 180$  day gap are considered independent episodes.

### 15.1.2 Study population definition

The final study population in which we will develop our model is often a subset of the Target population, because we will e.g. apply criteria that are dependent on T and O or we want to do sensitivity analyses with subpopulations of T. For this we have to answer the following questions:

- *What is the minimum amount of observation time we require before the start of the target cohort?* This choice could depend on the available patient time in your training data, but also on the time you expect to be available in the data sources you want to apply the model on in the future. The longer the minimum observation time, the more baseline history time is available for each person to use for feature extraction, but the fewer patients will qualify for analysis. Moreover, there could be clinical reasons to choose a short or longer lookback period. For our example, we will use a prior history as lookback period (washout period).
- *Can patients enter the target cohort multiple times?* In the target cohort definition, a person may qualify for the cohort multiple times during different spans of time, for example if they had different episodes of a disease or separate periods of exposure to a medical product. The cohort definition does not necessarily apply a restriction to only let the patients enter once, but in the context of a particular patient-level prediction problem, a user may want to restrict the cohort to the first qualifying episode. In our example, a person could only enter the target cohort once since our criteria was based on first occurrence of atrial fibrillation.
- *Do we allow persons to enter the cohort if they experienced the outcome before?* Do we allow persons to enter the target cohort if they experienced the outcome before qualifying for the target cohort?

Depending on the particular patient-level prediction problem, there may be a desire to predict ‘incident’ first occurrence of an outcome, in which case patients who have previously experienced the outcome are not ‘at-risk’ for having a first occurrence and therefore should be excluded from the target cohort. In other circumstances, there may be a desire to predict ‘prevalent’ episodes, whereby patients with prior outcomes can be included in the analysis and the prior outcome itself can be a predictor of future outcomes. For our prediction example, the answer to this question is ‘Yes, allow persons with prior outcomes’ because we know from the CHADS2 score that prior strokes are very predictive of future strokes. If this answer would have been ‘No’ we also have to decide how long we would look back for previous occurrences of the outcome.

- *How do we define the period in which we will predict our outcome relative to the target cohort start?* We actually have to make two decisions to answer that question. First, does the time-at-risk window start at the date of the start of the target cohort or later? Arguments to make it start later could be that you want to avoid outcomes that were entered late in the record that actually occurred before the start of the target cohort or you want to leave a gap where interventions to prevent the outcome could theoretically be implemented. Second, you need to define the time-at-risk by setting the risk window end, as some specification of days offset relative to the target cohort start or end dates. For our problem we will predict in a ‘time-at-risk’ window starting 1 day after the start of the target cohort up to 365 days later (to look for 1-year risk following atrial fibrillation diagnosis).
- *Do we require a minimum amount of time-at-risk?* We have to decide if we want to include patients that did not experience the outcome but did leave the database earlier than the end of our time-at-risk period. These patients may experience the outcome when we do not observe them. For our prediction problem we decide to answer this question with ‘Yes, require a minimum time-at-risk’ for that reason. Furthermore, we have to decide if this constraint also applies to persons who experienced the outcome or we will include all persons with the outcome irrespective of their total time at risk. For example, if the outcome is death, then persons with the outcome are likely censored before the full time-at-risk period is complete.

### 15.1.3 Model development settings

To develop the model we have to decide which algorithm(s) we like to train. We see the selection of the best algorithm for a certain prediction problem as an empirical question, i.e. you need to let the data speak for itself and try different approaches to find the best one. There is no algorithm that will work best for all problems (no free lunch). In our framework we therefore aim to implement many algorithms. Furthermore, we made the system modular so you can add your own custom algorithms. This out-of-scope for this chapter but more details can be found in the AddingCustomAlgorithms vignette (<https://github.com/OHDSI/PatientLevelPrediction/blob/master/inst/doc/AddingCustomAlgorithms.pdf>).

Our framework currently contains the following algorithms to choose from:

Algorithm	Description	Hyper-parameters
Algorithm	Description	Hyper-parameters
Regularized Logistic Regression	Lasso logistic regression belongs to the family of generalized linear models, where a linear combination of the variables is learned and finally a logistic function maps the linear combination to a value between 0 and 1. The lasso regularization adds a cost based on model complexity to the objective function when training the model. This cost is the sum of the absolute values of the linear combination of the coefficients. The model automatically performs feature selection by minimizing this cost. We use the Cyclic coordinate descent for logistic, Poisson and survival analysis (Cyclops) package to perform large-scale regularized logistic regression: <a href="https://github.com/OHDSI/Cyclops">https://github.com/OHDSI/Cyclops</a>	var (starting variance), seed
Gradient boosting machines	Gradient boosting machines is a boosting ensemble technique and in our framework it combines multiple decision trees. Boosting works by iteratively adding decision trees but adds more weight to the data-points that are misclassified by prior decision trees in the cost function when training the next tree. We use Extreme Gradient Boosting, which is an efficient implementation of the gradient boosting framework implemented in the xgboost R package available from CRAN.	ntree (number of trees), max depth (max levels in tree), min rows (minimum data points in in node), learning rate, seed
Random forest	Random forest is a bagging ensemble technique that combines multiple decision trees. The idea behind bagging is to reduce the likelihood of overfitting, by using weak classifiers, but combining multiple diverse weak classifiers into a strong classifier. Random forest accomplishes this by training multiple decision trees but only using a subset of the variables in each tree and the subset of variables differ between trees. Our packages uses the sklearn learn implementation of Random Forest in python.	mtry (number of features in each tree), ntree (number of trees), maxDepth (max levels in tree), minRows (minimum data points in in node), balance (balance class labels), seed
K-nearest neighbors	K-nearest neighbors (KNN) is an algorithm that uses some metric to find the K closest labelled data-points, given the specified metric, to a new unlabelled data-point. The prediction of the new data-points is then the most prevalent class of the K-nearest labelled data-points. There is a sharing limitation of KNN, as the model requires labelled data to perform the prediction on new data, and it is often not possible to share this data across data sites. We included the BigKnn classifier developed in OHDSI which is a large scale k-nearest neighbor classifier using the Lucene search engine: <a href="https://github.com/OHDSI/BigKnn">https://github.com/OHDSI/BigKnn</a>	k (number of neighbours), weighted (weight by inverse frequency)
Naive Bayes	The Naive Bayes algorithm applies the Bayes' theorem with the "naive" assumption of conditional independence between every pair of features given the value of the class variable. Based on the likelihood the data belongs to a class and the prior distribution of the class, a posterior distribution is obtained.	none

Algorithm	Description	Hyper-parameters
AdaBoost	AdaBoost is a boosting ensemble technique. Boosting works by iteratively adding classifiers but adds more weight to the data-points that are misclassified by prior classifiers in the cost function when training the next classifier. We use the sklearn “AdaboostClassifier” implementation in Python.	nEstimators (the maximum number of estimators at which boosting is terminated), learningRate (learning rate shrinks the contribution of each classifier by learning_rate. There is a trade-off between learningRate and nEstimators)
Decision Tree	A decision tree is a classifier that partitions the variable space using individual tests selected using a greedy approach. It aims to find partitions that have the highest information gain to separate the classes. The decision tree can easily overfit by enabling a large number of partitions (tree depth) and often needs some regularization (e.g., pruning or specifying hyper-parameters that limit the complexity of the model). We use the sklearn “DecisionTreeClassifier” implementation in Python.	maxDepth (the maximum depth of the tree), minSamplesSplit, minSamplesLeaf, minImpuritySplit (threshold for early stopping in tree growth. A node will split if its impurity is above the threshold, otherwise it is a leaf.), seed, classWeight (“Balance” or “None”) size (the number of hidden nodes), alpha (the l2 regularisation), seed
Multilayer Perception	Neural networks contain multiple layers that weight their inputs using a non-linear function. The first layer is the input layer, the last layer is the output layer the between are the hidden layers. Neural networks are generally trained using feed forward back-propagation. This is when you go through the network with a data-point and calculate the error between the true label and predicted label, then go backwards through the network and update the linear function weights based on the error. This can also be performed as a batch, where multiple data-points are fed	
Deep Learning	Deep learning such as deep nets, convolutional neural networks or recurrent neural networks are similar to a neural network but have multiple hidden layers that aim to learn latent representations useful for prediction. In the separate BuildingDeepLearningModels vignette we describe these models and hyper-parameters in more detail	

Furthermore, we have to decide on the **covariates** that we will use to train our model. This choice can be driven by domain knowledge of available computational resources. In our example, we like to add the Gender, Age, Conditions, Drugs Groups, and Visit Count. We also have to specify in which time windows we will look and we decide to look in year before and any time prior.

#### 15.1.4 Model evaluation

Finally, we have to define how we will train and test our model on our data, i.e. how we perform **internal validation**. For this we have to decide how we divide our dataset in a training and testing dataset and how we randomly assign patients to these two sets. Dependent on the size of the training set we can decide how

much data we like to use for training, typically this is a 75%, 25% split. If you have very large datasets you can use more data for training. To randomly assign patients to the training and testing set, there are two commonly used approaches:

1. split by person. In this case a random seed is used to assign the patient to either sets.
2. split by time. In this case a time point is used to split the persons, e.g. 75% of the data is before and 25% is after this date. The advantage of this is that you take into consideration that the health care system has changed over time.

For our prediction model we decide to start with a Regularized Logistic Regression and will use the default parameters. We will do a 75%-25% split by person.

### 15.1.5 Study summary

We now completely defined our study:

Definition	Value
<b>Problem Definition</b>	
Target Cohort (T)	‘Patients who are newly diagnosed with Atrial Fibrillation’ defined as the first condition record of cardiac arrhythmia, which is followed by another cardiac arrhythmia condition record, at least two drug records for a drug used to treat arrhythmias, or a procedure to treat arrhythmias.
Outcome Cohort (O)	‘Ischemic stroke events’ defined as ischemic stroke condition records during an inpatient or ER visit; successive records with > 180 day gap are considered independent episodes.
Time-at-risk (TAR)	1 day till 365 days from cohort start
<b>Population Definition</b>	
Washout Period	1095
Enter the target cohort multiple times?	No
Allow prior outcomes?	Yes
Start of time-at-risk	1 day
End of time-at-risk	365 days
Require a minimum amount of time-at-risk?	Yes (364 days)
<b>Model Development</b>	
Algorithm	Regularized Logistic Regression
Hyper-parameters	variance = 0.01 (Default)
Covariates	ender, Age, Conditions (ever before, <365), Drugs Groups (ever before, <365), and Visit Count
Data split	75% train, 25% test. Randomly assigned by person

According to the best practices we need to make a protocol that completely specifies how we plan to execute our study. This protocol will be assessed by the governance boards of the participating data sources in your network study. For this a template could be used but we prefer to automate this process as much as possible by adding functionality to automatically generate study protocol from a study specification. We will discuss this in more detail later.

ATLAS

[PatientLevelPrediction vignette]: T : patients who are newly diagnosed with Atrial fibrillation

Definition | Concept Sets | Generation | Reporting | Export | Warnings

First condition occurrence of atrial fibrillation with  $\geq 1095$  days of prior observation and no prior warfarin exposure

**Initial Event Cohort**

People having any of the following:

- a condition occurrence of **Atrial fibrillation**
  - for the first time in the person's history

with continuous observation of at least 1095 days before and 0 days after event index date

Limit initial events to: earliest event per person.

**Additional Qualifying Inclusion Criteria**

New qualifying inclusion criteria: Have no prior warfarin exposure

1. Have no prior warfarin exposure

having all of the following criteria:

- with exactly 0 occurrences of:
  - a drug exposure of **warfarin**

where event starts between All days Before and 1 days Before index start date

Figure 15.4: Target Cohort Atrial Fibrillation

## 15.2 Study implementation

Now we have completely design our study we have to implement the study. This will be done using the `PatientLevelPrediction` package to build patient-level predictive models. The package enables data extraction, model building, and model evaluation using data from databases that are translated into the OMOP CDM. To install the package we like to point you to the InstallationGuide that can be found on the GitHub website (<https://github.com/OHDSI/PatientLevelPrediction/>).

We first have to generate the target and outcome cohorts and we then need to develop the R code to run against our CDM to execute the full study. These steps will be described in the paragraphs below.

### 15.2.1 Cohort instantiation

For our study we need to know when a person enters the target and outcome cohorts. This is stored in a table on the server that contains the cohort start date and cohort end date for all subjects for a specific cohort definition. This cohort table has a very simple structure as shown below:

- `cohort_definition_id`, a unique identifier for distinguishing between different types of cohorts, e.g. cohorts of interest and outcome cohorts.
- `subject_id`, a unique identifier corresponding to the `person_id` in the CDM.
- `cohort_start_date`, the date the subject enters the cohort.
- `cohort_end_date`, the date the subject leaves the cohort.

How do we fill this table according to our cohort definitions? There are two options for this:

- 1) use the interactive cohort builder tool in ATLAS ([www.github.com/OHDSI/ATLAS](http://www.github.com/OHDSI/ATLAS)) which can be used to create cohorts based on inclusion criteria and will automatically populate this cohort table.
- 2) write your own custom SQL statements to fill the cohort table.

Both methods are described below for our example prediction problem.

