

Phenotype Apmril Week 1: Live Build of Cohorts



OHDSI Community Call
April 7, 2026 • 11 am ET



Upcoming Community Calls

Date	Topic
Apr. 7	Phenotype Aphril, Week 1: Live Build of Cohorts
Apr. 14	Phenotype Aphril, Week 2: KEEPER Evaluation Session
Apr. 21	NO MEETING / EUROPE SYMPOSIUM
Apr. 28	Phenotype Aphril, Week 4: Final Evaluation and Learnings
May 5	Europe Symposium Review/Phenotype Aphril Finale



Three Stages of The Journey

Where Have We Been?

Where Are We Now?

Where Are We Going?



OHDSI Shoutouts!



Congratulations to the team of **Seokyoung Song, Hyungseok Seo, Il Seok Kim, Minsoo Kim, Lim Youn Hee, Jung Eun Kim, Soo Il Choi, Dong Hyuck Kim, Young Hun Lee, Moonki Park, Jong Bum Choi, Cheolhyeong Lee, Seung Hee Yoo, Ho Kyung Yu, Chan Noh, Seong Young Choi, and Sang Gyu Kwak** on the recent publication of **A Multicenter Propensity Score-Matched Cohort Study of Preoperative Antiplatelet Therapy and Postoperative Outcomes in Elderly Surgical Patients** in *medicina*.

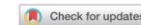


Article

A Multicenter Propensity Score-Matched Cohort Study of Preoperative Antiplatelet Therapy and Postoperative Outcomes in Elderly Surgical Patients

Seokyoung Song ¹, Hyungseok Seo ², Il Seok Kim ³, Minsoo Kim ⁴, Lim Youn Hee ⁵, Jung Eun Kim ⁶, Soo Il Choi ⁷, Dong Hyuck Kim ¹, Young Hun Lee ¹, Moonki Park ⁸, Jong Bum Choi ⁹, Cheolhyeong Lee ¹⁰, Seung Hee Yoo ¹¹, Ho Kyung Yu ¹², Chan Noh ¹³, Seong Young Choi ¹⁴ and Sang Gyu Kwak ^{15,*}

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Abstract

Background and Objectives: Elderly patients frequently receive antiplatelet therapy, creating a clinical dilemma between bleeding risk and cardiovascular protection during surgery. We evaluated the association between preoperative antiplatelet therapy and postoperative bleeding and cardiovascular events using multicenter observational data. **Materials and Methods:** We conducted a retrospective cohort study using standardized OMOP-CDM databases from 10 tertiary hospitals. Patients aged ≥ 65 years undergoing surgery were classified by preoperative aspirin or clopidogrel exposure. Propensity score matching was performed within each site. Hazard ratios (HRs) were estimated using Cox regression and pooled using meta-analytic techniques. **Results:** A total of 1464 exposed patients and 7038 matched comparators were analyzed. Across sites, hazard ratios varied without a statistically significant pooled association. The pooled HR for postoperative events was 1.01



OHDSI Shoutouts!



Congratulations to the team of **Jong-Ho Kim, Youngho Seo, Seung Yong Shin, Eung Ju Kim, Kap Su Han, and Hyung Joon Joo** on the recent publication of **Temporal Trends and Clinical Implications of Cardiac Troponin Testing in Emergency Departments: A Multicenter Retrospective Study** in the *Journal of Clinical Medicine*.



Article

Temporal Trends and Clinical Implications of Cardiac Troponin Testing in Emergency Departments: A Multicenter Retrospective Study

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[†] These authors contributed equally to this work.

Abstract

Background: Cardiac troponin testing is central to evaluating suspected acute coronary syndromes, yet its expanding use may increase resource utilization in low-risk emergency department populations. **Methods:** We conducted a multicenter retrospective cohort study across three tertiary hospitals in South Korea (2017–2023) using harmonized electronic health record data integrated with the Observational Medical Outcomes Partnership Common Data Model (OMOP-CDM) and the National Emergency Department Information System (NEDIS). Visits were stratified into low, intermediate, and high risk by age and chest pain presentation, and cardiac troponin T was categorized as normal (<0.014 ng/mL), borderline (0.014–0.052 ng/mL), or elevated (>0.052 ng/mL). Outcomes included emergency department length of stay, hospital admission, 30-day revisit, 30-day coronary revascularization, and 30-day mortality. **Results:** Among 727,772 visits, troponin testing increased from 29.8% in 2017 to 45.5% in 2023. High-risk patients were consistently tested, whereas testing rose substantially in intermediate- and low-risk groups. In high-risk patients, normal troponin values were associated with lower 30-day revascularization and mortality, without prolonging length of stay or increasing admissions. In contrast, in lower-risk groups, testing was associated with longer stays and higher admissions without clear short-term clinical benefit. **Conclusions:** These findings support more targeted troponin testing protocols to optimize emergency department resource use while preserving diagnostic performance in higher-risk presentations.



OHDSI Shoutouts!



