Package 'polypharmacy'

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Type Package

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Title Calculate indicators of polypharmacy

Description Analyse prescription drugs deliveries to calculate several indicators of polypharmacy corresponding to the various definitions found in the literature.

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BugReports https://github.com/guiboucher/polypharmacy/issues

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Imports data.table (>= 1.13.0),
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R topics documented:

polypharmacy-package *Calculate indicators of polypharmacy*

Description

This package analyse prescription drugs deliveries to calculate several indicators of polypharmacy corresponding to the various definitions found in the literature.

Details

It is essential to know the concepts used to calculate the various polypharmacy indicators to adequately use this package.
The core of the package is the `data_process()` function that creates the `data.table` of pharmacists drug deliveries by restructuring the drug delivery records (usually extracted from a pharmacy or a health insurance information system) into continuous periods of drug availability, applying user-defined arguments such as the grace periods between renewals or the longest treatment duration that an individual may accumulate through the successive renewals.

Then, each polypharmacy indicator can be computed using the corresponding function (`ind_simult()`, `ind_stdcumul()`, `ind_wcumul()`, `ind_stdcontinuous()`, `ind_ucontinuous()`) or using the overall function `indicators()` and select all the desired indicator(s) to be calculated at once.

Prior to running `data_process()` the user may need to pre-process the table of original drug delivery records to break down combination drug into their individual components (`drugs_bkdn()`) and/or to overwrite the treatment duration of specified drugs with constant time periods (`cst_trt_dur()`).

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See Also

Useful links:

- Report bugs at https://github.com/guiboucher/polypharmacy/issues

cst_tx_duration *Constant treatment duration drugs*

Description

Overwrites the treatment duration with constant durations for each drug code included in a user-provided table.

Usage

```
cst_tx_duration(
  Rx_deliv,
  Rx_drug_code,
  Rx_duration,
  cst_tx_dur,
  cst_drug_code,
  cst_duration
)
```

Arguments

Rx_deliv	Name of the table listing all prescription drugs delivered.
Rx_drug_code	Column name of Rx_deliv that contains the drug unique identifier.
Rx_duration	Column name of the constant treatment duration in the Rx_deliv table.
cst_tx_dur	Name of the table that contains the constant treatment durations that will overwrite that in the Rx_deliv table for the specified drug codes.
cst_drug_code	Column name of cst_tx_dur that contains the drug unique identifier (same format as Rx_drug_code).
cst_duration	Column name of the constant treatment duration in the cst_tx_dur table (same format as Rx_duration).

Value

data.table of the same structure than Rx_deliv, sorted by Rx_drug_code, listing all drugs in which a constant treatment duration replaces the original treatment duration.

Examples

```
Rx_dt <- data.frame(id = c(rep(1, 3), rep(2, 2)),
                    code = c("A", "B", "C", "B", "D"),
                    duration = c(rep(15, 3), 15, 90))
cst_dt <- data.frame(codes = c("A", "C", "D"),
                     dur = c(50, 100, 45))
Rx_cst <- cst_tx_duration(Rx_deliv = Rx_dt,
                          Rx_drug_code = "code", Rx_duration = "duration",
                          cst_tx_dur = cst_dt,
                          cst_drug_code = "codes", cst_duration = "dur")
```

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data_process *Table required for the calculation of polypharmacy indicators*

Description

Reads a table of successive drug delivery records (usually extracted from a pharmacy or a health insurance information system) and creates the data required for the calculation of the polypharmacy indicators by applying various user-defined arguments, incorporating hospital stays into the treatment periods and reconstruct continuous treatment periods by merging quasi continuous and/or overlapping drugs deliveries.

