#### **IMPERIAL**



# Ethical Considerations and Responsible Machine Learning

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# Machine learning for healthcare and medicine

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 The ultimate goal of developing machine learning models and systems in healthcare is deploying them in real-world settings and using them to improve patient and healthcare outcomes.

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# ML deployments in real-world settings

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- The systems are often used for decision-support and have human-in-the-loop.
- However, the trustworthiness, reliability, and robustness of the systems/models must be considered and investigated prior to deployment.
- The users' perceptions of the system and appropriate training should also be considered.

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#### Offline and online models

# IMPERIAL

- Some models are designed to process offline and pre-collected datasets and can provide exploratory analysis and insights into the contributing factors to a disease, clusters and groups of features or patients based on different fractures.
- Online models are trained based on some existing data and deployed in operational settings. Sometimes, their parameters are fixed, and sometimes, they are either periodically re-trained or learned as new data emerges (i.e. online or continual learning).

# Continual learning

#### **IMPERIAL**

- "Modern machine learning excels at training powerful models from fixed datasets and stationary environments, often exceeding human-level ability."
- "Yet, these models fail to emulate the process of human learning, which is efficient, robust, and able to learn incrementally, from sequential experience in a non-stationary world."

Source: R. Hadsell et al., Embracing Change: Continual Learning in Deep Neural Networks, Trends in Cognitive Sciences, December 2020, Vol. 24, No. 12.

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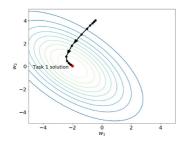
# Why do we need continual learning?

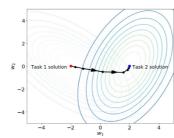
#### IMPERIAL

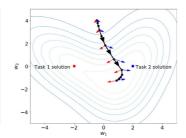
- In continual learning, the model repeatedly receives new data, and the training data is not complete at a fixed given time.
- If we re-train the entire model whenever there are new instances, it would be inefficient, and we have to store the trained samples.
- The key challenge of continual learning scenarios in changing environments is how to incrementally and continually learn new tasks without forgetting the previous or creating highly complex models that may require accessing the entire training data.

# Continual learning

#### **IMPERIAL**







Source: R. Hadsell et al., Embracing Change: Continual Learning in Deep Neural Networks, Trends in Cognitive Sciences, December 2020, Vol. 24, No. 12.

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# Forgetting problem in machine learning models

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- Most of the common deep learning models cannot adapt to different tasks without forgetting what they have learned in the past.
- Updating and altering tasks of an already learned model leads to the loss of previously learned knowledge as the network is not able to maintain the important weights for various distributions.
- The attempt to sequentially or continuously learn and adapt to various distributions will eventually result in a model collapse. This phenomenon is referred as catastrophic forgetting or interference (McCloskey et al., 1989) (Goodfellow et al., 2013).

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# Developing clinically and/or care applicable solutions

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- Before designing any model, the dataset should be thoroughly investigated, and the collection setting/condition, noise, bias, imbalance and suitability of the dataset for the planned analysis should be carefully considered.
- We should investigate how and when the data is collected, how and when it will be used, and for what purpose.

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# Knowing your data

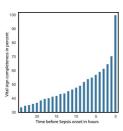
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- It should be investigated how and when the data is collected, how and when it will be used, and for what purpose.

# Outcomes and end-points

#### **IMPERIAL**

- The clinical and care endpoints should be clearly defined.
- For example, if the model is going to be used for the prediction of an adverse health condition in a hospital setting, what timeframe would be clinically useful for the model to make the predictions? i.e., predicting a specific condition a few minutes before it happens may not be as useful in a real-world setting.
- Example:



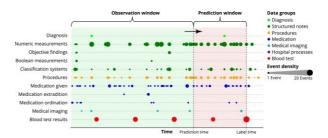


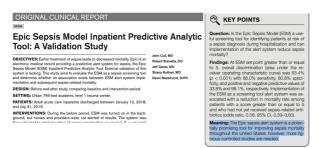
Image source: S. Meyer Lauritsen et al., Early detection of sepsis utilizing deep learning on electronic health record event sequences, Artificial Intelligence in Medicine, 2020.