Congratulations to the team of **Mike Du, Albert Prats-Uribe, Núria Mercadé-Besora, Kim Lopez-Guell, Yuchen Guo, Marta Alcalde-Herraiz, Xihang Chen, Antonella Delmestri, Wai Yi Man, Talita Duarte-Salles, Anna Palomar, Agustina Giuliadori, Emanuel Brađašević, Antea Jezidžić, Elvira Bräuner, Susanne Bruun, Katia Verhamme, Mees Mosseveld, James T Brash, Dina Vojinovic, Isabella Kaczmarczyk, Akram Mendez, Peter Rijnbeek, Daniel Prieto-Alhambra, Edward Burn, and Martí Català** on the recent publication of **CohortCharacteristics: an R package for population characterisation in observational studies using the OMOP common data model** in the *European Journal of Epidemiology*.

European Journal of Epidemiology
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10654-025-01352-4>

R PACKAGE



CohortCharacteristics: an R package for population characterisation in observational studies using the OMOP common data model

Mike Du¹ · Albert Prats-Uribe¹ · Núria Mercadé-Besora¹ · Kim Lopez-Guell¹ · Yuchen Guo¹ · Marta Alcalde-Herraiz¹ · Xihang Chen¹ · Antonella Delmestri¹ · Wai Yi Man¹ · Talita Duarte-Salles^{2,4} · Anna Palomar⁴ · Agustina Giuliadori⁴ · Emanuel Brađašević⁵ · Antea Jezidžić⁵ · Elvira Bräuner³ · Susanne Bruun³ · Katia Verhamme² · Mees Mosseveld² · James T. Brash⁶ · Dina Vojinovic⁷ · Isabella Kaczmarczyk⁶ · Akram Mendez⁶ · Peter Rijnbeek² · Daniel Prieto-Alhambra^{1,2} · Edward Burn¹ · Martí Català¹

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Abstract

Describing cohort characterisation ensures comparability and reproducibility in multi-database observational studies. To address this need, we developed CohortCharacteristics, an open-source R package that facilitates standardised cohort characterisation in datasets mapped to the Observational Medical Outcomes Partnership (OMOP) Common Data Model (CDM). This study aims to explain the development of the package and demonstrate its core functionality. We developed CohortCharacteristics, an open-source R package that can perform cohort characterisation for various types of databases. To demonstrate its functionality, we then used CohortCharacteristics to generate descriptive statistics on demographics, comorbidities, medication exposures, cohort overlap, and timing of cohort entries. The study included data from CPRD GOLD (UK), DK-DHR (Denmark), IPCI (Netherlands), IQVIA Longitudinal Patient Database Belgium (IQVIA LPD Belgium), IQVIA DA Germany, NAJS (Croatia), and SIDIAP (Spain), all mapped to the OMOP CDM. The CohortCharacteristics R package is freely available on CRAN with detailed vignettes and documentation on its functionality. Cohort characteristics were generally consistent across databases, with similar age distributions and female representation. CPRD GOLD, NAJS, and SIDIAP exhibited higher prescribing rates for respiratory, cardiovascular, and nervous system medications, while IQVIA databases and DK-DHR reported lower rates. Timing analysis showed that dementia diagnoses typically followed insomnia diagnoses in several databases, supporting existing literature. Antipsychotic prescriptions often occurred after dementia diagnosis, reflecting prescribing practices aligned with clinical guidelines. CohortCharacteristics enables consistent cohort characterisation across a network of data mapped to the OMOP CDM, thereby improving transparency in multi-database research. The package's functionality, demonstrated in this study, illustrates its applicability in observational studies with OMOP CDM data.

Keywords Characterisation · Observational studies · Common data model · Epidemiology · R · OMOP CDM



Three Stages of The Journey

Where Have We Been?

Where Are We Now?

Where Are We Going?



Upcoming Workgroup Calls



Date	Time (ET)	Meeting
Wednesday	9 am	Patient-Level Prediction
Wednesday	10 am	Common Data Model
Wednesday	2 pm	Natural Language Processing
Wednesday	7 pm	Eyecare and Vision Research
Thursday	7 am	Europe Community Call
Thursday	10 am	Rare Diseases
Thursday	10 am	Africa Chapter (ZOOM)
Thursday	10 am	GIS – Geographic Information System
Thursday	10:30 am	Evidence Network
Thursday	12 pm	Medical Devices
Friday	11 am	Clinical Trials
Friday	11:30 am	Steering Group
Friday	11 pm	China Chapter
Monday	9 am	Vaccine Vocabulary
Tuesday	9 am	Oncology Genomic Subgroup
Tuesday	10 am	CDM Survey



OHDSI2026 Registration Opens

Registration and the **call for participation** are now open for the **2026 OHDSI Global Symposium**, held Oct. 20-22 at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick, N.J.



ohdsi.org/OHDSI2026

April Newsletter Is Available



On The Journey: April 2026

The April newsletter is packed with essential updates, including a significant vocabulary refresh, the debut of our new community dashboard, and important updates from our CDM and HADES teams. We are also thrilled to announce that registration is officially open for the OHDSI Global Symposium, featuring an expanded lineup of 12 hands-on tutorials for 2026. Finally, the momentum continues globally as we prepare for the Europe Symposium later this month and look forward to our first-ever Latin America Symposium this July.

[#JoinTheJourney](#)

Podcast: Vocab Refresh, CDM/HADES Maturity

In the April 2026 On The Journey podcast, Patrick Ryan and Craig Sachson reflect on the latest standardized vocabularies refresh and its importance to the community. They look at the maturity within both the CDM and HADES workgroups, and they highlight new opportunities for global education, including the revamped community dashboard and new tutorial offerings at the global symposium. *(If video does not appear, please click 'view this email in your browser'.)*

Community Updates

Where Have We Been?