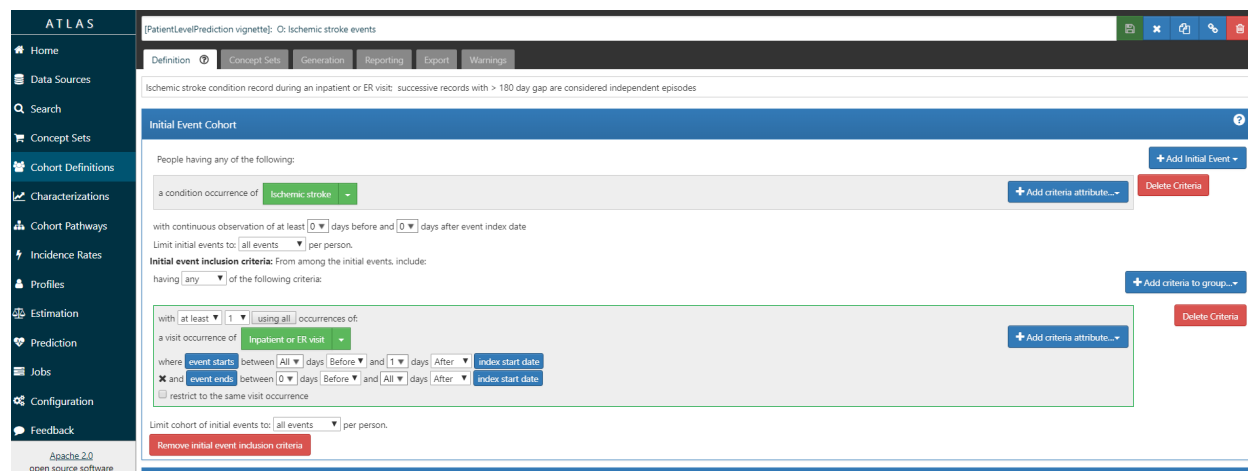


Figure 15.5: Outcome Cohort Stroke

### 15.2.1.1 ATLAS cohort builder

ATLAS allows you to define cohorts interactively by specifying cohort entry and cohort exit criteria. Cohort entry criteria involve selecting one or more initial events, which determine the start date for cohort entry, and optionally specifying additional inclusion criteria which filter to the qualifying events. Cohort exit criteria are applied to each cohort entry record to determine the end date when the person's episode no longer qualifies for the cohort. For the outcome cohort the end date is less relevant. As an example, Figure 15.4 shows how we created the Atrial Fibrillation cohort and Figure 15.5 shows how we created the stroke cohort in ATLAS.

The T and O cohorts can be found here:

- Atrial Fibrillation (T): <http://www.ohdsi.org/web/atlas/#/cohortdefinition/1769447>
- Stroke (O) : <http://www.ohdsi.org/web/atlas/#/cohortdefinition/1769448>

In depth explanation of cohort creation in ATLAS is out of scope of this vignette but can be found on the OHDSI wiki pages (<http://www.ohdsi.org/web/wiki/doku.php?id=documentation:software:atlas>).

Note that when a cohort is created in ATLAS the cohortid is needed to extract the data in R. The cohortid can be found at the top of the ATLAS screen.

### 15.2.1.2 Custom cohorts

It is also possible to create cohorts without the use of ATLAS. Using custom cohort code (SQL) you can make more advanced cohorts if needed.

For our example study, we need to create a table to hold the cohort data and we need to create SQL code to instantiate this table for both the AF and Stroke cohorts. Therefore, we create a file called *AfStrokeCohorts.sql* with the following contents:

```

/*****
File AfStrokeCohorts.sql
*****/
/*
   Create a table to store the persons in the T and C cohort
*/

IF OBJECT_ID('@resultsDatabaseSchema.PLPAFibStrokeCohort', 'U') IS NOT NULL

```



```

DROP TABLE @resultsDatabaseSchema.PLPAFibStrokeCohort;

CREATE TABLE @resultsDatabaseSchema.PLPAFibStrokeCohort
(
    cohort_definition_id INT,
    subject_id BIGINT,
    cohort_start_date DATE,
    cohort_end_date DATE
);

/*
T cohort: [PatientLevelPrediction vignette]: T : patients who are newly
          diagnosed with Atrial fibrillation
- persons with a condition occurrence record of 'Atrial fibrillation' or
  any descendants, indexed at the first diagnosis
- who have >1095 days of prior observation before their first diagnosis
- and have no warfarin exposure any time prior to first AFib diagnosis
*/
INSERT INTO @resultsDatabaseSchema.AFibStrokeCohort (cohort_definition_id,
                                                    subject_id,
                                                    cohort_start_date,
                                                    cohort_end_date)

SELECT 1 AS cohort_definition_id,
    AFib.person_id AS subject_id,
    AFib.condition_start_date AS cohort_start_date,
    observation_period.observation_period_end_date AS cohort_end_date
FROM
(
    SELECT person_id, min(condition_start_date) as condition_start_date
    FROM @cdmDatabaseSchema.condition_occurrence
    WHERE condition_concept_id IN (SELECT descendant_concept_id FROM
        @cdmDatabaseSchema.concept_ancestor WHERE ancestor_concept_id IN
        (313217 /*atrial fibrillation*/))
    GROUP BY person_id
) AFib
INNER JOIN @cdmDatabaseSchema.observation_period
    ON AFib.person_id = observation_period.person_id
    AND AFib.condition_start_date >= dateadd(dd,1095,
        observation_period.observation_period_start_date)
    AND AFib.condition_start_date <= observation_period.observation_period_end_date
LEFT JOIN
(
    SELECT person_id, min(drug_exposure_start_date) as drug_exposure_start_date
    FROM @cdmDatabaseSchema.drug_exposure
    WHERE drug_concept_id IN (SELECT descendant_concept_id FROM
        @cdmDatabaseSchema.concept_ancestor WHERE ancestor_concept_id IN
        (1310149 /*warfarin*/))
    GROUP BY person_id
) warfarin
    ON AFib.person_id = warfarin.person_id
    AND AFib.condition_start_date > warfarin.drug_exposure_start_date
WHERE warfarin.person_id IS NULL

```

```

;

/*
C cohort: [PatientLevelPrediction vignette]: 0: Ischemic stroke events
- inpatient visits that include a condition occurrence record for
  'cerebral infarction' and descendants, 'cerebral thrombosis',
  'cerebral embolism', 'cerebral artery occlusion'
*/
INSERT INTO @resultsDatabaseSchema.AFibStrokeCohort (cohort_definition_id,
                                                    subject_id,
                                                    cohort_start_date,
                                                    cohort_end_date)

SELECT 2 AS cohort_definition_id,
       visit_occurrence.person_id AS subject_id,
       visit_occurrence.visit_start_date AS cohort_start_date,
       visit_occurrence.visit_end_date AS cohort_end_date
FROM
(
  SELECT person_id, condition_start_date
  FROM @cdmDatabaseSchema.condition_occurrence
  WHERE condition_concept_id IN (SELECT DISTINCT descendant_concept_id FROM
  @cdmDatabaseSchema.concept_ancestor WHERE ancestor_concept_id IN
  (443454 /*cerebral infarction*/) OR descendant_concept_id IN
  (441874 /*cerebral thrombosis*/, 375557 /*cerebral embolism*/,
  372924 /*cerebral artery occlusion*/))
) stroke
INNER JOIN @cdmDatabaseSchema.visit_occurrence
ON stroke.person_id = visit_occurrence.person_id
AND stroke.condition_start_date >= visit_occurrence.visit_start_date
AND stroke.condition_start_date <= visit_occurrence.visit_end_date
AND visit_occurrence.visit_concept_id IN (9201, 262 /*'Inpatient Visit' or
'Emergency Room and Inpatient Visit'*/)
GROUP BY visit_occurrence.person_id, visit_occurrence.visit_start_date,
         visit_occurrence.visit_end_date
;

```

This is parameterized SQL which can be used by the `SqlRender` package. We use parameterized SQL so we do not have to pre-specify the names of the CDM and result schemas. That way, if we want to run the SQL on a different schema, we only need to change the parameter values; we do not have to change the SQL code. By also making use of translation functionality in `SqlRender`, we can make sure the SQL code can be run in many different environments.

To execute this SQL against our CDM we first need to tell R how to connect to the server. `PatientLevelPrediction` uses the `DatabaseConnector` package, which provides a function called `createConnectionDetails`. Type `?createConnectionDetails` for the specific settings required for the various database management systems (DBMS). For example, one might connect to a PostgreSQL database using this code:

```

connectionDetails <- createConnectionDetails(dbms = "postgresql",
                                             server = "localhost/ohdsi",
                                             user = "joe",
                                             password = "supersecret")

cdmDatabaseSchema <- "my_cdm_data"
cohortsDatabaseSchema <- "my_results"

```

```
cdmVersion <- "5"
```

The last three lines define the `cdmDatabaseSchema` and `cohortsDatabaseSchema` variables, as well as the CDM version. We will use these later to tell R where the data in CDM format live, where we want to create the cohorts of interest, and what version CDM is used. Note that for Microsoft SQL Server, databaseschemas need to specify both the database and the schema, so for example `cdmDatabaseSchema <- "my_cdm_data.dbo"`.

```
library(SqlRender)
sql <- readSql("AfStrokeCohorts.sql")
sql <- renderSql(sql,
  cdmDatabaseSchema = cdmDatabaseSchema,
  cohortsDatabaseSchema = cohortsDatabaseSchema,
  post_time = 30,
  pre_time = 365)$sql
sql <- translateSql(sql, targetDialect = connectionDetails$dbms)$sql

connection <- connect(connectionDetails)
executeSql(connection, sql)
```

In this code, we first read the SQL from the file into memory. In the next line, we replace four parameter names with the actual values. We then translate the SQL into the dialect appropriate for the DBMS we already specified in the `connectionDetails`. Next, we connect to the server, and submit the rendered and translated SQL.

If all went well, we now have a table with the events of interest. We can see how many events per type:

```
sql <- paste("SELECT cohort_definition_id, COUNT(*) AS count",
  "FROM @cohortsDatabaseSchema.AFibStrokeCohort",
  "GROUP BY cohort_definition_id")
sql <- renderSql(sql, cohortsDatabaseSchema = cohortsDatabaseSchema)$sql
sql <- translateSql(sql, targetDialect = connectionDetails$dbms)$sql

querySql(connection, sql)
```

```
## cohort_definition_id count
## 1                    1 527616
## 2                    2 221555
```

## 15.2.2 Study script creation

In this section we assume that our cohorts have been created either by using ATLAS or a custom SQL script. We will first explain how to create an R script yourself that will execute our study as we have defined earlier.

### 15.2.2.1 Data extraction

Now we can tell `PatientLevelPrediction` to extract all necessary data for our analysis. This is done using the `FeatureExtractionPackage` package (<https://github.com/OHDSI/FeatureExtraction>). In short the `FeatureExtractionPackage` allows you to specify which features (covariates) need to be extracted, e.g. all conditions and drug exposures, more information can be found in chapter X. It also supports the creation of custom covariates. For more detailed information on the `FeatureExtraction` package see its vignettes. For our example study we decided to use these settings:

```
covariateSettings <- createCovariateSettings(useDemographicsGender = TRUE,
  useDemographicsAge = TRUE,
```

```

useConditionGroupEraLongTerm = TRUE,
useConditionGroupEraAnyTimePrior = TRUE,
useDrugGroupEraLongTerm = TRUE,
useDrugGroupEraAnyTimePrior = TRUE,
useVisitConceptCountLongTerm = TRUE,
longTermStartDays = -365,
endDays = -1)

```

The final step for extracting the data is to run the `getPlpData` function and input the connection details, the database schema where the cohorts are stored, the cohort definition ids for the cohort and outcome, and the washoutPeriod which is the minimum number of days prior to cohort index date that the person must have been observed to be included into the data, and finally input the previously constructed covariate settings.

```

plpData <- getPlpData(connectionDetails = connectionDetails,
                      cdmDatabaseSchema = cdmDatabaseSchema,
                      cohortDatabaseSchema = resultsDatabaseSchema,
                      cohortTable = 'AFibStrokeCohort',
                      cohortId = 1,
                      covariateSettings = covariateSettings,
                      outcomeDatabaseSchema = resultsDatabaseSchema,
                      outcomeTable = 'AFibStrokeCohort',
                      outcomeIds = 2,
                      sampleSize = 10000
)

```

Note that if the cohorts are created in ATLAS its corresponding cohort database schema needs to be selected. There are many additional parameters for the `getPlpData` function which are all documented in the *PatientLevelPrediction* manual. The resulting `plpData` object uses the package `ff` to store information in a way that ensures R does not run out of memory, even when the data are large.

Creating the `plpData` object can take considerable computing time, and it is probably a good idea to save it for future sessions. Because `plpData` uses `ff`, we cannot use R's regular save function. Instead, we'll have to use the `savePlpData()` function:

```
savePlpData(plpData, "stroke_in_af_data")
```

We can use the `loadPlpData()` function to load the data in a future session.

### 15.2.2.2 Additional inclusion criteria

To completely define the prediction problem the final study population is obtained by applying additional constraints on the two earlier defined cohorts, e.g., a minimum time at risk can be enforced (`requireTimeAtRisk`, `minTimeAtRisk`) and we can specify if this also applies to patients with the outcome (`includeAllOutcomes`). Here we also specify the start and end of the risk window relative to target cohort start. For example, if we like the risk window to start 30 days after the at-risk cohort start and end a year later we can set `riskWindowStart = 30` and `riskWindowEnd = 365`. In some cases the risk window needs to start at the cohort end date. This can be achieved by setting `addExposureToStart = TRUE` which adds the cohort (exposure) time to the start date.

In Appendix 1, we demonstrate the effect of these settings on the subset of the persons in the target cohort that end up in the final study population.