Usage

```
data_process(
  Rx_deliv,
  Rx_id,
  Rx_drug_code,
  Rx_drug_deliv,
  Rx_duration,
  Cohort = NULL,
  Cohort_id = NULL,
  Hosp_stays = NULL,
  Hosp_id = NULL,
  Hosp_admis = NULL,
  Hosp_discharge = NULL,
  study_start = NULL,
  study_end = NULL,
  grace_fctr = 0.5,
  grace_cst = 0,
  max_reserve = NULL,
  final_date_names = c("tx_start", "tx_end"),
  final_as_date = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

`Rx_deliv`	Name of the table listing all prescription drugs delivered including a run-in period of 7 months prior to `study_start`. See *Details*.
`Rx_id`	Column name of `Rx_deliv` containing individuals' unique identifiers (any format).
`Rx_drug_code`	Column name of `Rx_deliv` that contains the drugs' unique identifiers (any format).
`Rx_drug_deliv`	Column name of `Rx_deliv` that contains the dates of the drug deliveries (Date format, see *Details*).
`Rx_duration`	Column name of `Rx_deliv` that contains the delivered treatment duration (integer number).
`Cohort`	Name of the table providing the unique identifiers of the study cohort. Only the ids listed in both the `Cohort` and the `Rx_deliv` tables will be returned. if `Cohort = NULL`, all ids of the `Rx_deliv` table will be returned.
`Cohort_id`	Column name of `Cohort` containing individuals' unique identifiers (same format as `Rx_id`).
`Hosp_stays`	Name of the table listing all hospital stays. See *Details*. (see *Details* for possible format)
`Hosp_id`	Column name of `Hosp_stays` containing individuals' unique identifiers (same format as `Rx_id`).
`Hosp_admis`	Column name of `Hosp_stays` that contains the date of admission in hospital (Date format, see *Details*).
`Hosp_discharge`	Column name of Hosp_stays that contains the date of discharge from hospital (Date format, see *Details*).
`study_start, study_end`	Defines the first and last day of the study period for which the polypharmacy indicator(s) need to be calculated. All treatment periods prior to `study_start`

and past study_end are not transcribed into the result table (date format, see *Details*).

grace_fctr, grace_cst
: Number ≥ 0. Two types of grace periods can be applied. One is proportional to the treatment duration of the previous delivery (grace_fctr) and the other is a constant number of days (grace_cst).

max_reserve
: An integer number ≥ 0 or NULL. Longest treatment duration, in days, that can be stored from successive overlapping deliveries. When max_reserve = NULL no limit is applied. When max_reserve = 0 no accumulation of extra treatment duration is accounted for.

final_date_names
: Vector of two (2) values indicating the name of the first and last date of continued drug use. See *Value*.

final_as_date
: Return final_date_names columns in date format (TRUE). Else, columns are returned as integer (FALSE, memory efficient). TRUE by default.

Details

Variables:

- Rx_id, Cohort_id and Hosp_id columns must be of the same class (integer, numeric, character, ...).
- Rx_drug_deliv, Hosp_admis and Hosp_discharge can be 1) as.Date('yyyy-mm-dd'), 2) as.character('yyyy-mm-dd') or 3) as.integer() where 0 is January 1^{st}, 1970.

Arguments:

- study_start and study_end can be 1) as.Date("yyyy-mm-dd"), 2) as.character("yyyy-mm-dd") or 3) as.integer() where 0 is January 1^{st}, 1970.

Hospital stays:
Drug availability is considered to continue during the hospital stay as it is on the day prior admission. The patient is assumed to resume the consumption of the drugs delivered by community pharmacists (as recorded in Rx_deliv) prior admission the day after hosp_discharge.

Run-in period:
A run-in period is necessary to account for the medications that are available to the individuals on the day of study_start.

Grace period:
The grace period is used to determine if two successive deliveries can be considered as a continuous treatment even if there is a gap of a few days for which no treatment is apparently available. Two successive deliveries of an identical drug are considered part of a single continuous treatment if the next delivery doesn't occur more than grace_cst + (grace_fctr × Rx_duration) days after the end of the previous treatment duration. The availability of extra drugs accumulated over the successive deliveries is accounted for prior to evaluating the duration of the gap between deliveries.

Performance
For better performance, date columns are converted to integer numbers.

Value

data.table with four (4) variables:

- The individual unique identifier which name is defined by Rx_id.

- The drug unique identifier which name is defined by `Rx_drug_code`.
- The date of initiation of the reconstructed continued treatment. The name of the variable is defined by `final_date_names[1]` (default: `'tx_start'`).
- The date of the last day of the reconstructed continued treatment. The name of the variable is defined by `final_date_names[2]` (default: `'tx_end'`).

`drug_bkdn` *Translate combination drug deliveries into single active ingredients*

Description

Replaces each combination drug into several deliveries of elementary active ingredients according to a user-provided correspondence table.

Usage

```
drug_bkdn(Rx_deliv, Rx_drug_code, Combn_drugs, Combn_drug_code, Combn_act_code)
```

Arguments

`Rx_deliv`	Name of the table listing all prescription drugs delivered.
`Rx_drug_code`	Column name of `Rx_deliv` that contains the combination drugs' unique identifiers (any format).
`Combn_drugs`	Name of the correspondence table listing all elementary active ingredients that make up each combination drug.
`Combn_drug_code`	Column name of `Combn_drugs` that contains the combination drugs' unique identifiers (same format as `Rx_drug_code`).
`Combn_act_code`	Column name of elementary active ingredients that is present in `Combn_drugs` (same format as `Rx_drug_code`).

Value

`data.table` of the same structure than `Rx_deliv` sorted by `Rx_drug_code`.

Examples

```
Rx_dt <- data.frame(
  id = c(1, 1, 2, 2, 2),
  codeDrug = c(159, 753, 123, 456, 789)
)
SplitCode <- data.frame(
  code = c(159, 159, 456, 456, 456),
  split_code = c(1591, 1592, 4567, 4568, 4569)
)
Rx_split <- drug_bkdn(Rx_deliv = Rx_dt, Rx_drug_code = "codeDrug",
                      Combn_drugs = SplitCode, Combn_drug_code = "code",
                      Combn_act_code = "split_code")
```

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