- **Vocabulary Refresh:** The [Winter 2026 Vocabulary Release](#) is officially live. Members of the leadership team detailed the most critical updates during the March 3 community call; you can catch up [on the full presentation and technical breakdown online](#) now.
- **EHDS Operations:** During the most recent Europe Community Call, Peter Rijnbeek presented on "[Operationalizing the European Health Data Space \(EHDS\)](#)," emphasizing how OMOP and OHDSI serve as the backbone for the secondary use of health data across the continent.
- **Community Dashboard:** The OHDSI community has now surpassed 950 peer-reviewed publications utilizing the OMOP CDM or OHDSI tools. You can explore this research legacy through our newly improved [Community Dashboard](#)—a massive thank you to Robert Barrett and our Johns Hopkins collaborators for leading this vital initiative.

Where Are We Now?

- **Europe Symposium:** The [Europe Symposium](#) arrives April 18–20 in Rotterdam, Netherlands. Following two days of tutorials and workshops, the main conference will take place on the historic SS Rotterdam. With a record-breaking number of collaborator showcase submissions, this is set to be our most vibrant European gathering yet.
- **Global Registration:** Registration and the call for participation are now open for the [2026 OHDSI Global Symposium](#), held Oct. 20–22 at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick, N.J. Check the Global Symposium section of this newsletter to learn more about our 12 new tutorial offerings.
- **Phenotype April:** "Phenotype Phebruary" has evolved into Phenotype April this year. You can get involved by joining our weekly [April community calls](#) or by participating in the [Phenotype Development and Evaluation workgroup](#) meetings throughout the month.
- **Maternal Health Fellowship:** The second OHDSI Maternal Health Fellowship is designed to train clinical investigators for improved maternal and neonatal care. This fellowship offers three key components: Career Development, Practice, and Networking. Supported by both the OHDSI community and the NIH IMPROVE initiative, the program focuses on training clinical investigators in observational research methods to enable them to conduct reproducible research and generate real-world evidence. [Learn more and register here.](#)

My Journey: Evan Minty

In the latest installment of our "My Journey" series, Evan Minty (General Internist and Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins) discusses how the "open science revolution" drew him into the OHDSI community. Evan shares his passion for breaking down the traditional silos of epidemiology to create reliable, computational evidence that can be used directly at the point of care for patient health. *(If video does not appear, please click 'view this email in your browser'.)*



OHDSI2026 Registration, Call for Participation Opens; Tutorial Day Offers 12 Options

Registration is now officially open for the [2026 OHDSI Global Symposium](#), which will return to the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick, N.J., from Oct. 20-22. This flagship event remains the premier gathering for our community to share innovative research, engage in strategic planning, and gain invaluable insights from one another through the collaborator showcase. We invite all collaborators—from seasoned veterans to those just beginning their journey—to secure their

March Publications

Hallaj S, Boland MV, Halfpenny W, Myers JS, Weinreb RN, Zangwill LM, Baxter SL. [PyOPV: An Open-Source Python Package for Ophthalmic Visual Field Data Management](#). J Glaucoma. 2026 Mar 1;35(3):150-156. doi: 10.1097/IJG.0000000000002654. Epub 2026 Feb 17. PMID: 41746848.

Tamana S, Yiangou K, Orphanou K, Chatzimathaiou S, Kountouris P, Cremonesi F. [FAIR data gaps and collaboration willingness among hemoglobinopathy research centers](#). Sci Data. 2026 Mar 3. doi: 10.1038/s41597-026-06950-9. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41775724.

Hunt NB, Souverein P, Bazelier M, Barclay N, Delmestri A, Sturkenboom M, Prieto-Alhambra D, Gardarsdottir H, Klungel O. [Implementation of OMOP and ConceptION Common Data Models in CPRD GOLD: Risk of Bleeding and Cardiovascular Outcomes From Anticoagulant Use](#). Clin Pharmacol Ther. 2026 Mar 7. doi: 10.1002/cpt.70242. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41793101.

Spotnitz M, Giannini J, Clark E, Osthega Y, Litwin TR, Berman L. [Assessing data quality of rheumatoid and psoriatic arthritis patients in the All of Us Research Program](#). JAMIA Open. 2026 Mar 7;9(2):ooag028. doi: 10.1093/jamiaopen/ooag028. PMID: 41822200; PMCID: PMC12978248.

Bhattacharjee T, Mugotitsa B, Ochola M, Momanyi R, Andeso P, Amadi D, Mailosi D, Najjemba L, Greenfield J, Mabe K, Slaymaker E, Todd J, Kiragga A; INSPIRE Network. [Migrating longitudinal African mental health data from staging to the OMOP common data model within the INSPIRE network datahub](#). Front Psychiatry. 2026 Mar 9;17:1751529. doi: 10.3389/fpsy.2026.1751529. PMID: 41877886; PMCID: PMC13006644.

Kim J, Lee N, Kim J, Kim K. [MedRep: medical concept representations for general electronic health record foundation models](#). J Am Med Inform Assoc. 2026 Mar 10;ocag032. doi: 10.1093/jamia/ocag032. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41806382.