In the example below all the settings we defined for our study are imposed:

```

population <- createStudyPopulation(plpData = plpData,
                                   outcomeId = 2,

```

```

washoutPeriod = 1095,
firstExposureOnly = FALSE,
removeSubjectsWithPriorOutcome = FALSE,
priorOutcomeLookback = 1,
riskWindowStart = 1,
riskWindowEnd = 365,
addExposureDaysToStart = FALSE,
addExposureDaysToEnd = FALSE,
minTimeAtRisk = 364,
requireTimeAtRisk = TRUE,
includeAllOutcomes = TRUE,
verbosity = "DEBUG"
)

```

### 15.2.2.3 Model Development

In the `set` function of an algorithm the user can specify a list of eligible values for each hyper-parameter. All possible combinations of the hyper-parameters are included in a so-called grid search using cross-validation on the training set. If a user does not specify any value then the default value is used instead.

For example, if we use the following settings for the `gradientBoostingMachine`: `ntrees=c(100,200)`, `maxDepth=4` the grid search will apply the gradient boosting machine algorithm with `ntrees=100` and `maxDepth=4` plus the default settings for other hyper-parameters and `ntrees=200` and `maxDepth=4` plus the default settings for other hyper-parameters. The hyper-parameters that lead to the best cross-validation performance will then be chosen for the final model. For our problem we choose to build a logistic regression model with the default hyper-parameters

```
lrModel <- setLassoLogisticRegression()
```

The `runPlp` function uses the population, `plpData`, and model settings to train and evaluate the model. We can use the `testSplit` (person/time) and `testFraction` parameters to split the data in a 75%-25% split and run the patient-level prediction pipeline:

```

lrResults <- runPlp(population, plpData, modelSettings = lrModel, testSplit='person',
                    testFraction=0.25, nfold=2, splitSeed = 1234)

```

Under the hood the package will now use the `Cyclops` package fit a large-scale regularized regression using 75% of the data and will evaluate the model on the remaining 25%. A results data structure is returned containing information about the model, its performance etc.

In the `runPlp` function there are several parameters to save the `plpData`, `plpResults`, `plpPlots`, `evaluation`, etc. objects which are all set to `true` by default. However, there is also some functionality to this manually.

You can save the model using:

```
savePlpModel(lrResults$model, dirPath = file.path(getwd(), "model"))
```

You can load the model using:

```
plpModel <- loadPlpModel(getwd(), 'model')
```

You can also save the full results structure using:

```
savePlpResult(lrResults, location = file.path(getwd(), 'lr'))
```

To load the full results structure use:

```
lrResults <- loadPlpResult(file.path(getwd(),'lr'))
```

### 15.2.3 Study package creation

The script we created manually above can also be automatically created using a powerful feature in ATLAS. By creating a new prediction study (left menu) you can select the Target and Outcome as created in ATLAS, set all the study parameters, and then you can download a R package that you can use to execute your study. What is really powerful is that you can add multiple Ts, Os, covariate settings etc. The package will then run all the combinations of automatically as separate analyses. The screenshots below explain this process.

1. Create a new prediction study and select your target and outcome cohorts.

The screenshot shows the ATLAS interface for a 'Patient Level Prediction' study. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Home, Data Sources, Search, Concept Sets, Cohort Definitions, Characterizations, Cohort Pathways, Incidence Rates, Profiles, Estimation, Prediction (selected), Jobs, Configuration, and Feedback. The main content area is titled 'Patient Level Prediction' and shows the study specification: 'Risk of ischemic stroke in patients with Atrial Fibrillation'. Below this, the 'Prediction Problem Settings' tab is active, showing 'Target Cohorts' and 'Outcome Cohorts'. The 'Analysis Settings' tab is also visible, showing 'Model Settings'.

2. Specify one or more analysis settings

The screenshot shows the ATLAS interface for a 'Patient Level Prediction' study. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Home, Data Sources, Search, Concept Sets, Cohort Definitions, Characterizations, Cohort Pathways, Incidence Rates, Profiles, Estimation, Prediction (selected), Jobs, Configuration, and Feedback. The main content area is titled 'Patient Level Prediction' and shows the study specification: 'Risk of ischemic stroke in patients with Atrial Fibrillation'. Below this, the 'Analysis Settings' tab is active, showing 'Model Settings', 'Covariate Settings', and 'Population Settings'.

**Model Settings**

Remove	Model	Options
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LassoLogisticRegressionSettings	(variance*0.01,"seed=null")

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

**Covariate Settings**

Remove	Options
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DemographicsGender, DemographicsAgeGroup, ConditionGroupEraAnyTimePrior, ConditionGroupEraLongTerm, DrugGroupEraAnyTimePrior, DrugGroupEraLongTerm (+ 10 more covariate settings)

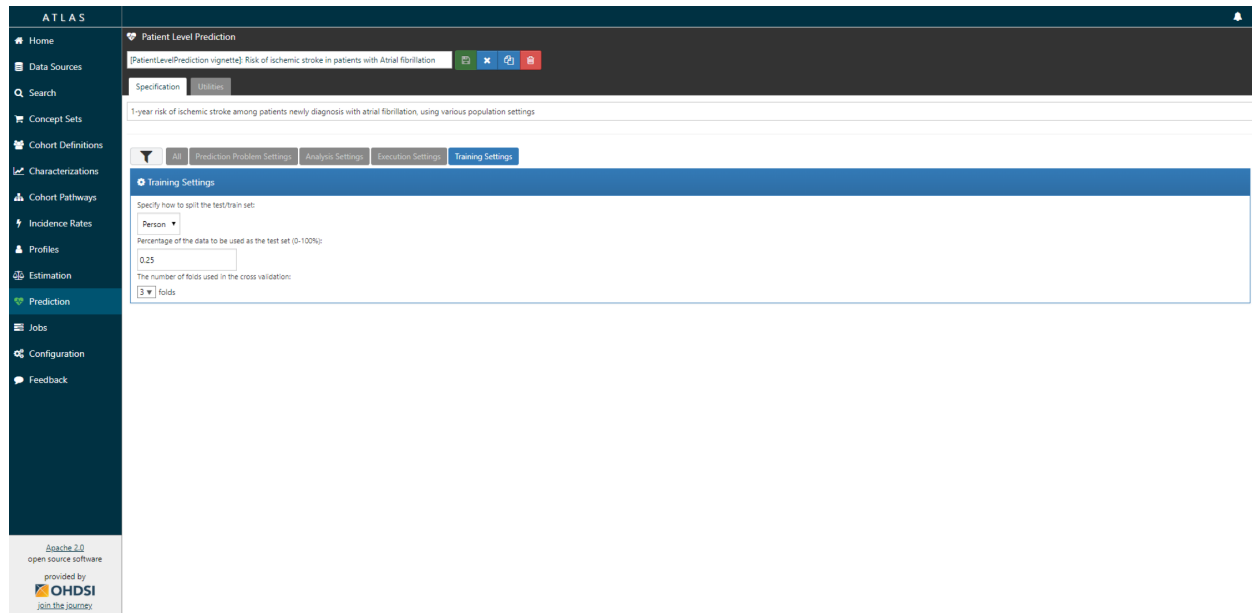
Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

**Population Settings**

Remove	Risk Window Start	Risk Window End	Washout Period	Include All Outcomes	Remove Subjects With Prior Outcome	Minimum Time At Risk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	365	1095	true	false	364
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	365	1095	true	false	364
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	365	1095	true	false	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	365	1095	true	true	364

Showing 1 to 4 of 4 entries

## 3. Specify the trainings settings.



The screenshot shows the ATLAS Patient Level Prediction interface. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Home, Data Sources, Search, Concept Sets, Cohort Definitions, Characterizations, Cohort Pathways, Incidence Rates, Profiles, Estimation, Prediction (highlighted), Jobs, Configuration, and Feedback. The main content area is titled "Patient Level Prediction" and shows a specification: "Risk of ischemic stroke in patients with Atrial fibrillation". Below this, there are tabs for "All", "Prediction Problem Settings", "Analysis Settings", "Execution Settings", and "Training Settings" (selected). The "Training Settings" tab is active, showing options to specify how to split the test/train set. The "Person" dropdown is selected, and the "Percentage of the data to be used as the test set (0-100%)" is set to 0.25. The "The number of folds used in the cross validation" is set to 5 folds.

ATLAS

Home

Data Sources

Search

Concept Sets

Cohort Definitions

Characterizations

Cohort Pathways

Incidence Rates

Profiles

Estimation

Prediction

Jobs

Configuration

Feedback

Apache 2.0  
open source software  
provided by  
**OHDSI**  
join the journey

Patient Level Prediction

(PatientLevelPrediction vignette) Risk of ischemic stroke in patients with Atrial fibrillation

Specification

1-year risk of ischemic stroke among patients newly diagnosis with atrial fibrillation, using various population settings

All Prediction Problem Settings Analysis Settings Execution Settings Training Settings

Training Settings

Specify how to split the test/train set:

Person

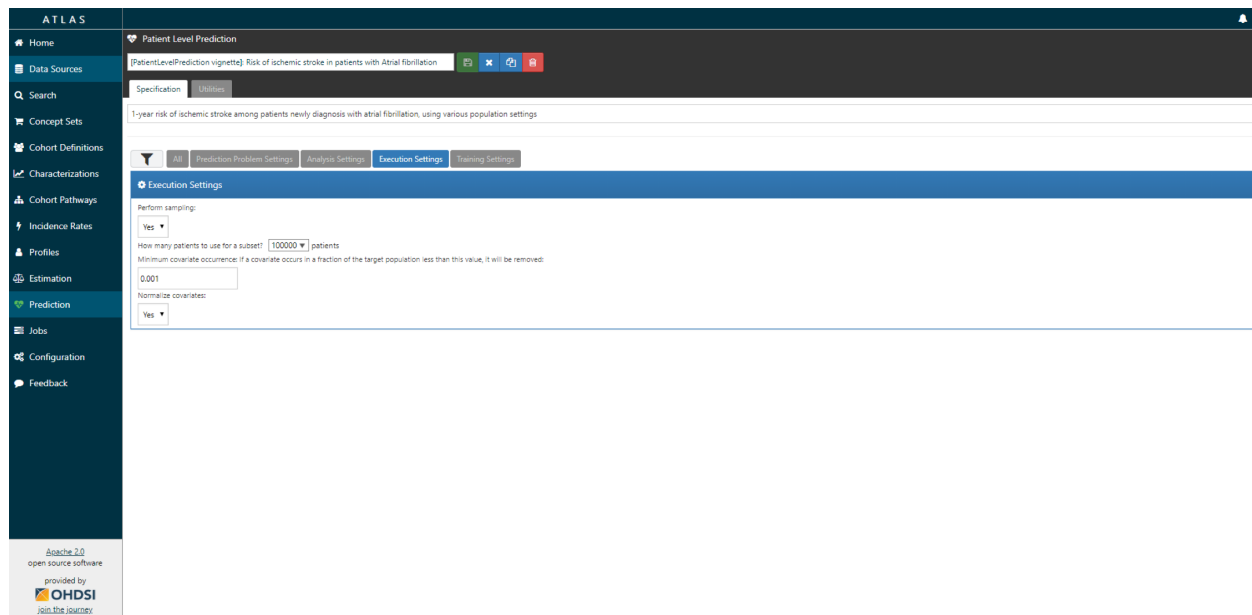
Percentage of the data to be used as the test set (0-100%):

0.25

The number of folds used in the cross validation:

5 folds

## 4. Specify the execution settings.



The screenshot shows the ATLAS Patient Level Prediction interface with the "Execution Settings" tab selected. The left sidebar is the same as in the previous screenshot. The main content area shows the "Execution Settings" tab, which includes options for "Perform sampling:" (Yes), "How many patients to use for a subset?" (100000), "Minimum covariate occurrence: If a covariate occurs in a fraction of the target population less than this value, it will be removed:" (0.001), and "Normalize covariates:" (Yes).

