

Low adherence to model reporting guidelines for commonly used clinical prediction models

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Introduction

- Deployed AI models in healthcare systems have been found to be unreliable and unfair



FASTCOMPANY

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How a largely untested AI algorithm crept into hundreds of hospitals

During the pandemic, the electronic health record giant Epic quickly rolled out an algorithm to help doctors decide which patients needed the most immediate care. Doctors believe it will change how they practice.

[Khetpal 2021](#)

Dissecting racial bias in an algorithm used to manage the health of populations

Ziad Obermeyer^{1,2,*}, Brian Powers³, Christine Vogeli⁴, Sendhil Mullainathan^{5,*†}

[Obermeyer 2019](#)

Methods

- 1. Gather recommendations from Model Reporting Guidelines
 - MEDLINE search, review citations, exclude those without specific recommendations
- 2. Merge similar items into unique reportable “atoms”
- 3. Gather commonly used Models
 - Epic models (Cognitive Computing Model Briefs)
- 4. Authors review Model Briefs and grade if they report
 - Adjudicator synthesizes



Results

- 15 model reporting guidelines
 - 220 unique atoms identified!
- 12 most commonly used Epic Models
- Graders had interrater agreement of 76%
- After adjudication, **Epic Models' median completion rate of applicable atoms was 39%** (range: 31% - 37%)



Results

- 15 model reporting guidelines prioritize different stages of creating a model
 - e.g. use TRIPOD for Model Development

Model Reporting Guideline	Use Case	Model Formulation	Model Dev.	Model Dev: Fairness	Practical Feasibility	Utility Assessment	Deployment Design	Execution of Workflow	Monitoring of model	Prospective Evaluation
Model Cards	8	5	29	9	1	0	0	0	0	0
Model Facts Labels	10	7	9	0	1	1	0	0	2	1
Guidelines	7	6	31	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
MI-CLAIM	4	3	29	3	0	1	0	0	0	1
MINIMAR	4	4	18	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRIPOD	7	9	53	1	0	3	0	0	3	2
CONSORT-AI	10	3	23	6	1	0	0	0	2	19
SPIRIT-AI	9	3	17	1	2	0	0	0	2	18
Trust and Value	4	0	9	0	2	1	0	0	4	2
ML Test Score	0	0	12	4	1	0	0	2	17	0
Risk	2	4	24	0	0	1	0	0	2	6
STARD	8	2	37	6	0	1	0	0	0	0
ABCD	1	3	27	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
CHARMS	5	9	42	1	2	0	0	0	1	4
PROBAST	4	6	41	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Total	14	14	104	10	5	4	0	2	19	25

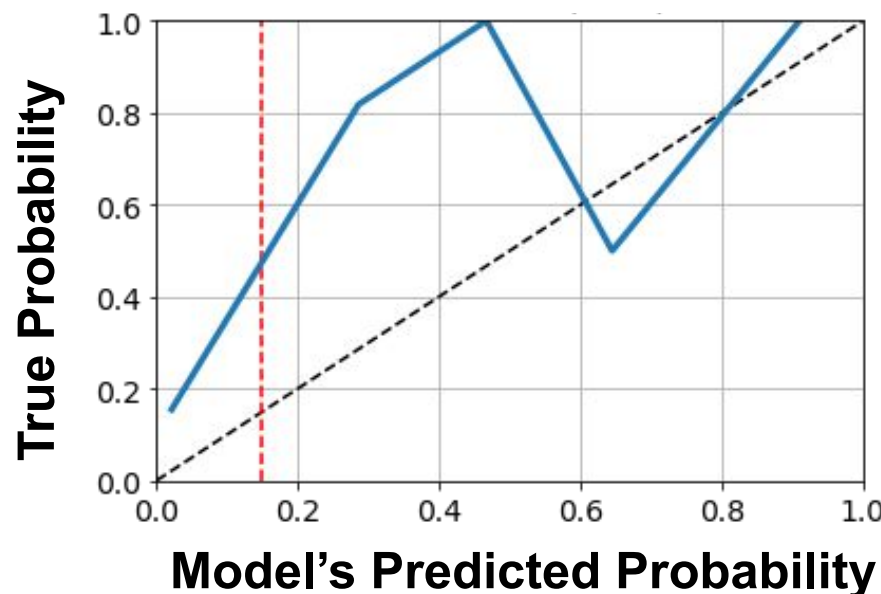
Commonly Requested Atoms

- 100% reporting for commonly requested atoms, except:
 - Low reporting of Confidence Intervals (0%), Missing Data Statistics (50%) and Strategy (58%)