Vanderkerken M, Van Eygen K, Galle V, Verbiest A, Janssens A, Masuy I, Theys K, Cuppens T, Muylle K, De Becker A. [Leveraging Digital Technology and Artificial Intelligence to Describe the Real-World Belgian Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Patient Population: The BE-CLLEAR Study](#). JCO Clin Cancer Inform. 2026 Mar;10:e2500159. doi: 10.1200/CCI-25-00159. Epub 2026 Mar 18. PMID: 41849725; PMCID: PMC13003938.



April Newsletter Is Available

The screenshot shows the OHDSI website header with the logo and navigation menu. The 'Newsletters' menu item is highlighted with an orange circle, and its dropdown menu is open, showing the 'April 2026' newsletter option also highlighted with an orange circle.

OHDSI
OBSERVATIONAL HEALTH DATA SCIENCES AND INFORMATICS

Who We Are ▾ Updates & News ▾ Standards Software Tools ▾ Network Studies ▾ Community Forums ▾ Education ▾ New To OHDSI? ▾

Community Calls ▾ Past Events ▾ Workgroups ▾ Tutorials 2025 'Our Journey' Annual Report Current Events ▾ Support & Sponsorship

2025 Global Symposium ▾ 2026 Europe Symposium 2026 Global Symposium Github YouTube X/Twitter LinkedIn Newsletters ▾

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November 2025
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Welcome to OHDSI!

The Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics (or OHDSI, pronounced "Odyssey") program is a multi-stakeholder, interdisciplinary collaborative to bring out the value of health data through large-scale analytics. All our solutions are open-source.

OHDSI has established an international network of researchers and observational health

Join us at the 2026 OHDSI Global Symposium

Join us Oct. 20-22 for the 2026 OHDSI Global Symposium in New Brunswick, NJ. This event unites hundreds of collaborators to showcase scientific innovations and build bridges for future research. Together, we are advancing our mission to generate real-world evidence that informs better health decisions and improves patient care. Our Collaborator Showcase call for



2026 Europe Symposium

The 2026 OHDSI Europe Symposium returns to Rotterdam next year and will be held **April 18-20**.

Registration is open on the **OHDSI & OHDSI Europe** web sites.

Time	Symposium Agenda - Monday April 20, 2026	Location
8:00	Registration and Coffee	Queen's Lounge
9:00	Welcome to OHDSI Europe <i>Dr. Renske Los, Department of Medical Informatics, Erasmus MC</i> <i>Dr. Aniek Markus, Department of Medical Informatics, Erasmus MC</i>	Theatre
9:05	Journey of OHDSI <i>Prof. Peter Rijnbeek, Chair Department of Medical Informatics, Erasmus MC</i>	Theatre
9:30	Collaborator Showcase - part 1 Moderated by <i>Dr. Egill Fridgeirsson, Department of Medical Informatics, Erasmus MC</i>	Theatre
10:00	Speed networking	Theatre
10:15	Coffee Break & posters National Nodes	Queen's Lounge
11:15	Collaborator Showcase - part 2 Moderated by <i>Dr. Egill Fridgeirsson, Department of Medical Informatics, Erasmus MC</i>	Theatre
11:45	Dreaming about the OHDSI journey ahead <i>Dr. Patrick Ryan, Vice President, Observational Health Data Analytics, Johnson & Johnson</i> <i>Dr. Renske Los, Department of Medical Informatics, Erasmus MC</i>	Theatre

12:15	Lunch break & networking & posters/demo's <i>(Early investigator meeting - 13:00-13:45 Queen's Lounge)</i>	La Fontaine & Odyssee Room
13:45	From dreams to reality <i>OHDSI Titan Award winners</i>	Theatre
14:30	Propositions for collaboration from the National Nodes <i>National Node leads</i>	Theatre
14:45	Coffee break & posters/demo's	La Fontaine & Odyssee Room
16:15	The OH Factor <i>To be announced</i>	Theatre
17:00	Closing	Theatre
17:15	Networking reception	Queen's Lounge



Maternal Fellowship Opens

The second **OHDSI Maternal Health Fellowship** is designed to train clinical investigators for improved maternal and neonatal care. This fellowship offers three key components: **Career Development, Practice, and Networking.**

Supported by both the OHDSI community and the NIH IMPROVE initiative, the program focuses on training clinical investigators in observational research methods to enable them to conduct reproducible research and generate real-world evidence.



Announcing the 2026 Maternal Health Fellowship



Career Development

- Create evidence from real-world data
- Leverage standard data models for reproducible research
- Build skills on effective network studies



Practice

- Design effective observational research protocols
- Master OHDSI tools
- Write papers & grants



Networking

- Build relationships with mentors & fellow learners
- Coordinate with colleagues in the OHDSI data network, spanning 450 sites worldwide & 960 million unique patients

Want to build
your career?

Generate
reproducible
evidence by leading
multi-institutional
studies!



Find out more and apply here
by May 15th, 2026 !



OMOP School in Stockholm, Sweden

passion2improve



The OMOP School

3+1-day OMOP CDM Bootcamp

A hands-on training and workshop that turns your data harmonization vision into reality.