ATLAS

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Apache 2.0  
open source software  
provided by  
**OHDSI**  
join the journey

Patient Level Prediction

(PatientLevelPrediction vignette) Risk of ischemic stroke in patients with Atrial fibrillation

Specification

1-year risk of ischemic stroke among patients newly diagnosis with atrial fibrillation, using various population settings

All Prediction Problem Settings Analysis Settings Execution Settings Training Settings

Execution Settings

Perform sampling:

Yes

How many patients to use for a subset? 100000 patients

Minimum covariate occurrence: If a covariate occurs in a fraction of the target population less than this value, it will be removed:

0.001

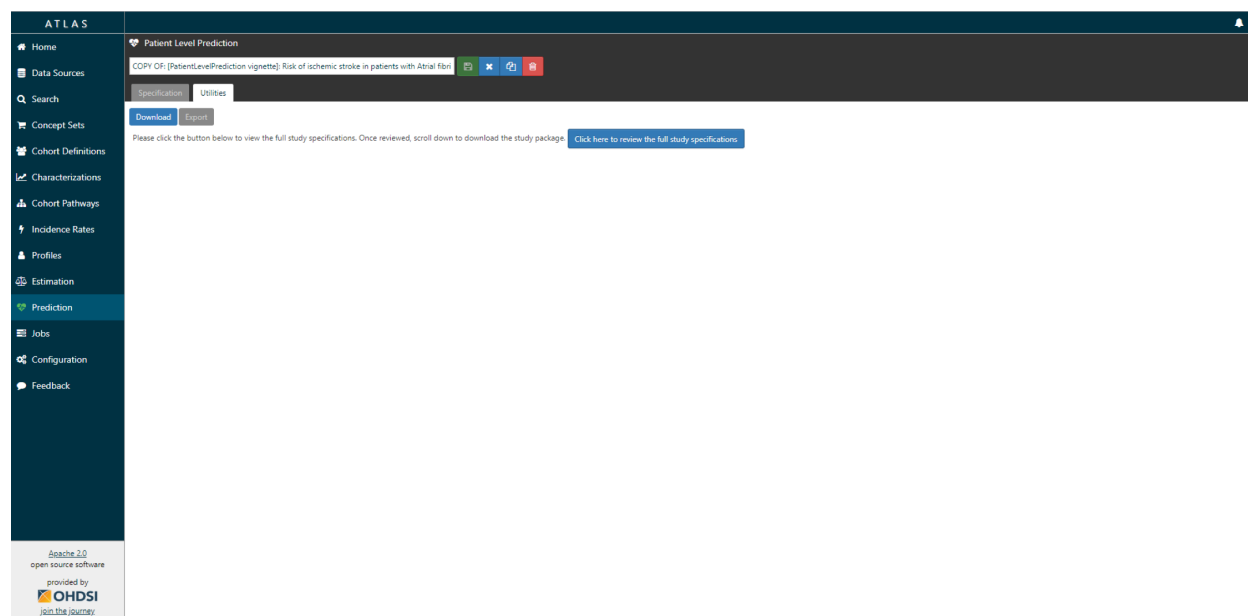
Normalize covariates:

Yes

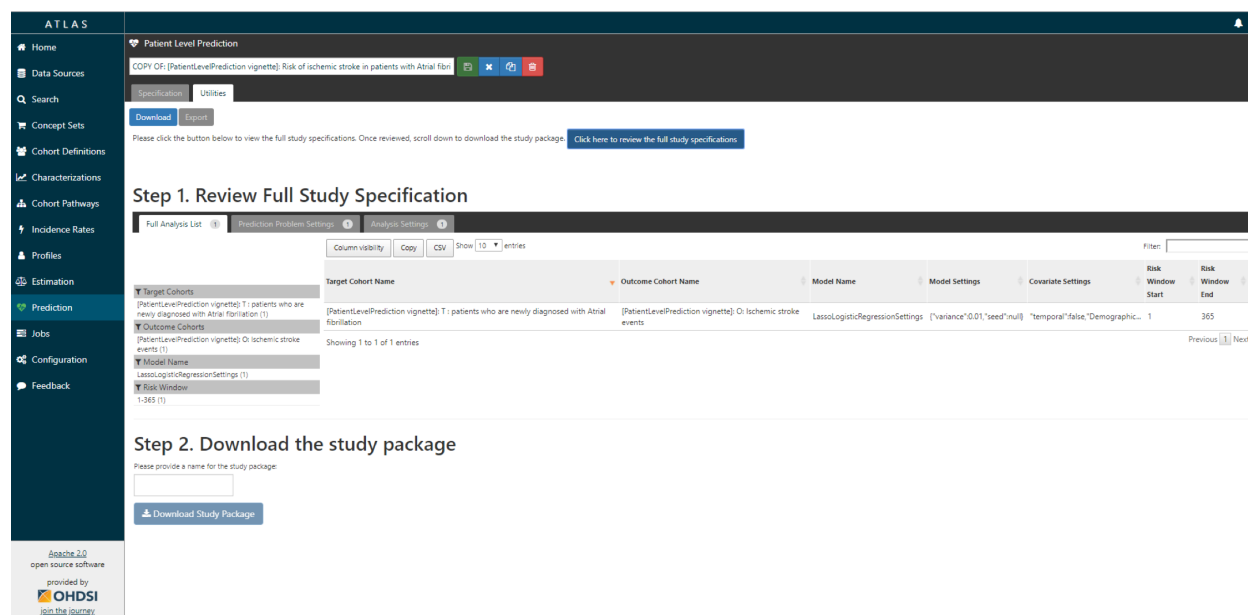


ATLAS can build a R package for you that will execute the full study against your CDM. Below the steps are explained how to do this in ATLAS.

1. Under utilities you can find download. Click on the button to review the full study specification.



2. You now have to review that you indeed want to run all these analyses (cartesian product of all the settings for each T and O combination).

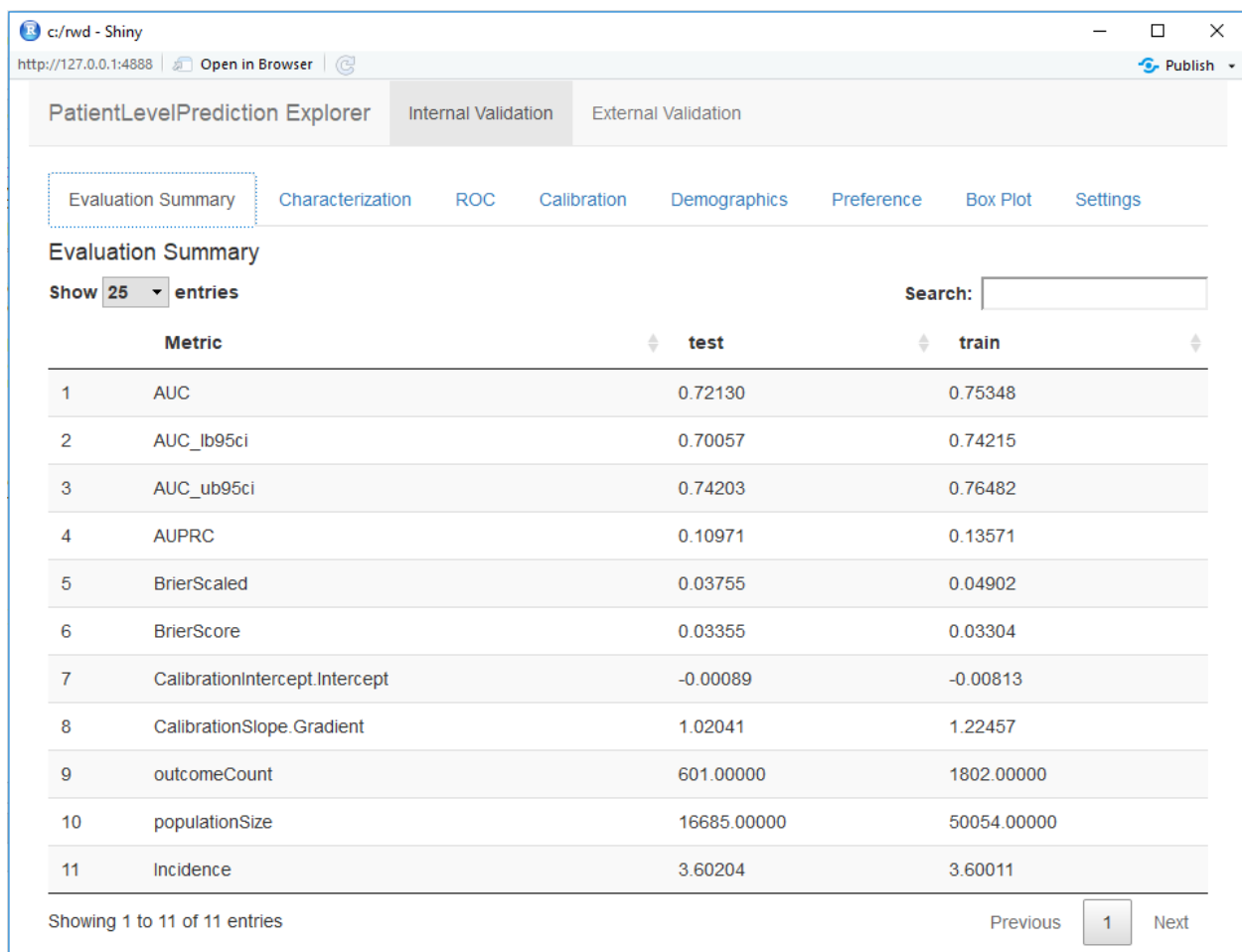


3. If you agree, you give the package a name, and download the package as a zip file.
4. By opening the R package in R studio and building the package you can run the study using the `execute` function. There is also an example `CodeToRun.R` script available in the extras folder of the package with extra instructions.

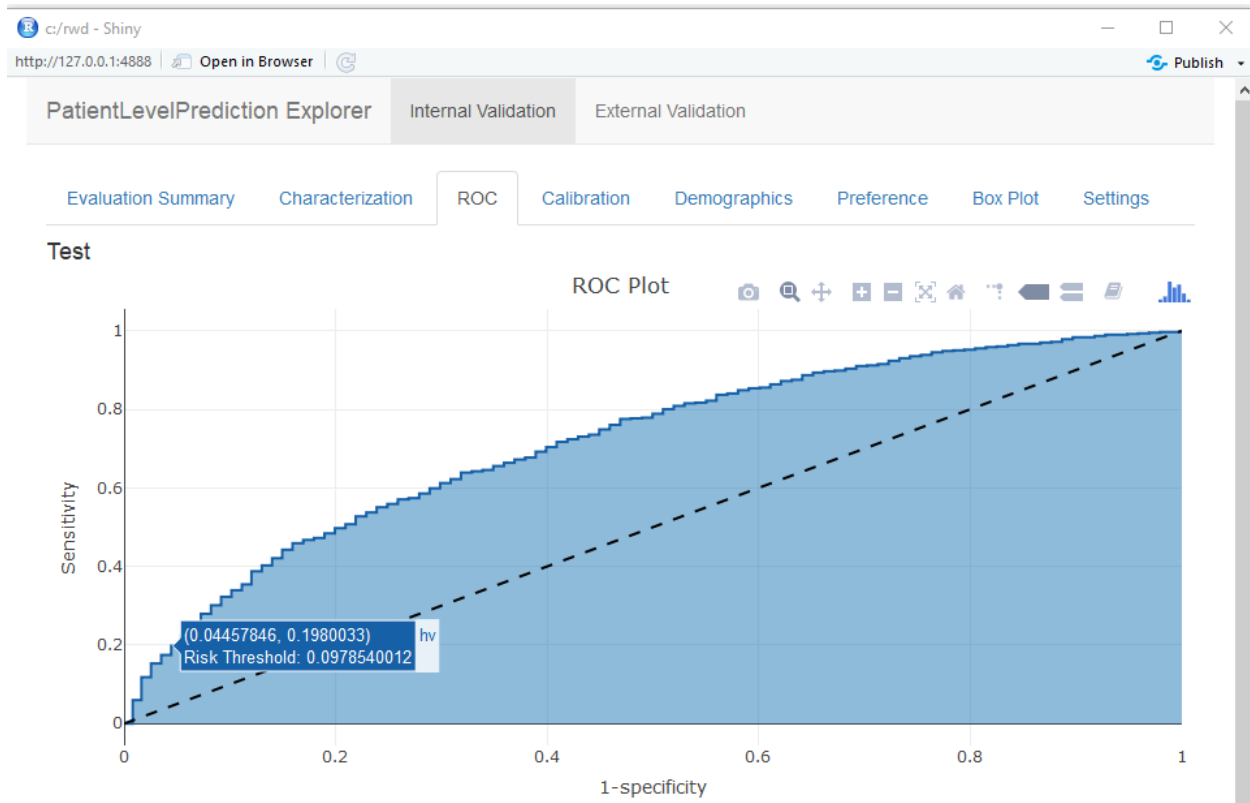
## 15.3 Internal validation

Once we execute the study, the `runPlp()` function returns the trained model and the evaluation of the model on the train/test sets.

You can interactively view the results by running: `viewPlp(runPlp=lrResults)`. This will generate a Shiny App in your browser in which you can view all performance measures created by the framework as shown in the figure below.



Furthermore, many interactive plots are available in the Shiny App, for example the ROC curve in which you can move over the plot to see the threshold and the corresponding sensitivity and specificity values.