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#### Robust evaluation of the models

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- When a model is designed for an environment, validation within that environment requires careful thought to ensure that no unintended label leakage has occurred between the datasets used for model tuning and independent testing.
- Example:





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Multi-source data IMPERIAL

 Harmonising the data and investigating different sources of noise, potential errors, and inconsistencies are important.

- If different devices are used to collect the data, you need to consider solutions to reduce the effect of calibration and measurement errors and variations.
- You need to investigate the protocols and procedures used in each site to collect the data to ensure the data is consistent.
- For more information, please refer to Alexander Capstick's work on the LAP model:
  - https://github.com/alexcapstick/LossAdaptedPlasticity
  - https://arxiv.org/abs/2212.02895

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# Ethical implications - bias

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- Several works have identified ways in which non-health-related ML can exacerbate
  existing social inequalities by reflecting and amplifying existing race, sex and other
  biases.
- Health care is not immune to bias.
- The health data on which algorithms are trained are likely influenced by many facets
  of social inequality, including bias toward those who contribute the most data.

Source: Wiens, J., Saria, S., Sendak, M. et al. Do no harm: a roadmap for responsible machine learning for health care. Nat Med 25, 1337-1340 (2019)

# Algorithmic bias

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- Algorithms that predict an individual's risk for a condition or suitability of a specific treatment may be biased toward those who are able to access and afford the procedure.
- This could happen by feeding data from the people who have had that treatment in the past, which won't include people who couldn't afford it in the first place or didn't have access to it.
- Some of this bias can be corrected during model training when the data is divided into training, validation and test sets.
- In general, awareness is necessary to investigate when potential biases could be present in the data and what can be done to mitigate their effect.

Source: Wiens, J., Saria, S., Sendak, M. et al. Do no harm: a roadmap for responsible machine learning for health care. Nat Med 25, 1337-1340 (2019).

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#### Robust evaluation of the models

#### IMPERIAL

- When a model is designed for an environment, validation within that environment requires careful thought to ensure that no unintended label leakage has occurred between the datasets used for model tuning and independent testing.
- For example, the 'radiologist-level' performance recently achieved across several tasks using chest X-rays. The data used in the analysis consisted of multiple X-ray images per patient. It was important to split data at the patient level instead of random splitting so that no images from the same patient appeared in both the training and testing sets.

Source: Wiens, J., Saria, S., Sendak, M. et al. Do no harm: a roadmap for responsible machine learning for health care. Nat Med 25, 1337–1340 (2019)

# Importance of qualitative analysis

#### **IMPERIAL**

- Beyond quantitative measures of performance, qualitative approaches can expose concerns associated with bias and confounding that the quantitative measures might have missed.
- For example, clinical experts can investigate explanations provided at individual test points to determine whether the model is plausible and relevant.

Source: Wiens, J., Saria, S., Sendak, M. et al. Do no harm: a roadmap for responsible machine learning for health care. Nat Med 25, 1337–1340 (2019).

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# Ethical implications - Bias

#### **IMPERIAL**

- The health data on which algorithms are trained are likely to be influenced by many facets of social inequality, including bias toward those who contribute the most data.
- Example:

			Specificity	
Date	Validation	86.6 (80.9 - 92.3)	94.5 (91.7 - 97.3)	87.3 (82.2 - 92.4)
Date	Test	69.0 (64.4 - 73.5)	94.1 (92.0 - 96.2)	81.9 (75.5 - 88.2)
Date-ID	Validation	98.3 (95.5 - 101.1)	90.0 (85.5 - 94.5)	81.7 (74.4 - 89.1)
Date-ID	Test	74.7 (67.9 - 81.5)	87.9 (85.0 - 90.9)	77.0 (71.9 - 82.1)

			Accuracy	No. of Participants	Positive : Negative	Pr(Y = 1 Sex)
_	Date	Female	52.6 (31.8 - 73.4)	16	1:1.7	35.5 (32.4 - 38.5)
	Date	Male	86.5 (76.2 - 96.9)	25	1:5.5	32.3 (30.9 - 33.8)
	Date-ID	Female	54.6 (26.8 - 82.4)	11	1:2.1	37.4 (33.6 - 41.1)
	Date-ID	Male	85.3 (72.9 - 97.7)	20	1:4.1	38.0 (36.4 - 39.7)

(Capstick et al., npj Dig. Med., 2024)

Source (bullet points): Wiens, J., Saria, S., Sendak, M. et al. Do no harm: a roadmap for responsible machine learning for health care. Nat Med 25, 1337–1340 (201

# Reporting and context of the application

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- Proposed reporting guidelines developed by the community provide good ideas to outline the importance of clear descriptions of the source of the data, participants, outcomes and predictors, and in some cases, require the model itself (e.g., regression coefficients) to be presented.
- This last requirement creates a potential for unintended consequences and even harm if the model is then applied inappropriately.
- For example, a recent study in building models to predict healthcare-associated infections found that variables associated with risk at one hospital were protective in another.
- So, it is essential to report the context(s) in which the model applies and was validated.