May 26th – 28th

+ May 29th (optional extra day for Use Cases Deep Dive)

09:00-17:00 Tue-Thu, 09:00-16:00 Fri
Stockholm, Sweden (venue TBD)

Learning objectives:

- Explain the role of standardization in federated research
- Understand the OMOP Common Data Model and how it can be applied
- Perform semantic mapping using OMOP vocabularies
- Design and implement an OMOP ETL process
- Evaluate and improve data quality
- Conduct standardized observational analyses
- Execute an end-to-end mini-harmonization project
- Use selective OHDSI methods and tools

Who to attend?

- Health Data Owners/Data Custodians
- Data Scientists, Clinical Researchers & Epidemiologists
- IT/Data Architects/ETL Developers/Health Informatics Specialists
- Digital Transformation Leads, Registry Directors, Healthcare Strategists
- Healthcare Policy Stakeholders



Lars Halvorsen
Trainer
[edenceHealth NV](#)

Freija Descamps
Trainer
[edenceHealth NV](#)

Christian Högberg
Coordinator
Passion 2 Improve AB

“Walk away with a working understanding of the OMOP Common Data Model, an actionable data harmonization plan, and the tools to execute it.”

There are still places open!

Registration page:
<https://omop.se/education>



First Latin America Symposium – July 30-31

1ST SYMPOSIUM LATIN AMERICA
OHDSI 2026
30-31 July
Salvador,
Brasil

Organized by:

- cidacs
- FIOCRUZ | Bahia
- PRECISION DATA

LATIN AMERICA

The poster features a large, stylized map of Latin America in the background, composed of a grid of dots. A dark blue diagonal banner with a crowd of people is overlaid on the left side. The OHDSI logo is in the top right, and a smaller version of the Latin America logo is at the bottom center.



Columbia DBMI Summer School

The 2026 Summer School in Observational Health Data Science & Informatics, AI, and Real World Evidence

June 22–26, 2026, Columbia Biomedical Informatics



The Columbia OHDSI Summer School provides health professionals, researchers, and industry practitioners with an immersive, hands-on training to working with real-world health data and generating real-world evidence (RWE). Participants will explore the types of healthcare data captured during routine clinical care—such as electronic health records and administrative claims—and learn how to standardize these data using the OMOP Common Data Model to support collaborative, distributed research as part of a data network.

Over the course of the week, participants will engage with three real-world analytic use cases:

- **Clinical characterization** – using descriptive epidemiology to study disease natural history and treatment patterns
- **Population-level estimation** – applying causal inference to assess drug safety and comparative effectiveness
- **Patient-level prediction** – leveraging machine learning for early disease detection and precision medicine

Participants will be guided through the full RWE study lifecycle: from designing observational studies tailored to each use case, to applying open-source tools from the [OHDSI community](#), and executing analyses across real-world data sources.

The curriculum combines foundational lectures on analytical methods with hands-on, interactive, faculty-led group exercises. In addition, participants will have dedicated time to develop and advance their own study concepts with personalized feedback and mentoring.





UK Symposium Call for Abstracts Opens

HDR UK Event

OHDSI UK 2026

We're delighted to announce that OHDSI UK 2026 will be held on the 18th of September at the University of Nottingham. For the first time, there will also be an OMOP training day on the 17th of September.

Share this page [in](#) [twitter](#)

OHDSI (Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics, pronounced "Odyssey") is an international community of stakeholders dedicated to unlocking the value of health data through large-scale analytics. OHDSI promotes open science and collaboration in health data research with a key focus on adoption of the OMOP Common Data Model, a global standard for harmonising data and facilitating federated analytics across institutions. [Find out more about OHDSI.](#)

Call for Abstracts

We invite you to submit an abstract for consideration at OHDSI UK 2026. Whether you wish to present a poster, software demo, or lightning talk, we welcome contributions from across the community. Abstract submission is available via [this form](#), and the deadline is 1st May 2026. Please use [this template](#) to prepare your abstract and save it as a PDF, and start your file name with the surname (family name) of the presenting author.

Key dates:

Registration Opens: 20th April 2026

Registration Closes: 4th September 2026

Abstract Submission Opens: 20th March 2026

Abstract Submission Deadline: 1st May 2026

Training day: 17th September 2026

Symposium: 18th September 2026



#OHDSISocialShowcase This Week

Monday

Building a perfect special-purpose healthcare data model: learning from and assessing OMOP

(Vojtech Huser)

Building a perfect special-purpose healthcare data model: learning from and assessing OMOP

Vojtech Huser, Sebastiaan van Sandijk
EPAM

INTRODUCTION

Observational Medical Outcomes Partnership (OMOP) Common Data Model (CDM) is a leading Real World Data (RWD) representation format. We collaborated on development of an oncology-specific and purpose-specific data model [1] and during this development, we assessed how OMOP model captures specific data elements. Consistently adhering to a naming convention for any model may increase the model adoption and facilitate easier model because model users may rely on consistent application of conventions when using many of the model data elements (or table names and column names). In this context, we assessed OMOP model's naming consistency and modelling consistency.