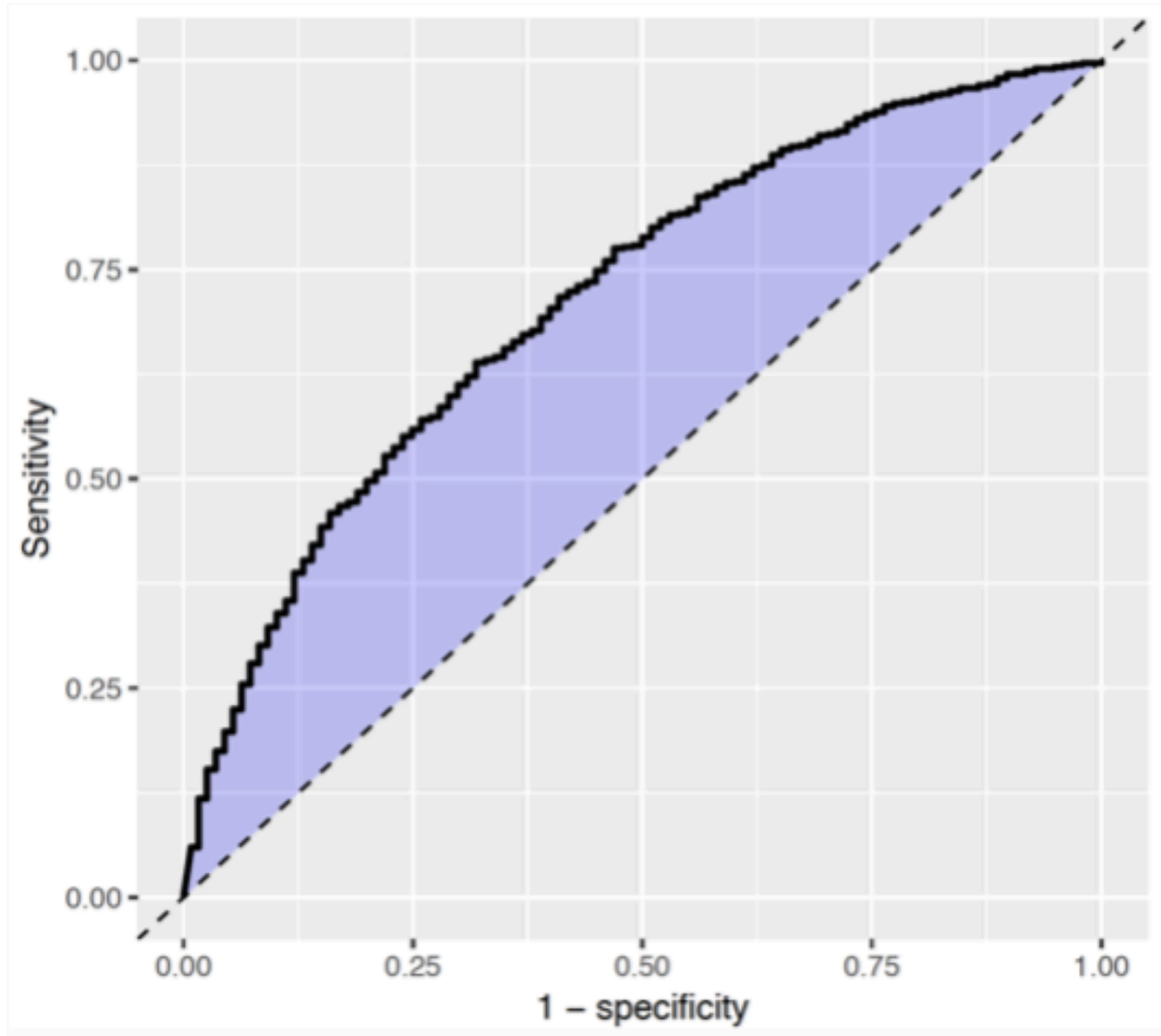
To generate and save all the evaluation plots to a folder run the following code:

```
plotPlp(lrResults, dirPath=getwd())
```

The plots are described in more detail in the next sections.

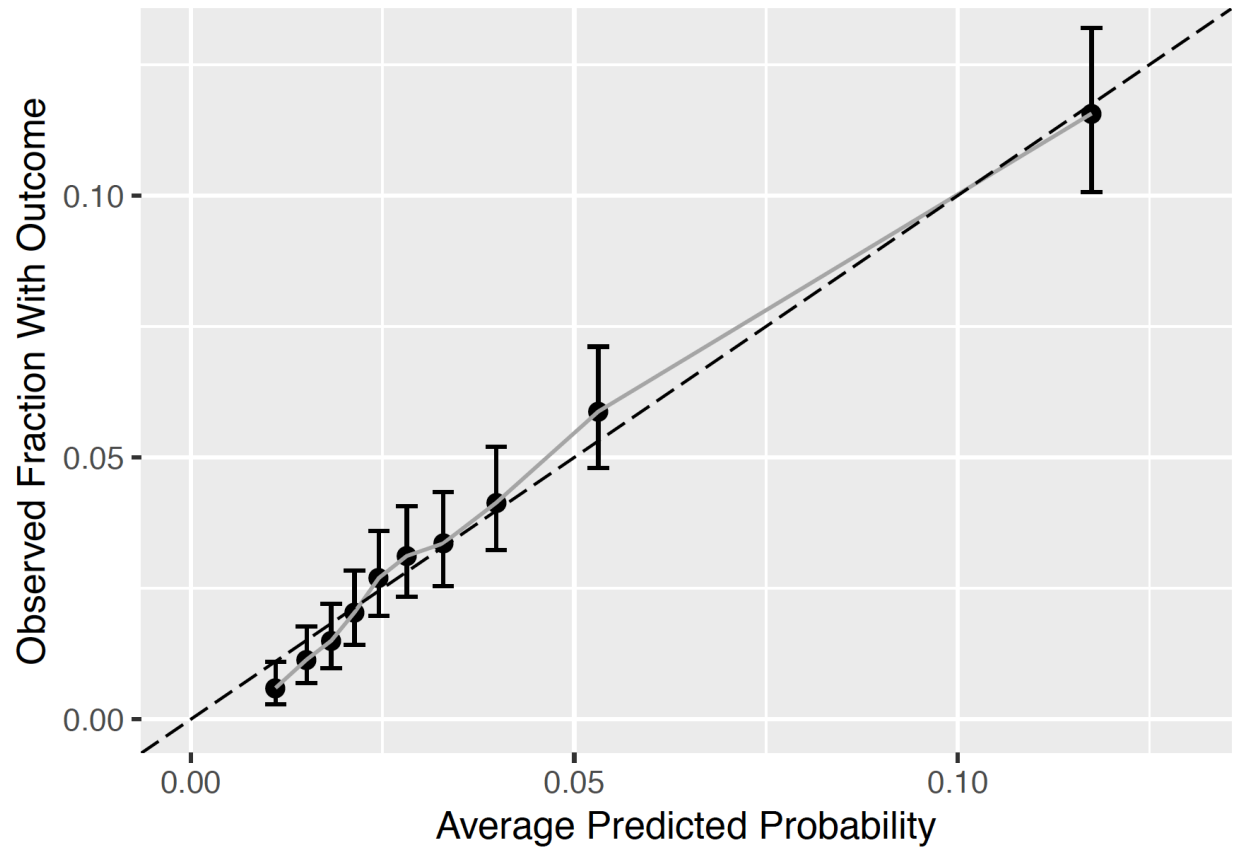
### 15.3.1 Discrimination

The Receiver Operating Characteristics (ROC) plot shows the sensitivity against 1-specificity on the test set. The plot illustrates how well the model is able to discriminate between the people with the outcome and those without. The dashed diagonal line is the performance of a model that randomly assigns predictions. The higher the area under the ROC plot the better the discrimination of the model. The plot is created by changing the probability threshold to assign the positive class.



### 15.3.2 Calibration

The calibration plot shows how close the predicted risk is to the observed risk. The diagonal dashed line thus indicates a perfectly calibrated model. The ten (or fewer) dots represent the mean predicted values for each quantile plotted against the observed fraction of people in that quantile who had the outcome (observed fraction). The straight black line is the linear regression using these 10 plotted quantile mean predicted vs observed fraction points. The straight vertical lines represented the 95% lower and upper confidence intervals of the slope of the fitted line.



### 15.3.3 Smooth Calibration

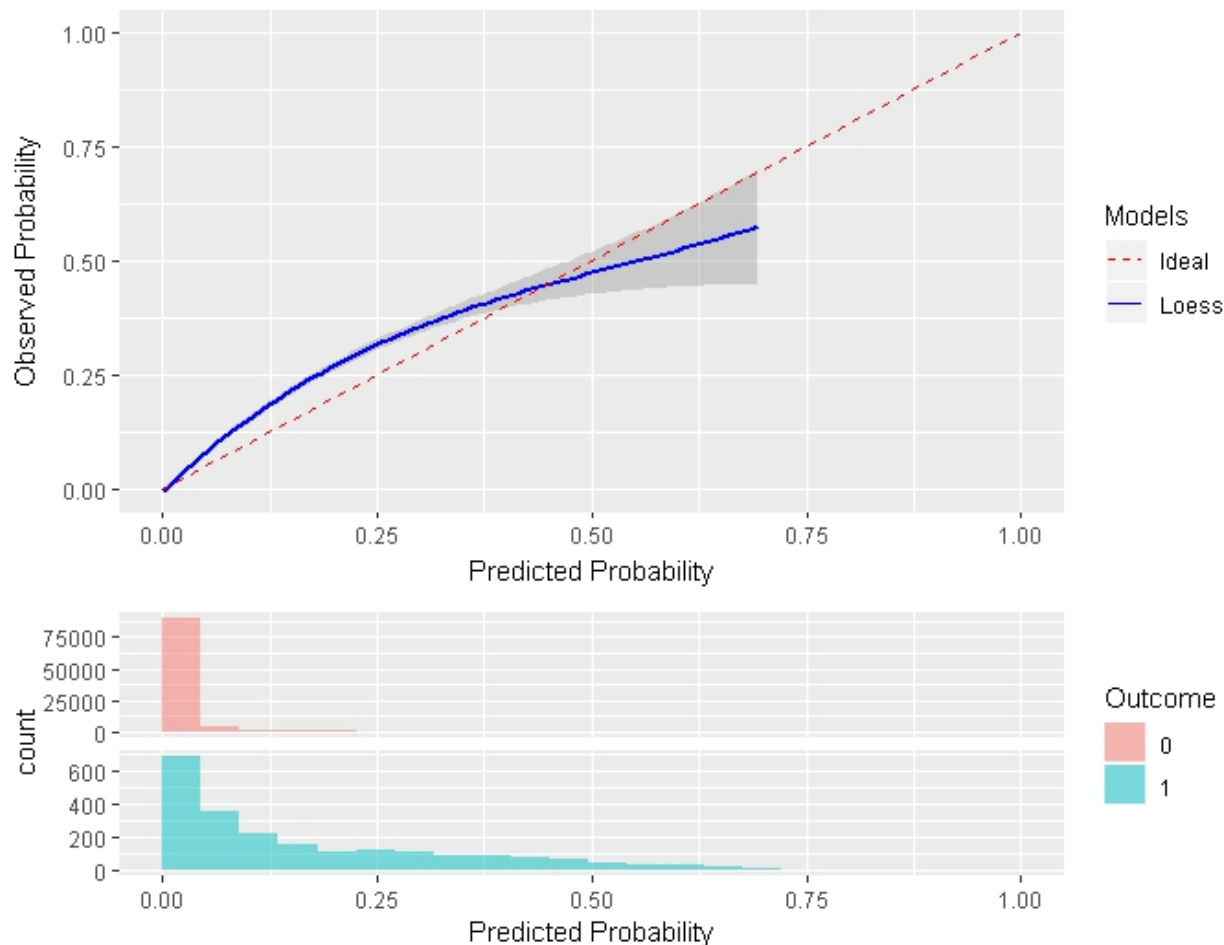
Similar to the traditional calibration shown above the Smooth Calibration plot shows the relationship between predicted and observed risk. the major difference is that the smooth fit allows for a more fine grained examination of this. Whereas the traditional plot will be heavily influenced by the areas with the highest density of data the smooth plot will provide the same information for this region as well as a more accurate interpretation of areas with lower density. the plot also contains information on the distribution of the outcomes relative to predicted risk.

However, the increased information gain comes at a computational cost. It is recommended to use the traditional plot for examination and then to produce the smooth plot for final versions. To create the smooth calibration plot you have to run the follow command:

```
plotSmoothCalibration(lrResults)
```

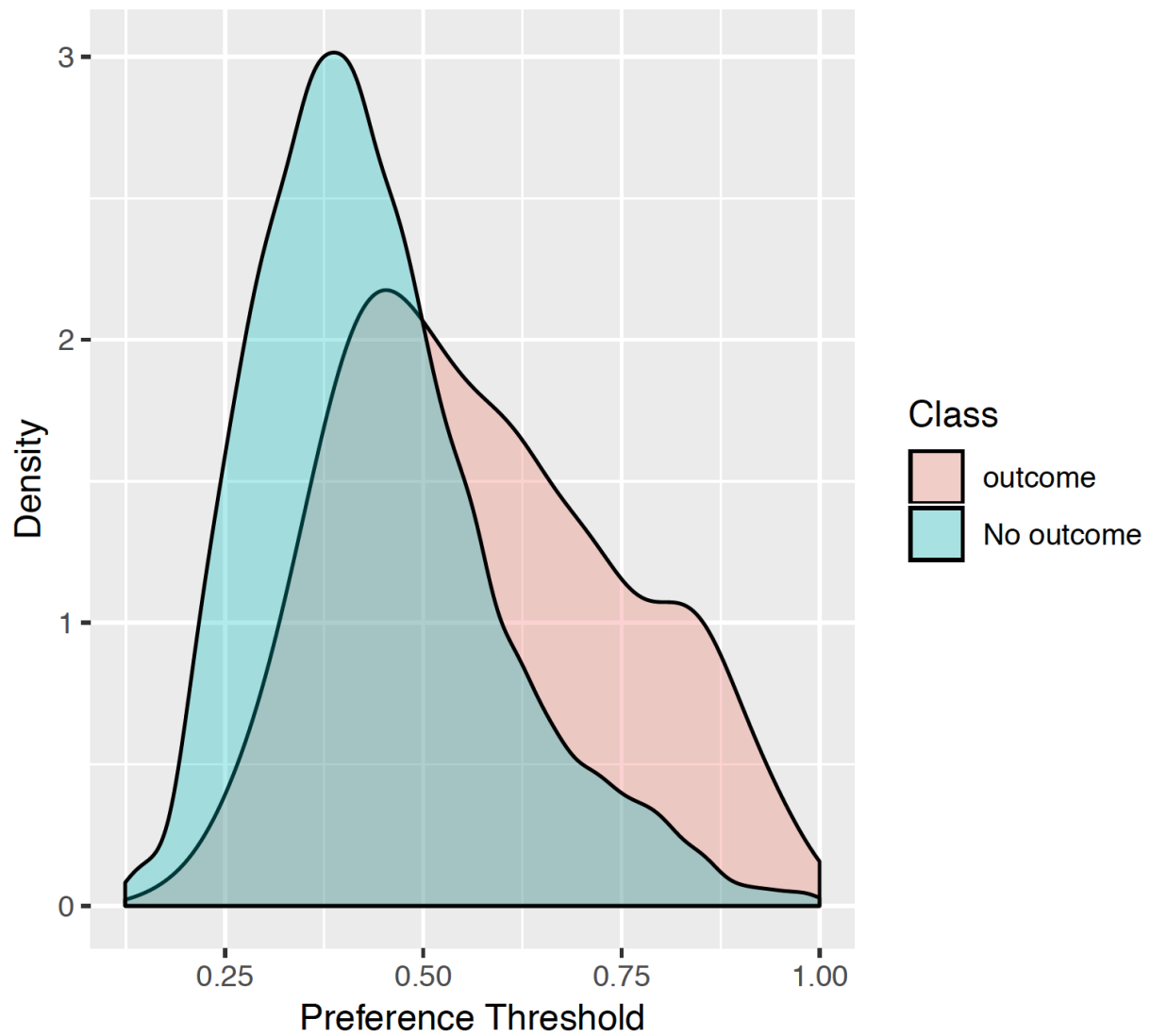
See the help function for more information, on how to set the smoothing method etc.