Atom Description	# Requesting	Stage	Reporting %
Provide any description of the data set (training / study) in question	12	Model Development	100.%
Define the output/outcome produced by the model	10	Model Formulation	100.%
Define the specific local area/environment/setting of training data / model deployment.	10	Use Case	100.%
How data was preprocessed (data cleaning, predictor transformation, outlier removal, predictor coding)	10	Model Development	100.%
How missing data were handled	10	Model Development	50.%
What parameters, including constraints and penalties added as loss terms (e.g. shrinkage penalties), were used to train and select models	10	Model Development	58.%
Provide confidence intervals, statistical significance, or some other handling of uncertainty and variability in model performance metrics	10	Model Development	0.%
Clarify what type of validation is done, whether internal or external	11	Model Development	100.%
Describe internal validation strategy to account for model optimism (e.g. cross-validation, bootstrapping, data splitting))	11	Model Development	100.%
Mention what performance measures are used	13	Model Development	100.%
AUROC (c- index)	11	Model Development	100.%
Describe how the ML model is supposed to be used in clinical context	11	Use Case	100.%

Requested, but not Reported Atoms

- Low reporting of atoms related to reliability:
 - **External Validation**
 - External Validation Strategy (33%)
 - Calibration Plots (0%)
 - Confidence Intervals (0%)
 - **Missingness**
 - Missing Data Statistics (8%)
 - Handling Missing Data Strategy (50%)

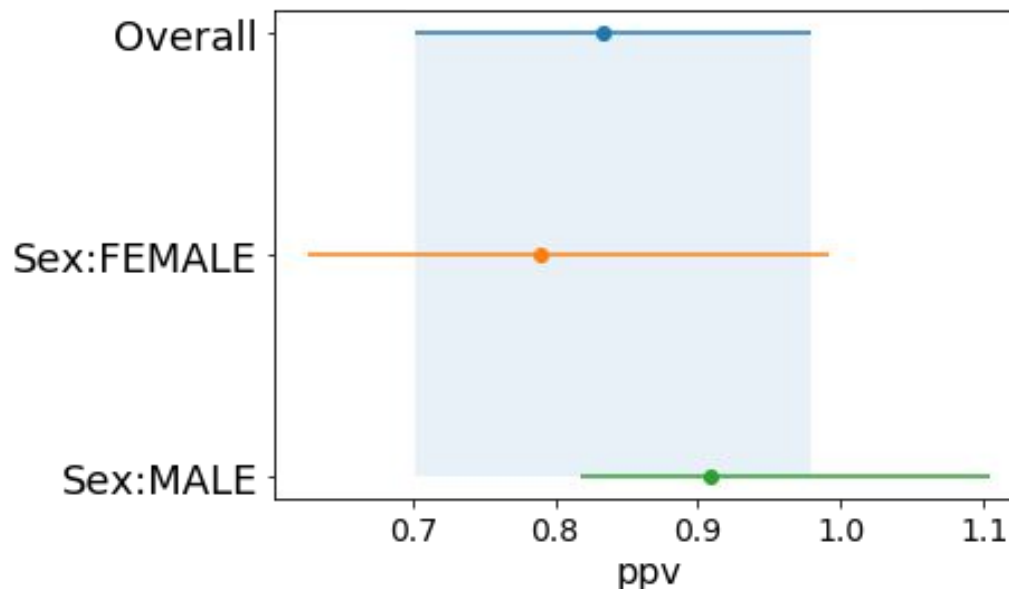


A calibration plot shows how much a model's output matches the true probability of the outcome.

Requested, but not Reported Atoms

- Low reporting of atoms related to Fairness:
 - **Summary Statistics:**
 - Sex (33%)
 - Ethnicity/Race* (33%)
 - Age (0%)
 - **Subgroup Analyses (33%)**
 - Intersectional Subgroup Analyses (0%)

** = Ethnicity/Race is used as a way to measure who is represented/impacted by the model, not as an input variable– should not be used as a “risk factor.”*



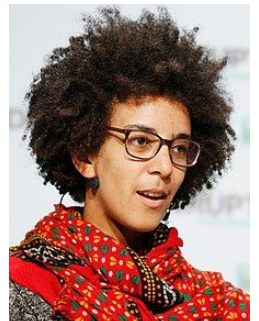
A subgroup analysis shows how a model performs for different subgroups.

Conclusion

- Many model reporting guidelines → 220 distinct atoms requested
- Current model documentation reports only 39% of applicable atoms
 - Little information on reliability and fairness
- Need for better operationalization of reporting practices for AI models in healthcare

Inspiration for this work goes to Margaret Mitchell, Timnit Gebru and co-authors of Model Cards for Model Reporting. They have been leading voices for accountability in AI, and were unjustly fired by Google in 2019 for raising concerns about harms of AI, including environmental/financial harms and harms toward Black people and women.

*“We propose **model cards** as a step towards the responsible democratization of machine learning and related artificial intelligence technology, **increasing transparency into how well artificial intelligence technology works.**” [Mitchell 2019](#)*



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