METHODS

In the initial step, we obtained a list of all tables and columns in OMOP model. We used a tag to group certain related columns to each other. We next defined a higher level constructs (above the column name level) and used a tag identical to the title of the construct to group related columns. For example, for construct of ethnicity, we created a tag 'ethnicity' and tagged with it columns of ethnicity_concept_id, ethnicity_source_concept_id, and ethnicity_source_value. For some constructs, the tag also included the table name and dot separator (e.g., drug_exposure.drug)

In building the purpose specific model, we found it helpful to also classify data elements into element categories. We wanted the model to be consistent in using and naming these categories across model entities (e.g., medication, observation, patient, order). Because of this need during our model design and trying to learn from OMOP as much as possible, we considered OMOP data elements and classified table columns into categories. We defined the following categories (with example(s) listed in parentheses): standardized identifier (person_id), source value (ethnicity_source_value), standardized concept (ethnicity_concept_id), source concept (ethnicity_source_concept_id). We next analyzed the tags and classified constructs (e.g., ethnicity) into several categories based on how many columns were tagged to the construct.

Finally, we found the OMOP concept of 'type' column in most OMOP tables very useful. The type concept idea is used throughout OMOP and provides unique analytical abilities. In our model, we use the term entity where OMOP would use a table. E.g., patient entity would be counterpart of OMOP person table. We looked at naming consistency in OMOP for the type column paradigm. In our model, we eventually chose the data element of typeOrigin for OMOP type columns/paradigm.

RESULTS

The tags and categorizations are available at our project repository at github.com/informaticsrepo/omop-analysis.

The following construct types were identified:

- A *triple construct* is a construct that in the model has a triple representation and the count of tagged columns is 3. One column is of category standardized concept column category (x_concept_id) and two columns for source value (x_source_concept_id and x_source_value). For example, ethnicity is an example of a triple construct.
- A *double construct* is a construct that in the model has a double representation and the count of tagged columns is 2. For example, care_site table construct of place_of_service has two tagged columns of place_of_service_concept_id, place_of_service_source_value.

Another way of looking at the triple and double constructs is how many "sibling columns" any given column may have. By siblings columns we mean columns that are somewhat related or linked to the column at hand.

Double constructs further separate into several subtypes. One such subtype is concept-value double constructs. Such constructs have columns for standardized concept (x_concept_id) and source value (x_source_value columns). For example, care_site.place_of_service is a concept-value double construct.

OMOP model uses triple constructs approach for some data where external terminology may exist and complex modelling is needed (e.g., person.gender, measurement.measurement). For other constructs, a simpler, double construct approach is implemented (e.g., site.place_of_service). Note that for processing data falling under the double construct approach (e.g., place of service), mapping from source value to standardized concept has less model setup infrastructure (no terminology layer for source concept) compared with triple constructs. That is because, triple constructs have the same two columns as double constructs but have an additional column for source concept (x_source_concept_id).

Another subtype of double constructs are identifier-identifier double constructs. E.g., person table construct of person_identifier with has two tagged columns of person_id and person_source_value and both are of category person-identifier.

In terms of naming consistently we identified few of them. One principle may be to name columns with double constructs using a consistent naming pattern. E.g., same prefix used for related columns. OMOP violates this principle for the note table construct of note_class where two identically tagged columns are named note_class_concept_id and note_source_value while the naming convention/principle would expect

the column names of: note_class_concept_id and note_class_source_value (or rename the construct and drop the class fragment and use names of note_concept_id and note_source_value). The note table also shows a clash in type paradigm and informatics construct of note type (as in LOINC Document Ontology). The name chosen in our purpose-specific model (name typeOrigin instead of type) attempts to avoid this naming clash.

DISCUSSION

In model constructions, it may be beneficial to clearly describe which constructs are of what type or subtype. This need is somewhat implicit in OMOP specification by mere presence of columns that follow a naming convention. Although the accompanying guidance clearly defines most of the model building conventions.

CONCLUSION

We formalized and named several OMOP implicit conventions that were used during OMOP model constructions. OMOP model contains powerful features that may inspire other healthcare standardization efforts. Our work attempts to advance the art of perfect model building [2] by identifying useful modelling paradigms.

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	11
person	11
ethnicity	3
ethnicity_concept_id	1
ethnicity_source_concept_id	1
ethnicity_source_value	1
gender	3
gender_concept_id	1
gender_source_concept_id	1
gender_source_value	1
person_identifier	2
person_id	1
person_source_value	1
race	3
race_concept_id	1
race_source_concept_id	1
race_source_value	1
(blank)	1

Table 1: Double and triple constructs of OMOP person table. Tag is the group row and OMOP columns are indented rows under it.





#OHDSISocialShowcase This Week

Wednesday

Use of CohortDiagnostics for evaluating a phenotype of acute-on-chronic hepatic failure

(Alexandra Buergler, Evanette Burrows, Serge Titaevski, Joel Swerdel)

Use of CohortDiagnostics for evaluating a phenotype of acute-on-chronic hepatic failure

PRESENTER: Evanette Burrows

INTRODUCTION

- Acute-on-chronic hepatic failure (ACHF) is a sudden, life-threatening deterioration of liver function and therefore an important safety event of interest in pharmacovigilance.¹
- We aimed to create a phenotype for drug-related ACHF (ACHF phenotype) that contrasts an existing phenotype of acute hepatic failure in a population without prior chronic liver disease (AHF phenotype, minimally adapted from Shoabi, Rao²).

