



# Data Science Intern at Data Glacier

Project: Healthcare – Persistency of drug

Week 8

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# Problem Understanding

The objective of this project is to **understand and predict the persistency of a drug prescribed by physicians**. Persistency, in this context, refers to whether a patient, based on his/her information, will follow the prescribed medication regimen over a certain period.

Identifying factors that influence persistency is crucial for pharmaceutical companies to improve patient outcomes, reduce healthcare costs, and enhance their product offerings.

# Business Understanding

Persistency of medication is a critical factor in the effectiveness of treatment plans. High persistency rates generally correlate with better health outcomes, as patients are more likely to follow their treatment plans. Conversely, non-persistence can lead to worsening health conditions, increased hospitalizations, and higher overall healthcare costs.

Pharmaceutical company ABC Pharma is interested in identifying the key factors that influence whether patients persist with their medication. By leveraging machine learning to predict persistency, the company can develop strategies to improve adherence rates.

# Data Understanding

Healthcare dataset has 3424 observations and 69 features. Our intention is to build a model that predicts if a given patient will persist on his/her treatment or not. Having this, our target is the “Persistency Flag” variable, which is a binary data having values True or False depending on the other features.

Besides individual identifiers and the target variable, there are other 4 buckets:

- Demographics

- Provider attributes
- Clinical factors
- Disease and treatment factors

Bucket	Variable	Variable Description	Information
<i>Unique Row Id</i>	Ptid	Unique ID of each patient	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 3424
<b>Target Variable</b>	Persistency_Flag	Flag indicating if a patient was persistent or not	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 2 Values: ['Persistent', 'Non-Persistent'] Mode: 'Non-Persistent'
<i>Demographics</i>	Age_Bucket	Age of the patient during their therapy	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 4 Values: ['>75', '55-65', '65-75', '<55'] Mode: '>75' (42.03%)
	Race	Race of the patient from the patient table	Type: object Missing values: 2.83% as 'Other/Unknown' Unique values: 4 Values: ['Caucasian', 'Asian', 'Other/Unknown', 'African American'] Mode: 'Caucasian' (91.94%)
	Region	Region of the patient from the patient table	Type: object Missing values: 1.75% as 'Other/Unknown' Unique values: 5 Values: ['West', 'Midwest', 'South', 'Other/Unknown', 'Northeast'] Mode: 'Midwest' (40.39%)
	Ethnicity	Ethnicity of the patient from the patient table	Type: object Missing values: 2.66% as 'Unknown' Unique values: 3 Values: ['Not Hispanic', 'Hispanic', 'Unknown'] Mode: 'Not Hispanic' (94.48%)
	Gender	Gender of the patient from the patient table	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 2 Values: ['Male', 'Female'] Mode: 'Female' (94.43%)
	Idn_Indicator	Flag indicating patients mapped to IDN	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 2

			Values: ['Y', 'N'] Mode: 'Y' (74.68%)
<i>Provider Attributes</i>	Ntm_Specialty	Specialty of the HCP that prescribed the NTM Rx	Type: object Missing values: 9.05% as 'Unknown' Unique values: 36 Values: ['GENERAL PRACTITIONER', 'Unknown', 'ENDOCRINOLOGY', 'RHEUMATOLOGY', 'ONCOLOGY', 'PATHOLOGY', [...], 'VASCULAR SURGERY', 'CARDIOLOGY', 'NUCLEAR MEDICINE'] Mode: 'GENERAL PRACTITIONER' (44.83%)
	Ntm_Specialist_Flag	Specialty flag of the HCP that prescribed the NTM Rx	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 2 Values: ['Others', 'Specialist'] Mode: 'Others' (58.79%)
	Ntm_Specialty_Bucket	Specialty bucket of the HCP that prescribed the NTM Rx	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 3 Values: ['OB/GYN/Others/PCP/Unknown', 'Endo/Onc/Uro', 'Rheum'] Mode: 'OB/GYN/Others/PCP/Unknown', (61.45%)
<i>Clinical Factors</i>	Tscore_Bucket_Prior_Ntm	T Score of the patient prior of the NTM Rx	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 2 Values: ['>-2.5', '<=-2.5']
	Tscore_Bucket_During_Rx	T Score of the patient at the time of the NTM Rx (within 2 years prior from rxdate)	Type: object Missing values: 43% as 'Unknown' Unique values: 3 Values: ['<=-2.5', 'Unknown', '>-2.5']
	Change_T_Score	Change in Tscore before starting with any therapy and after receiving therapy	Type: object Missing values: 43% as 'Unknown' Unique values: 4 Values: ['No change', 'Unknown', 'Worsened', 'Improved']
	Risk_Segment_Prior_Ntm	Risk Segment of the patient prior of the NTM Rx	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 2 Values: ['VLR_LR', 'HR_VHR']
	Risk_Segment_During_Rx	Risk Segment of the patient at the time of the NTM Rx (within 2 years days prior from rxdate)	Type: object Missing values: 43% as 'Unknown' Unique values: 3 Values: ['VLR_LR', 'Unknown', 'HR_VHR']