The example below is from another study that better demonstrates the impact of using a smooth calibration plot. The default line fit would not highlight the miss-calibration at the lower predicted probability levels that well.



### 15.3.4 Preference distribution

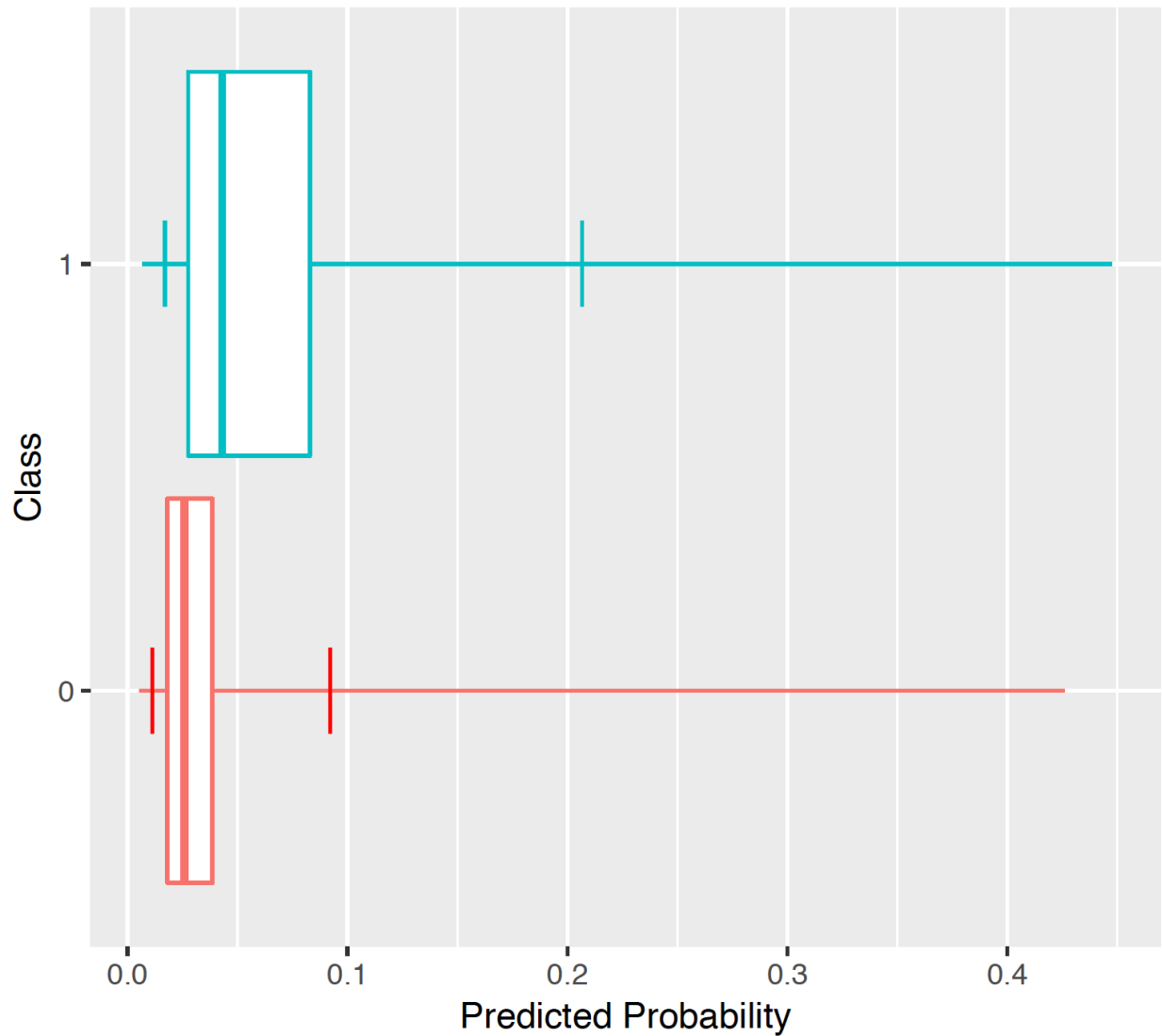
The preference distribution plots are the preference score distributions corresponding to i) people in the test set with the outcome (red) and ii) people in the test set without the outcome (blue).



### 15.3.5 Predicted probability distribution

The prediction distribution box plots are for the predicted risks of the people in the test set with the outcome (class 1: blue) and without the outcome (class 0: red).

The box plots in the Figure show that the predicted probability of the outcome is indeed higher for those with the outcome but there is also overlap between the two distribution which lead to an imperfect discrimination.

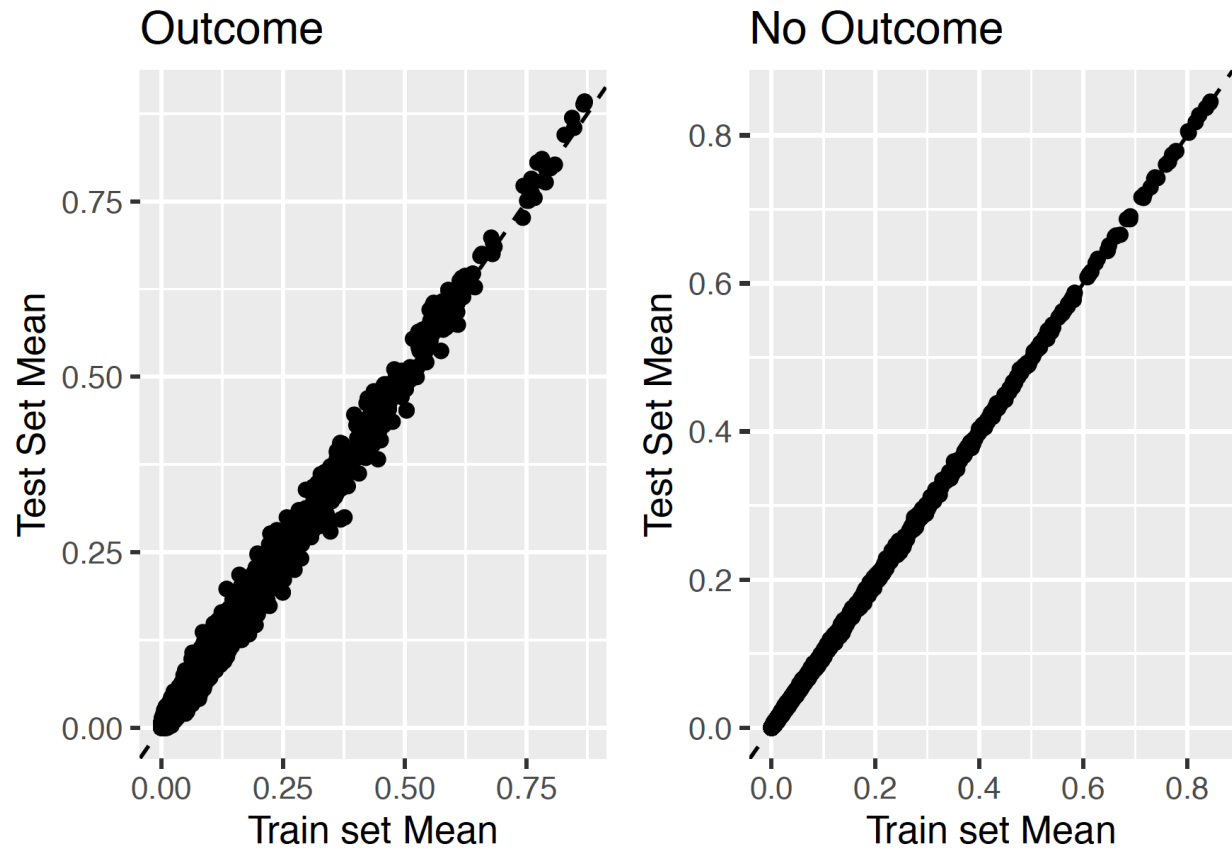




### 15.3.6 Test-Train similarity

The test-train similarity is assessed by plotting the mean covariate values in the train set against those in the test set for people with and without the outcome.

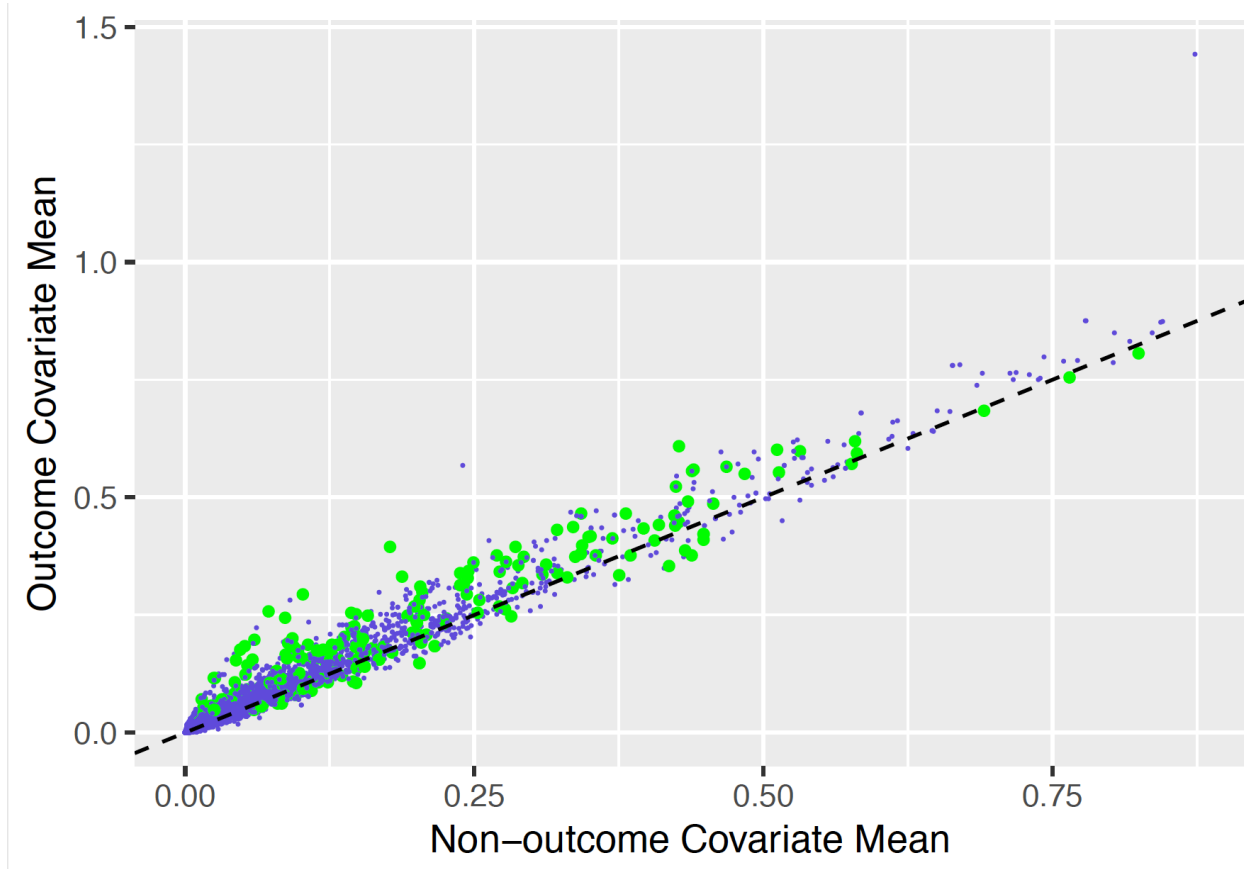
The results for our example of look very promising since the mean values of the covariates are on the diagonal.



### 15.3.7 Variable scatter plot

The variable scatter plot shows the mean covariate value for the people with the outcome against the mean covariate value for the people without the outcome. The color of the dots corresponds to the inclusion (green) or exclusion in the model (blue), respectively. It is highly recommended to use the Shiny App since this allows you to hover over a covariate to show more details (name, value etc).

The plot shows that the mean of most of the covariates is higher for subjects with the outcome compared to those without.



### 15.3.8 Precision recall

Precision (P) is defined as the number of true positives (Tp) over the number of true positives plus the number of false positives (Fp).

```
P <- Tp/(Tp+Fp)
```

Recall (R) is defined as the number of true positives (Tp) over the number of true positives plus the number of false negatives (Fn).