METHODS

- Clinical description of ACHF using generative AI followed by medical review
- Literature review of previously developed ACHF phenotypes to include relevant concepts
- Development of ACHF phenotype with SNOMED terminology by adapting the pre-existing AHF phenotype using open-source OHDSI tools ATLAS and PHOENIX
- Review of phenotype with the global medical safety team
- Evaluation of AHF and ACHF phenotypes using CohortDiagnostics (version 3.2.5)³ in seven OMOP-formatted claims and EHR databases (US, Japan)
 - Assessment of AHT and ACHF key clinical characteristics capture
 - Overlap analysis: do the ACHF and AHF phenotypes capture distinctive patient populations?

RESULTS

Phenotype definitions: AHF phenotype and ACHF phenotype

Index event: condition of acute hepatic failure

Inclusion criteria:

- no chronic liver disease any time prior / chronic liver disease
- no liver transplant any time prior
- no viral hepatitis or sequelae, no alcoholic hepatitis or sequelae +/-7 days around index
- No hepatorenal syndrome on index date

End date + cohort collapse strategy kept the same in both phenotypes.

Overlap analysis

- We found a patient overlap of 67.8% to 75.7% between the ACHF and AHF cohort across the 7 databases (see Figure 1)
- All patients in the AHF cohort were also included in the ACHF cohort, accounting for 67.8% to 75.7% of all captured patients. The remaining 24.3% to 32.2% of patients were only part of the ACHF cohort.

Database Name	T Only	C Only	Both	Total Subjects
Health Verity Comprehensive Claims - Clinical Centers	60,076	23,876	16,276	100,228
Health Verity Comprehensive Claims - Commercial Claims and Encounters Database	60,076	27,076	12,276	100,428
Optum-CHS	62,176	28,076	6,276	116,528
Health Verity Health Plan State Medicaid Database	97,176	38,276	18,276	153,728
Health Verity Health Plan State Medicaid Database	98,076	37,276	14,276	149,628
Health Verity Health Plan State Medicaid Database Supplemental and Combination of Benefits Database	60,076	22,276	12,276	94,628
Japan Medical Data Center (JMDC)	97,476	28,876	12,276	138,628

Figure 1. Original cohort overlap between cohorts T (AHF phenotype) and C (ACHF phenotype).

- What caused the overlap? Overlapping concepts used in inclusion criterion "prior chronic liver disease" and the index event "acute hepatic failure" combined with the chosen time window for "prior chronic liver disease".

Using cohort overlap in CohortDiagnostics to evaluate whether phenotypes with/without prior disease capture distinct patients, catches cohort definition errors early.

Patient overlap in ACHF and AHF cohort

70%



30%

Patients only in ACHF cohort



Take a picture to download the full paper

- How did we reduce the overlap? Adjustment of the time window of prior chronic liver disease to "anytime prior and 1 day before index date" reduced the overlap to 7.9-14.7% (see Figure 2).

Database Name	T Only	C Only	Both	Total Subjects
Health Verity Comprehensive Claims - Clinical Centers	60,076	23,876	16,276	100,228
Health Verity Comprehensive Claims - Commercial Claims and Encounters Database	60,076	27,076	12,276	100,428
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Japan Medical Data Center (JMDC)	97,476	28,876	12,276	138,628

Figure 2. Reduced cohort overlap between cohorts T (AHF phenotype) and C (ACHF phenotype).

- The remaining overlap of 7.9-14.7% between the AHF and ACHF cohorts reflects differences in their concepts set pertaining to chronic liver disease, with ACHF using a broader concept set than AHF.

Person count

After reduction of the overlap:

- Person count in ACHF cohort 378,554 → 142,885 (Health Verity Comprehensive Claims database)
6,699 → 2,827 in the Japan Medical Data Center (JMDC) database
- Comparing the ACHF and AHF cohort, the case count ranged from 2,837 to 142,885 (ACHF) and from 6,699 to 378,554 (AHF).

Clinical characteristics

- Across all databases, and consistent for both phenotypes, the incidence was higher in males and increased with age.
- Typical symptoms before index presented more frequently in the ACHF cohort than in the AHF cohort (e.g., 82% versus 40% with pain and indication for inflammation in abdominal area).

CONCLUSIONS

- CohortDiagnostics is an important tool for understanding possible errors of cohort definitions.
- When creating distinct phenotypes with overlapping concept sets, special attention should be paid to selecting the appropriate time windows and carefully observing the cohort overlap in CohortDiagnostics to detect potential misclassification.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Nathan Hall^{2,3} for his valuable contribution to this work, and Gayle Murray (Johnson & Johnson) for her work on the literature review.