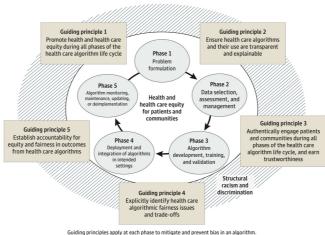
Source: Wiens, I., Saria, S., Sendak, M. et al. Do no harm: a roadmap for responsible machine learning for health care. Nat Med 25, 1337-1340 (2019).

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# A conceptual framework

### **IMPERIAL**



Guiding principles apply at each phase to mitigate and prevent bias in an algorithm.

Operationalization of the principles takes place at 3 levels: individual, institutional, and societal

This conceptual framework builds on a US National Academy of Medicine algorithm life cycle framework adapted by Roski et al. Source: Marshall H. Chin, et al., JAMA Network.

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### Importance of qualitative analysis

#### **IMPERIAL**

- Beyond quantitative measures of performance, qualitative approaches can expose concerns associated with bias and confounding that the quantitative measures might have missed.
- For example, clinical experts can investigate explanations provided at individual test points to determine whether the model is plausible and relevant.
- Example:



Length of Stay LLM - Clinical Validation Study Design

Objective: Assess the clinical utility of an ICU cardiology-trained GOSH Language Model (LLM) through cross-validation between clinical and model predictions specifically for the purpose of identifying whether the model predictions are useful in the context of real-world clinical tractice.

Each sample in this document includes diagnoses, procedures, medications, surgeries, lab results, and demographic data recorded in the EIR system on the first day of hospital admission. A clinical panel will review each randomly selected case, redicting the length of stay and providing reasoning. Additionally the panel will assess the three patients deemed most similar by the model and assess the usefulness of these similarities on a scale from 0 (not useful) to 10; (very useful) based on sudarde clinical knowledge and management. Similarity has been determined using comic similarity, where a value closer to 1 indicate the contraction of the contracti

Source (bullet points): Wiens, I., Saria, S., Sendak, M. et al. Do no harm: a roadmap for responsible machine learning for health care. Nat Med 25, 1337-1340 (2019).

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# User perception and training requirements User groups and stakeholders Machine learning solutions Presentation, engagement feedback, and maintenance Output Outpu

# Deployment and maintenance responsibility

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- Effectively applying a predictive model in an ethical, legal and morally responsible manner within a real-world healthcare setting can be substantially more difficult than developing a model in a curated experimental environment.
- Before integrating an AI/ML model into patient care, it is critical to test the system
  in 'silent' mode, in which predictions are made in real-time and exposed to a group
  of clinical experts but not acted upon.
- This prospective validation allows clinicians to identify and review errors in realworld settings.

Source: Wiens, J., Saria, S., Sendak, M. et al. Do no harm: a roadmap for responsible machine learning for health care. Nat Med 25, 1337-1340 (2019).

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# A roadmap for deploying effective ML systems

#### **IMPERIAL**



Source: Wiens, J., Saria, S., Sendak, M. et al. Do no harm: a roadmap for responsible machine learning for health care. Nat Med 25, 1337–1340 (2019

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# Explainability of the models

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- Providing an explanation of the decision-making process in ML models is important to make them more interpretable.
- For example, providing feature importance/contributions in the predictions helps to provide more explanation to the decision-making/prediction process of the model.
- In recent years, methods such as SHAP graphs, highlights in imaging or heatmaps have been used to add more explainability to the models.
- However, evaluating the explainability of the models should not be limited to presenting them. Further investigation and clinical/care expert knowledge and analysis should be sought for the provided explanations.