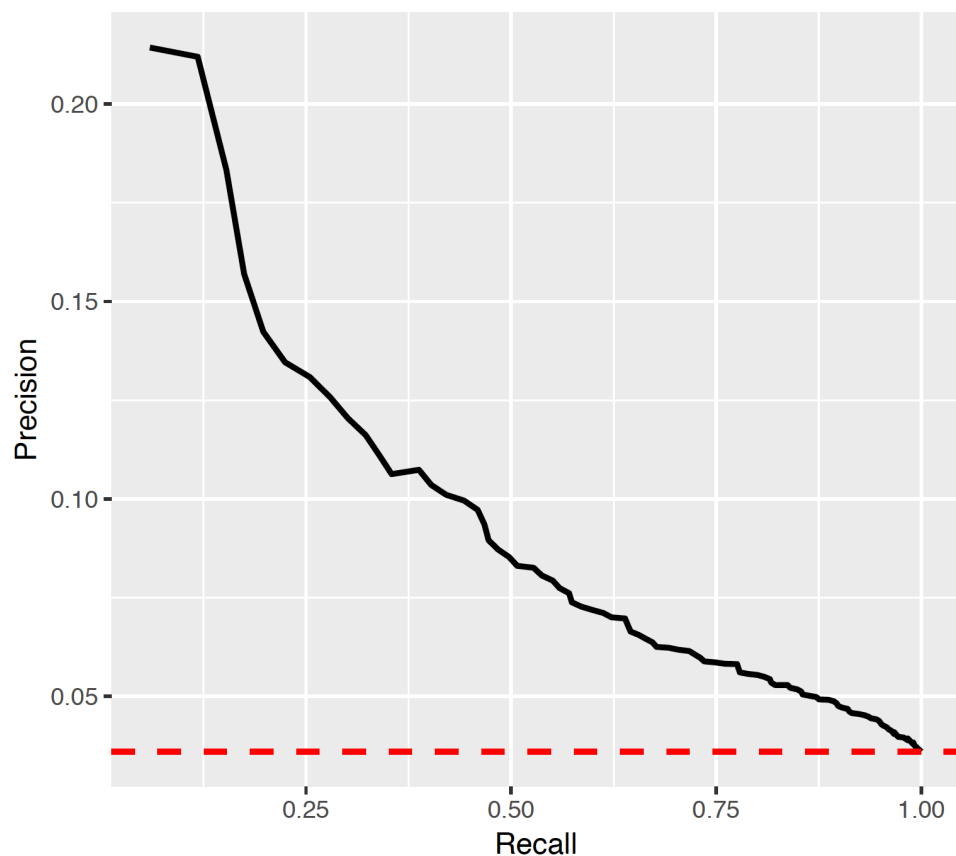
```
R <- Tp/(Tp + Fn)
```

These quantities are also related to the (F1) score, which is defined as the harmonic mean of precision and recall.

```
F1 <- 2*P*R/(P+R)
```

Note that the precision can either decrease or increase if the threshold is lowered. Lowering the threshold of a classifier may increase the denominator, by increasing the number of results returned. If the threshold was previously set too high, the new results may all be true positives, which will increase precision. If the previous threshold was about right or too low, further lowering the threshold will introduce false positives, decreasing precision.

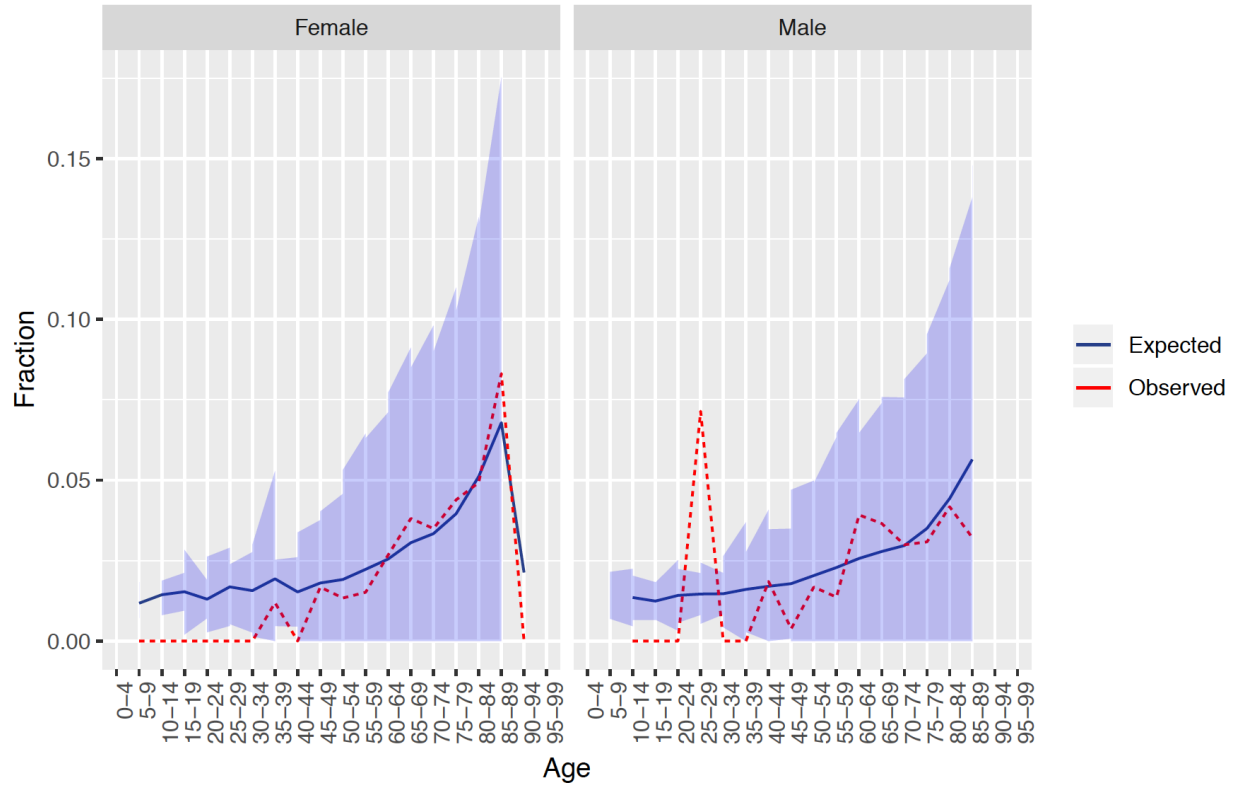
For Recall the denominator does not depend on the classifier threshold (Tp+Fn is a constant). This means that lowering the classifier threshold may increase recall, by increasing the number of true positive results. It is also possible that lowering the threshold may leave recall unchanged, while the precision fluctuates.



### 15.3.9 Demographic summary

This plot shows for females and males the expected and observed risk in different age groups together with a confidence area.

The results show that our model is well calibrated across gender and age groups.



## 15.4 External validation

We recommend to always perform external validation, i.e. apply the final model on as much new datasets as feasible and evaluate its performance.

```
# load the trained model
plpModel <- loadPlpModel(getwd(),'model')

#load the new plpData and create the population
plpData <- loadPlpData(getwd(),'data')
population <- createStudyPopulation(plpData,
outcomeId = 2,
includeAllOutcomes = TRUE,
firstExposureOnly = TRUE,
washoutPeriod = 365,
removeSubjectsWithPriorOutcome = TRUE,
priorOutcomeLookback = 365,
riskWindowStart = 1,
requireTimeAtRisk = FALSE,
riskWindowEnd = 365
)

# apply the trained model on the new data
validationResults <- applyModel(population,plpData,plpModel)
```

To make things easier we also provide a function for performing external validation of a model across one or multiple datasets:

```
# load the trained model
plpResult <- loadPlpResult(getwd(),'plpResult')

connectionDetails <- createConnectionDetails(dbms = "postgresql",
server = "localhost/ohdsi",
user = "joe",
password = "supersecret")

validation <- externalValidatePlp(plpResult = plpResult,
connectionDetails = connectionDetails,
validationSchemaTarget = 'new_cohort_schema',
validationSchemaOutcome = 'new_cohort_schema',
validationSchemaCdm = 'new_cdm_schema',
validationTableTarget = 'cohort_table',
validationTableOutcome = 'cohort_table',
validationIdTarget = 'cohort_id',
validationIdOutcome = 'outcome_id',
keepPrediction = T
)
```

This will extract the new plpData from the specified schemas and cohort tables. It will then apply the same population settings and the trained plp model. Finally, it will evaluate the performance and return the standard output as `validation$performance` and if `keepPrediction` is `TRUE` then it will also return the prediction on the population as `validation$prediction`. They can be inserted into the shiny app for viewing the model and validation by running: `viewPlp(runPlp=plpResult, validatePlp=validation)`.

If you want to validate on multiple databases available you can insert the new schemas and cohort tables as a list:

```

# load the trained model
plpResult <- loadPlpResult(getwd(),'plpResult')

connectionDetails <- createConnectionDetails(dbms = "postgresql",
                                             server = "localhost/ohdsi",
                                             user = "joe",
                                             password = "supersecret")

validation <- externalValidatePlp(plpResult = plpResult,
                                  connectionDetails = connectionDetails,
                                  validationSchemaTarget = list('new_cohort_schema1',
                                                                'new_cohort_schema2'),
                                  validationSchemaOutcome = list('new_cohort_schema1',
                                                                'new_cohort_schema2'),
                                  validationSchemaCdm = list('new_cdm_schema1',
                                                            'new_cdm_schema2'),
                                  validationTableTarget = list('new_cohort_table1',
                                                              'new_cohort_table2'),
                                  validationTableOutcome = list('new_cohort_table1',
                                                                'new_cohort_table2'),
                                  validationIdTarget = 'cohort_id',
                                  validationIdOutcome = 'outcome_id',
                                  keepPrediction = T
                                  )

```

## 15.5 Journal paper generation

We have added functionality to automatically generate a word document you can use as start of a journal paper. It contains many of the generated study details and results. If you have performed external validation these results will can be added as well. Optionally, you can add a “Table 1” that contains data on many covariates for the target population.

You can create the draft journal paper by running this function:

```

createPlpJournalDocument(plpResult = <your plp results>,
                          plpValidation = <your validation results>,
                          plpData = <your plp data>,
                          targetName = "<target population>",
                          outcomeName = "<outcome>",
                          table1 = F,
                          connectionDetails = NULL,
                          includeTrain = FALSE,
                          includeTest = TRUE,
                          includePredictionPicture = TRUE,
                          includeAttritionPlot = TRUE,
                          outputLocation = "<your location>")

```

For more details see the help page of the function.

## 15.6 Other functionality

The package has much more functionality than described in this vignette and contributions have been made by many persons in the OHDSI community. The table below provides an overview:

Functionality	Description	Vignette
Building Multiple Models	This vignette describes how you can run multiple models automatically	<a href="#">Vignette</a>
Custom algorithms	This vignette describes how you can add your own custom algorithms in the framework	<a href="#">Vignette</a>
Ensemble models	This vignette describes how you can use the framework to build ensemble models, i.e combine multiple models in a super learner	<a href="#">Vignette</a>
Deep Learning Models	We have added extensive functionality for Deep Learning including several architectures in both pyTorch and Keras. These algorithms can be trained using GPU power	<a href="#">Vignette</a>
Learning curves	Learning curves assess the effect of training set size on model performance by training a sequence of prediction models on successively larger subsets of the training set. A learning curve plot can also help in diagnosing a bias or variance problem as explained below.	<a href="#">Vignette</a>
Implementing existing models	This vignette describes how you can implement existing logistic regression models in the framework, e.g. as found in literature	<a href="#">Vignette</a>

## 15.7 Demos

We have added several demos in the package that run on simulated data:

```
# Show all demos in our package:
demo(package = "PatientLevelPrediction")

# For example, to run the SingleModelDemo that runs Lasso and shows you how to run the Shiny App use th
demo("SingleModelDemo", package = "PatientLevelPrediction")
```

## 15.8 Acknowledgments

Considerable work has been dedicated to provide the `PatientLevelPrediction` package.

```
# citation("PatientLevelPrediction")
```

Further, `PatientLevelPrediction` makes extensive use of the `Cyclops` package.

```
# citation("Cyclops")
```

**Please reference this paper if you use the PLP Package in your work:**

Reps JM, Schuemie MJ, Suchard MA, Ryan PB, Rijnbeek PR. Design and implementation of a standardized framework to generate and evaluate patient-level prediction models using observational healthcare data. *J Am Med Inform Assoc.* 2018;25(8):969-975.

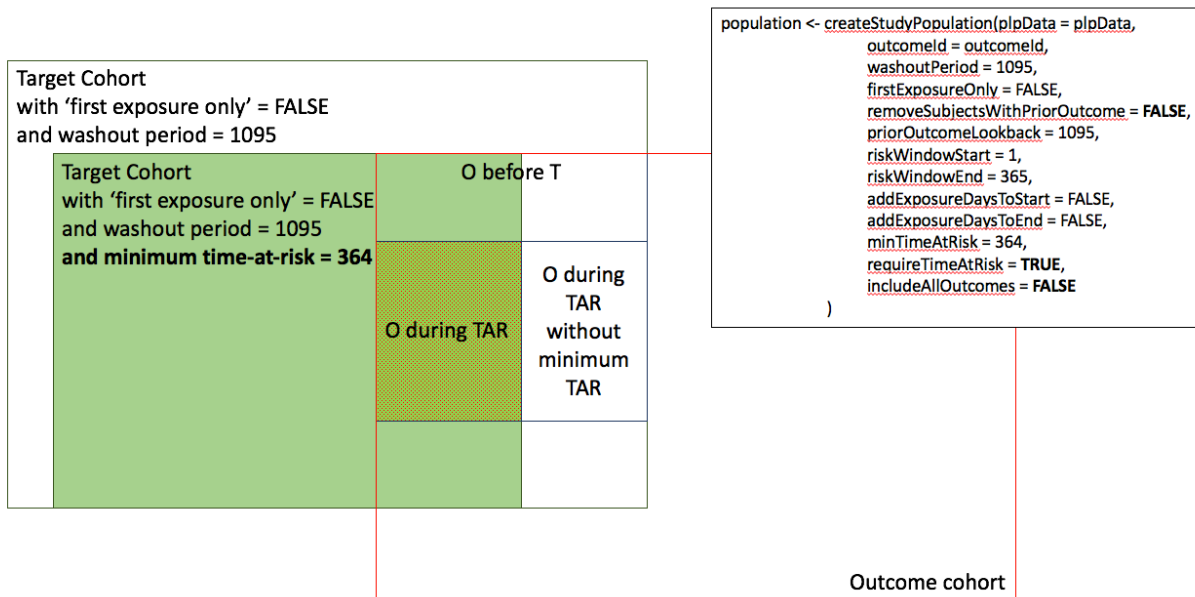
This work is supported in part through the National Science Foundation grant IIS 1251151 and a personalised grant to P.R. Rijnbeek from Janssen R&D.



