Entering in the real world industry is always a fascination for a learner and I realized the value of it when I steps into this industry through Persistent Systems Inc. Getting an opportunity to work as a Software Intern has helped me to learn a lot more about my field than I knew.

As I had mentioned in my job description, my project was based on Population Health Management which mainly focused on how the US population health management changed from ‘Fee For Services’ to ‘Pay For Performance’.

I understood that how switching to ‘Pay For Performance’ has changed the traditional model of healthcare reimbursement on its head causing providers to change the way they bill for care. Instead of providers being paid by the number of visits and tests they order (fee-for-service), their payments are now based on the value of care they deliver (value-based care).

A lot of this change is long overdue and quite exciting because it’s [driving improvements](https://www.healthcatalyst.com/clinical-quality-improvement-in-healthcare) to the delivery of care by mandating better care at a lower cost. But for those providers and health systems that cannot achieve the required scores, the financial penalties and lower reimbursements will create a significant financial burden. Under the guidance of Dr. Sawad Thotathil, we got to know how the US population healthcare is changing day by day.

As interns, we set out to simplify the workings of pay for performance model and answer one basic question. Does it work? A question with many controversial answers and none that has been universally accepted. From the get go, we were handicapped by the erratic data provided by healthcare.gov and the CMS website. Having access to only hospital and state specific data, it was difficult to predict the readmissions without the patient data.

Our first task was to consolidate all possible datasets related to readmission. We used MySql to clean and merge datasets. Resolving blocks caused by the mismatched data was the major hurdle we overcame. Further, we attempted to predict the readmissions on the basis of hospital demographics. The regression models built did not match the required accuracy and we concluded that hospital demographics alone could not be affecting the readmission.

To bring this in visualization, I did a research for required data on various resources. Further this data was collected and cleaned. I finalized few parameters for the collected data and also carried out all the data merging and data segregation tasks with the help of MySQL. Additionally, I have created new dashboard on ShareInsights platform.

Courses like Data Modeling and Implementation Techniques, Database Technologies Lab, Data Mining and Business Intelligence, Software Project Management and Advanced Database Administration were covered in my semesters at NPU which helped me to enhance my overall CPT experience. Implementing the database concepts which I had learned during my curriculum and applying them on a real project has sharpened my database related factors and has helped me to work in a realistic work environment.

Practicing the key points that are involved in managing a project and facing the challenges that come across every stage of it has helped me to completely understand and relate it with the factors which I have learned through my Software project management course.

This internship has helped me to discover what career path I want to pursue and how to get work in professional world. When I see my work come to life, that’s when I know that I’m passionate about it.

“It’s important to see what my job can potentially look like through internship experience.”