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# Explaining what and to whom

#### IMPERIAL

- For example, in some models designed for medical imaging, a heatmap or a region highlight is used to show the area that the model has been looking for to obtain the results/predictions.
- "However, the important question for users trying to understand an individual decision is not where the model was looking but instead whether it was reasonable that the model was looking in this region" [1].
- A good article on this topic:
  - [1] Ghassemi M, Oakden-Rayner L, Beam AL. The false hope of current approaches to explainable artificial intelligence in health care. Lancet Digit Health. 2021 Nov;3(11):e745-e750. doi: 10.1016/S2589-7500(21)00208-9. PMID: 34711379.

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Privacy issues IMPERIAL

- Methods such as imputation and predictive analysis could reveal information about participants that they have declared to provide.
- For example, a data imputation method could provide an estimate for a variable (e.g. alcohol consumption) that they had declined to provide.
- Or narrowing down the analysis to a small sub-group in a dataset is not handled carefully and could risk making the participants identifiable.

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#### Fairness and imbalance

# **IMPERIAL**

- Analysing the outcomes and actions driven by the designed methods could help investigate whether data or sampling issues have led to biased decisions.
- Predictions and decisions should also be investigated for potential disparity across different demographics and groups.
- The training data should be investigated for unfair bias or imbalance.

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#### **Evaluation metrics**

**IMPERIAL** 

- Appropriate evaluation metrics and suitable/applicable targets for the intended outcomes should be considered.
- For example, what time window would be suitable for the input data to make a prediction, and what are the acceptable sensitivity and specificity thresholds for the intended applications?
- In some applications, specificity and sensitivity or precision/recall may not carry the same weight, so the methods that look for an optimum balance between the two measures will not be suitable for this type of application.
- For example, a screening test may require higher recall, but lower precision could be tolerated.

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# Prediction and analysis errors

## IMPERIAL

- In real-world deployments, you may need to identify suitable channels and procedures to investigate/report the prediction errors.
- Identifying procedures and steps to re-train/adjust the model to avoid potentially harmful errors.
- However, this should be done carefully and not add further inconsistencies or potential bias/errors to the model.

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# Sustainability and Environmental Impact Operational greenhouse-gas emissions of deep learning in digital pathology: a modelling study Alexa Notificat Study. Roman Bidows, Studies was Studified, Mission () Schmitz, Prurya Pilva, Doied I. Midscher, Peisson Pidebat He, Marcel Schweiter. Prior Boor Vafael Sadr, Alireza et al., Operational greenhouse-gas emissions of deep learning in digital pathology: a modelling study. Vafael Sadr, Alireza et al., Operational greenhouse-gas emissions of deep learning in digital pathology: a modelling study. The Lancet Digital Health, Dec 2023.

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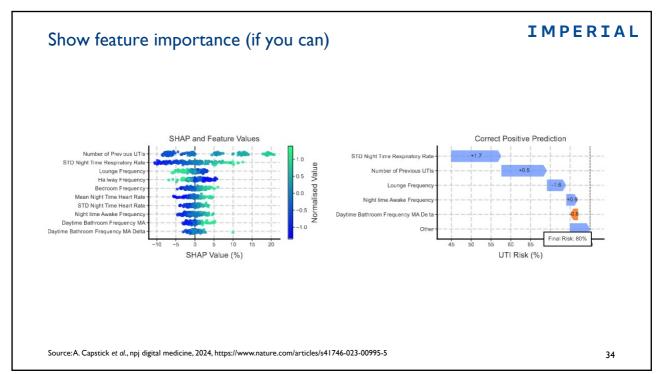
# Reporting the results

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- In the following slides, some of the good practices for reporting the results of machine learning models are discussed.
- I have used examples from our recent paper on UTI risk analysis in people living with dementia using remote monitoring data (A. Capstick et al., npj digital medicine, 2024, https://www.nature.com/articles/s41746-023-00995-5).
- The evaluations are based on ID and ID-Date splits
  - In the ID split, the test data includes data from patients that the model has never seen before.
  - In the ID-Date split, the test data include data from a period of time and from patients that the model has not seen before.