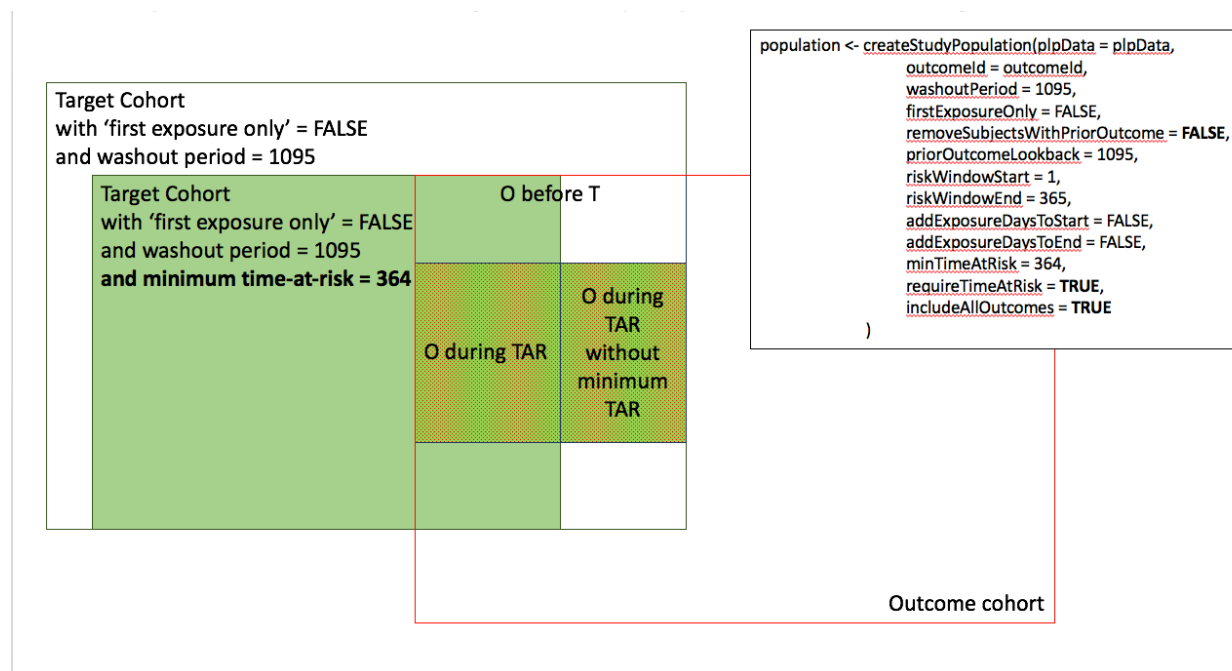
## Appendix 1: Study population settings details

In the figures below the effect is shown of the `removeSubjectsWithPriorOutcome`, `requireTimAtRisk`, and `includeAllOutcomes` booleans on the final study population. We start with a Target Cohort with `firstExposureOnly = false` and we require a washout period = 1095. We then subset the target cohort based on additional constraints. The final study population in the Venn diagrams below are colored green.

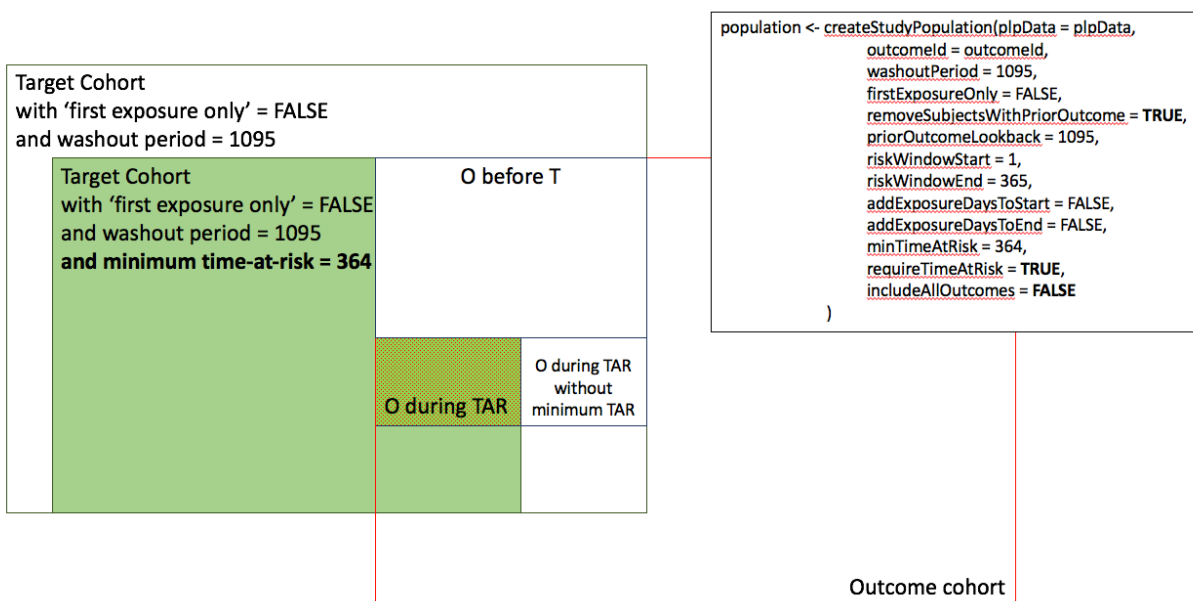
1. Require minimum time-at-risk for all person in the target cohort.



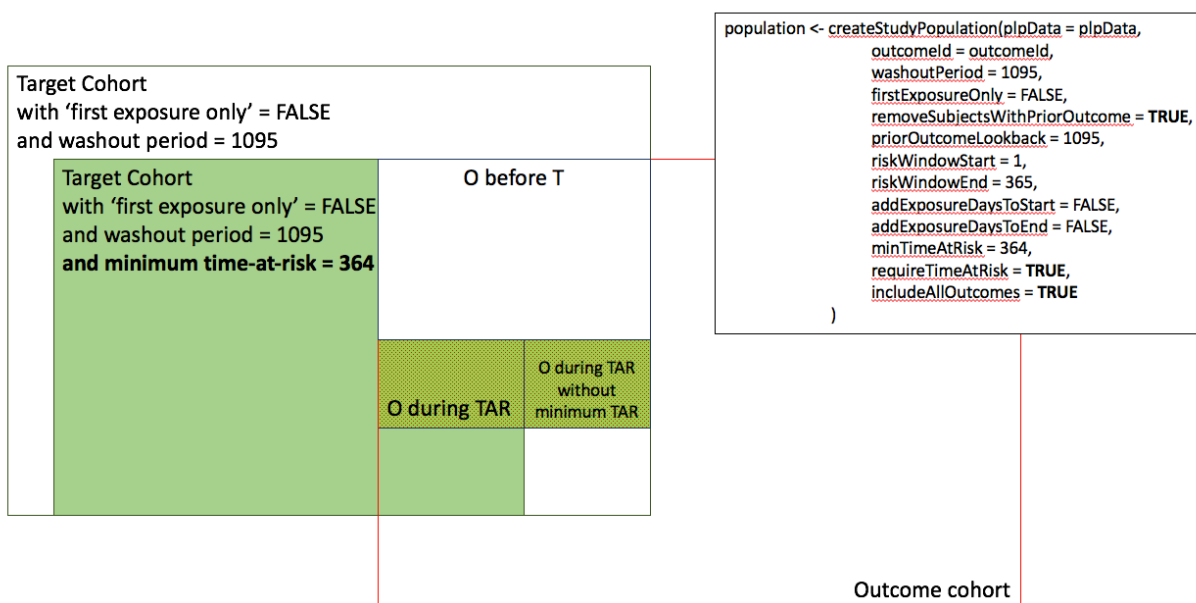
2. Require minimum time-at-risk for target cohort, except for persons with outcomes during time-at-risk.



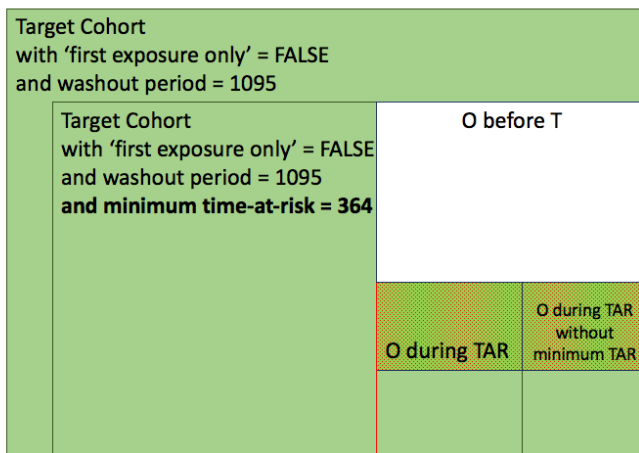
3. Include all persons in the target cohort exclude persons with prior outcomes.



4. Require minimum time-at-risk for target cohort, except for persons with outcomes during time-at-risk, exclude persons with prior outcomes.



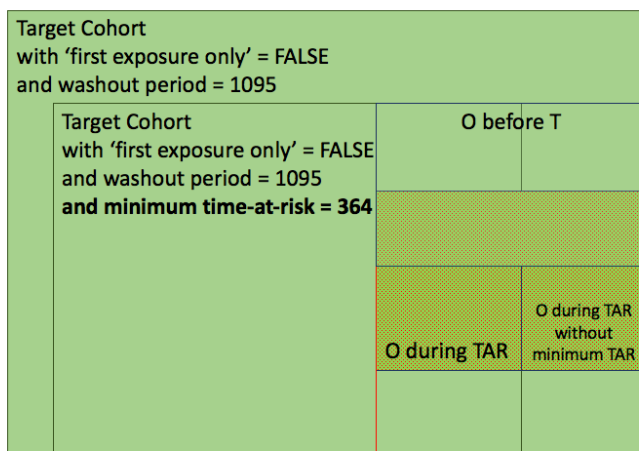
5. Include all persons in target cohort exclude persons with prior outcomes.



```
population <- createStudyPopulation(plpData = plpData,
  outcomeId = outcomeId,
  washoutPeriod = 1095,
  firstExposureOnly = FALSE,
  removeSubjectsWithPriorOutcome = TRUE,
  priorOutcomeLookback = 1095,
  riskWindowStart = 1,
  riskWindowEnd = 365,
  addExposureDaysToStart = FALSE,
  addExposureDaysToEnd = FALSE,
  minTimeAtRisk = 364,
  requireTimeAtRisk = FALSE,
  includeAllOutcomes = TRUE/FALSE
)
```

Outcome cohort

6. Include all persons in target cohort.



```
population <- createStudyPopulation(plpData = plpData,
  outcomeId = outcomeId,
  washoutPeriod = 1095,
  firstExposureOnly = FALSE,
  removeSubjectsWithPriorOutcome = FALSE,
  priorOutcomeLookback = 1095,
  riskWindowStart = 1,
  riskWindowEnd = 365,
  addExposureDaysToStart = FALSE,
  addExposureDaysToEnd = FALSE,
  minTimeAtRisk = 364,
  requireTimeAtRisk = FALSE,
  includeAllOutcomes = TRUE/FALSE
)
```

Outcome cohort



Part IV

**OHDSI Studies**



## Chapter 16

# Study steps

Writing the protocol, OHDSI style: [http://www.ohdsi.org/web/wiki/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=projects:workgroups:wg\\_study\\_protocols\\_eastern\\_hemisphere.pptx](http://www.ohdsi.org/web/wiki/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=projects:workgroups:wg_study_protocols_eastern_hemisphere.pptx)





# Chapter 17

## OHDSI Network Research

Contributors: Greg Klebanov, Vojtech Huser, list others

What is OHDSI Network?

- OHDSI Community and Network Research
- International Open Science Networks
- OHDSI US
- OHDSI EU and EHDEN
- OHDSI APAC

OHDSI Network Study Process

- Goals
- Workflow Overview
- Structure of Studies
- Protocol and IRB issues
- Existing framework (de-identified [time shifted] OMOP dataset under existing IRB protocol
- Overcoming Network Study Challenges
- Data Privacy, Security and Compliance
- Data Quality
- Running OHDSI Methods in Isolated Environment
- OMOP CDM Versioning

Tools, Platforms and Study Automation \* OHDSI Methods support for Network Studies \* LEGEND (should we have it here?) \* OHDSI ARACHNE Network Platform

Opportunities, future trends and Roadmap

OHDSI Network Study Examples



**Appendix A**

**Glossary**



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