	Change_Risk_Segment	Change in Risk Segment before starting with any therapy and after receiving therapy	Type: object Missing values: 65% as 'Unknown' Unique values: 4 Values: ['No change', 'Unknown', 'Worsened', 'Improved']
	NTM - Multiple Risk Factors	Flag indicating if patient falls under multiple risk category (having more than 1 risk) at the time of the NTM Rx (within 365 days prior from rxdate)	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 2 Values: ['Y', 'N']
	Dexa_Freq_During_Rx	Number of DEXA scans taken prior to the first NTM Rx date (within 365 days prior from rxdate)	Type: integer Missing values: 0% Unique values: 58 Values info: mean – 3.01, std – 8.14, min – 0, 50% – 0, max – 146 Mode: 0 (72.66%)
	Dexa_During_Rx	Flag indicating if the patient had a Dexa Scan during their first continuous therapy	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 2 Values: ['Y', 'N'] Mode: 'N' (72.66%)
	Frag_Frac_Prior_Ntm	Flag indicating if the patient had a recent fragility fracture (within 365 days prior from rxdate)	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 2 Values: ['Y', 'N'] Mode: 'N' (83.88%)
	Frag_Frac_During_Rx	Flag indicating if the patient had fragility fracture during their first continuous therapy	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 2 Values: ['Y', 'N'] Mode: 'N' (87.82%)
	Gluco_Record_Prior_Ntm	Flag indicating usage of Glucocorticoids ( $\geq 7.5$ mg strength) in the one year look-back from the first NTM Rx	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 2 Values: ['Y', 'N'] Mode: 'N' (87.82%)
	Gluco_Record_During_Rx	Flag indicating if the patient had a Glucocorticoid usage during the first continuous therapy	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 2 Values: ['Y', 'N'] Mode: 'N' (76.49%)
<i>Disease/Treatment Factor</i>	Injectable_Experience_During_Rx	Flag indicating any injectable drug usage in the recent 12 months before the NTM OP Rx	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 2 Values: ['Y', 'N'] Mode: 'Y' (73.66%)

	NTM - Risk Factors	Risk Factors that the patient is falling into. For chronic Risk Factors complete lookback to be applied and for non-chronic Risk Factors, one year lookback from the date of first OP Rx	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 2 Values: ['Y', 'N']
	NTM - Comorbidity	Comorbidities are divided into two main categories - Acute and chronic, based on the ICD codes. For chronic disease we are taking complete look back from the first Rx date of NTM therapy and for acute diseases, time period before the NTM OP Rx with one year lookback has been applied	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 2 Values: ['Y', 'N']
	NTM - Concomitancy	Concomitant drugs recorded prior to starting with a therapy(within 365 days prior from first rxdate)	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 2 Values: ['Y', 'N']
	Adherent_Flag	Adherence for the therapies	Type: object Missing values: 0% Unique values: 2 Values: ['Adherent', 'Non-Adherent'] Mode: 'Adherent' (94.94%)
	Count_Of_Risks	Total number of risks	Type: integer Missing values: 0% Unique values: 8 Values: [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7] Mode: 1 (36.27%)

## Approaches to Problem Processing

### Missing values:

- *Race* – using of mode as substitution, only 2.83% are 'Other/Unknown', so it's quite safe to use the mode to fill in the missing values.
- *Region* – using of Region mode for 'Not Hispanic', because only 1.75% missing values and 100% of them are of Ethnicity 'Not Hispanic'.

- *Ethnicity* – using of mode as substitution, only 2.66% missing values, so it's quite safe to use the mode to fill in the missing values.
- *Ntm\_Speciality* – we will try 2 approaches:
  - 1) keeping unknowns as a category since it accounts for less than 9.05% of data and see how it relates to other variables.
  - 2) using of mode as substitution
- *Risk\_Segment\_During\_Rx*, *Tscore\_Bucket\_During\_Rx*, *Change\_T\_Score*, *Change\_Risk\_Segment* – these variables have more than 40% of missing values, consequently they will be removed.

## GitHub Repo Link

**Project Link:** <https://github.com/kkudzelich/Data-Science-Intern>

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**Date:** 25 July 2024