# **IMPERIAL** Report variations in the experiments Examples: **Early Detection** We evaluated the model's utility in correctly estimating the risk of UTIs prior to the recorded clinical urine tests. Figure 3 demonstrates specificity, sensitivity and the area under precision-recall curve for days prior to the recorded UTI events. This shows that Value (%) curve for days prior to the recorded UTI events. This shows that 2 days prior to a sample test, our model achieved a sensitivity of 64.4 (95% CI = 61.1 - 67.8), specificity of 68.9 (95% CI = 66.8 - 71.0), and area under the precision-recall curve of 64.5 (95% CI = 63.0 - 66.0), and 4 days prior, a sensitivity of 64.4 (95% CI = 61.1 - 67.8), specificity of 71.9 (95% CI = 67.9 - 75.8), and area under the precision-recall curve of 65.4 (95% CI = 60.8 - 70.0). Days Before UTI Label Before Risk Stratification AUC Precision-Recall 67.7 (66.4 - 69.0) 54.4 (53.4 - 55.4) 78.3 (76.8 - 79.7) 63.5 (61.8 - 65.2) Specificity 69.1 (66.9 - 71.4) 73.0 (71.2 - 74.8) 66.0 (64.4 - 67.7) 70.9 (68.6 - 73.1) Sensitivity 67.3 (65.9 - 68.6) 54.5 (52.7 - 56.4) 87.7 (85.2 - 90.2) 65.2 (64.3 - 66.2) Date Validation Source: A. Capstick et al., npj digital medicine, 2024, https://www.nature.com/articles/s41746-023-00995-5 33

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# Report the demographics and other data characteristics

#### **IMPERIAL**

Table 2: Characteristics of the study cohort. Some participants requested not to share their information outside the study and correspond to the Not Available information.

Characteristic	Entire	Entire Cohort		Labelled Cohort	
	No.	%	No.	%	
Sex					
Female	54	46	27	42	
Male	63	54	37	58	
Birth Year					
1920-1930	13	11	5	8	
1930-1940	47	40	27	42	
1940-1950	41	35	26	41	
1950-1960	13	11	5	8	
1960-1970	2	2	1	2	
1970-1980	1	1	0	0	
Ethnicity					
White	95	81	60	94	
Asian	8	7	3	5	
Black/African/Caribbean	3	3	0	0	
Mixed/Multiple Groups	1	1	0	0	
N/A	10	9	1	2	
Household					
Lives Alone	45	38	16	25	
Lives with Partner	60	47		73	
N/A	12	10	1	2	
Primary Diagnosis					
Alzheimer's	61	52	39	61	
Vascular Dementia	10	9	5	8	
Parkinson's	5	4	2	3	
Other and Mixed	40	34	18	28	
N/A	1	1	0	0	

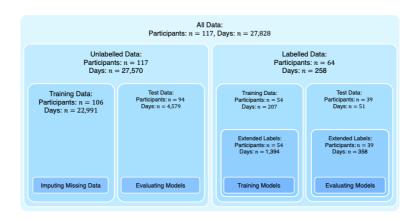
Source: A. Capstick et al., npj digital medicine, 2024, https://www.nature.com/articles/s41746-023-00995-5

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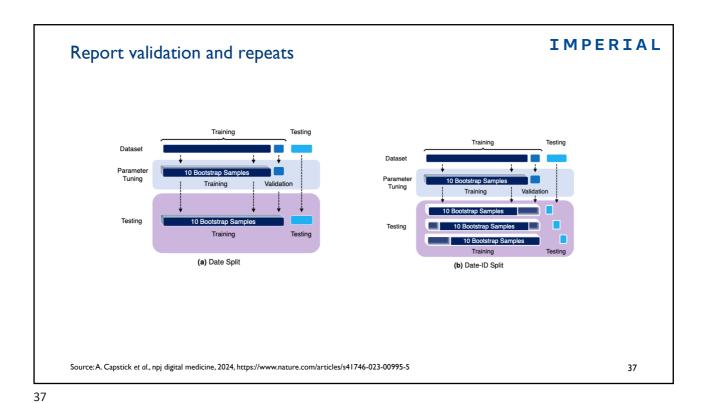
# Report training/test splits

#### **IMPERIAL**



Source: A. Capstick et al., npj digital medicine, 2024, https://www.nature.com/articles/s41746-023-00995-5

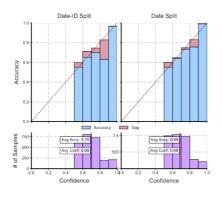
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| Table | Date |

# Analyse reliability of your model

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Supplementary Figure 6: Reliability plot. Top shows the model confidence (on positive and negative UTI cases) against accuracy on the test set of "Date Split" and "Date-ID Split". The gap shows the difference between the average accuracy and confidence of a bin, which would ideally be 0. Bottom shows the histogram of confidences reported by the model on the test set of "Date Split" and "Date-ID Split".

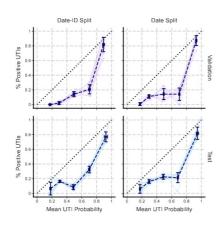
Source: A. Capstick et al., npj digital medicine, 2024, https://www.nature.com/articles/s41746-023-00995-5

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# Investigate calibration

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Supplementary Figure 7: Calibration plot. The mean UTI predicted risk against the proportion of positive UTI cases for the best model. This is plotted for the validation and test set from the "Date Split" and "Date-ID Split" data. The error bars represent the standard deviation of the values from the 10 bootstrap repeats.

Source: A. Capstick et al., npj digital medicine, 2024, https://www.nature.com/articles/s41746-023-00995-5

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# Investigate for bias

#### **IMPERIAL**

Table 3: Mean (95% CI) % of the accuracy on the Male and Female participants on the test set of the different data splits with 10 bootstrap repeats. We also show the ratio of positive and negative labels in each demographic and the likelihood of a positive model prediction.

		Accuracy	No. of Participants	Positive : Negative	$Pr(\hat{Y} = 1 Sex)$
Date	Female	52.6 (31.8 - 73.4)	16	1:1.7	35.5 (32.4 - 38.5)
Date	Male	86.5 (76.2 - 96.9)	25	1:5.5	32.3 (30.9 - 33.8)
Date-ID	Female	54.6 (26.8 - 82.4)	11	1:2.1	37.4 (33.6 - 41.1)
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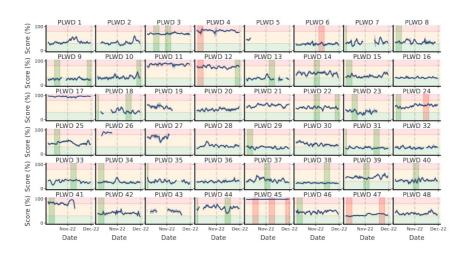
Source: A. Capstick et al., npj digital medicine, 2024, https://www.nature.com/articles/s41746-023-00995-5

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# Decision-support vs. current practice

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Source: A. Capstick et al., npj digital medicine, 2024, https://www.nature.com/articles/s41746-023-00995-5

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# Important notes in reporting

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- Discuss ethical considerations and potential risks
- Learn about clinical context and use (needs to start before technical development); for example, UTIs are recurrent, and a person with a past history of UTI could have a higher risk of having another UTI.
- Report ethical approvals and regulatory requirements/approvals (if applicable)
- Describe data availability
- Capture and report code, libraries used and versions (or create a reproducible environment)
- Report any pre-processing, imputation, scaling and normalisation
- Report libraries and hyperparameters
- Avoid any leap of magic!

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# Responsible and ethical machine learning

#### IMPERIAL

- Anticipate risks and potential issues
- Actively engage and think of solutions
- Work with domain experts and learn about the context and conditions of data collection, and the use of system/model.
- Create feedback loops (before and after deployment)
- Plan for update and maintenance

# Responsible and ethical machine learning

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- Consider all issues, including bias, fairness, and the risk of harm, throughout your design, development, evaluation, and deployment.
- Consider sustainability requirements and scaling/generalisation.
- Considering these requirements is not somebody else's responsibility but the ML model designers'.

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# Regulatory framework and existing guidelines

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- In designing and deploying ML models for healthcare and medical applications, you need to investigate the regulatory requirements.
- e.g., UKCA (UK), CE (Europe), FDA (USA) requirements and medical device registration.
- The existing guidelines for treatment and interventions. For example, the NICE guidelines: https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance
- EU Regulatory framework proposal on Artificial Intelligence, https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/regulatory-framework-ai

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# Further reading

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- A good article on this topic:
  - Wiens, J., Saria, S., Sendak, M. et al. Do no harm: a roadmap for responsible machine learning for health care. Nat Med 25, 1337–1340 (2019). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-019-0548-6

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# If you have any questions

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- Please feel free to arrange a meeting or email (p.barnaghi@imperial.ac.uk).
- My office: 928, Sir Michael Uren Research Hub, White City Campus.