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Johnson & Johnson
Global Epidemiology Organization





#OHDSISocialShowcase This Week

Advancing Learning Health Systems Through Integrated Machine Learning Operations: A Novel Extension of the OHDSI Research Infrastructure

Montefiore

Thursday

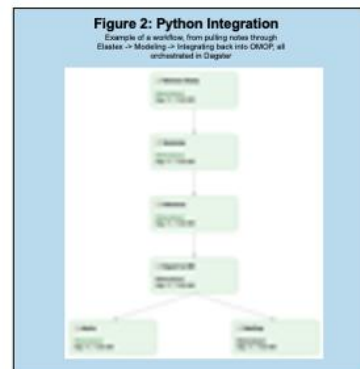
Advancing Learning Health Systems Through Integrated Machine Learning Operations: A Novel Extension of the OHDSI Research Infrastructure

(Boudewijn Aasman, Selvin Soby, Adil Ahmed, Chandra Nelapatla, Manuel Wahle, Parsa Mirhaji)



BACKGROUND

Healthcare is rapidly evolving from protocol-driven care toward dynamic learning health systems that seamlessly blend evidence generation with clinical practice. While this vision has existed for over a decade, the technical infrastructure needed to realize it remains fragmented. The primary challenge lies in creating architectures that support both rigorous observational research and real-time clinical decision support. Although the OHDSI collaborative's OMOP Common Data Model and ATLAS platform have enabled large-scale multi-site studies that shape clinical guidelines, this infrastructure was built primarily for retrospective analysis, not the operational analytics that learning health systems demand. Meanwhile, MLOps frameworks have emerged in enterprise settings to productionize AI with rigorous version control and governance—capabilities that align with reproducible research goals but haven't been integrated into clinical research workflows. This disconnect creates a critical gap where sophisticated predictive models developed through careful research remain isolated from the clinical environments they could transform, limiting their potential to improve patient care at the point of decision-making.



METHODS

Auto ETL Framework: We implemented incremental daily OMOP-CDM updates, enabling near real-time data availability compared to the industry-standard quarterly refresh cycles. This continuous data pipeline ensures clinical decision support models operate on current patient information, eliminating the typical 3-month lag between data generation and analytical availability.

IRB Integration: Our platform enforces institutional governance through multi-level IRB controls that enable authorized extraction of identified patient information when required for operational initiatives. This security framework bridges the gap between de-identified research environments and clinical workflows that require patient-specific insights, while maintaining full compliance with privacy regulations.

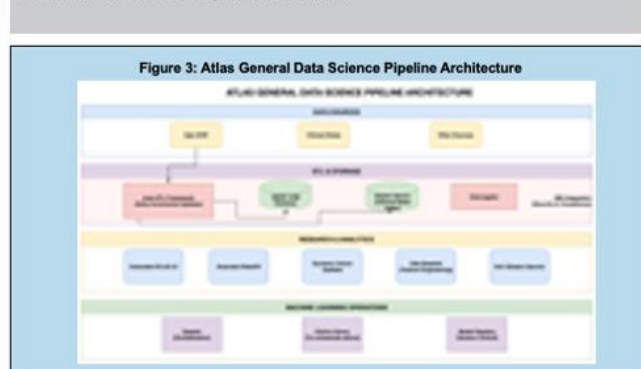
Dynamic Cohort Updates: We extended the OHDSI WebAPI to remove caching limitations, enabling cohorts to automatically incorporate the latest patient inclusions, exclusions, and clinical events. This ensures that predictive models and quality metrics always reflect the current patient population without manual cohort regeneration or versioning conflicts.

Data Baskets: These reusable abstractions encapsulate complex feature engineering logic for extracting demographics, laboratory values, vital signs, and temporal clinical variables through ATLAS's familiar interface. Researchers can define "model-ready" datasets with high temporal granularity relative to specific clinical events, dramatically reducing the time from hypothesis to analytical dataset. (Fig 1)

Automated Basket Library: Our Python library enables programmatic download and integration of data basket outputs directly into machine learning pipelines, eliminating manual data transfer steps. This automation allows data scientists to version control their entire analytical workflow from cohort definition through model deployment, ensuring complete reproducibility. (Fig 2)

Elastic Search Integration: We integrated Elasticsearch to enable rapid querying and analysis of unstructured clinical notes linked to specific cohorts with appropriate IRB permissions. This capability unlocks natural language processing workflows for phenotyping and feature extraction from narrative text while maintaining governance controls. (Fig 4)

Interrogator Utility: This bidirectional interface allows analytical outputs and derived concepts to be written back into OMOP's observation table as new mappings that the Auto ETL recognizes and processes. These analytical concepts then become available for downstream cohort definitions and clinical decision rules, creating a true feedback loop between research insights and operational use.



Conclusion

The platform has been successfully deployed across multiple healthcare institutions for both research and clinical applications. Real-time sepsis phenotyping algorithms generate risk scores integrated into clinical workflows with improved detection sensitivity, while automated chart abstraction pipelines reduced manual workload by 80% and improved data quality. Integration with Montefiore Health System's Epic EHR across 10 hospital sites improved care team response times and treatment protocol consistency.

The platform streamlined research workflows from cohort definition through EHR integration, achieving 3-4x faster time-to-insight while maintaining reproducibility. Reusable data baskets enable cross-team collaboration with shared feature definitions, improving consistency and eliminating redundant work.

Conclusion

This work creates a pathway for healthcare institutions to evolve their data science capabilities while preserving existing investments in OHDSI infrastructure and OMOP data standardization. The modular architecture and open-source foundation allows the platform to grow within the OHDSI community, creating opportunities for collaborative development of standardized feature libraries that benefit the entire network. The integration of modern MLOps practices with established clinical research infrastructure demonstrates that learning health systems can be implemented without abandoning the rigorous, collaborative approaches that have made observational research successful. This project shows how these approaches can be further extended and enhanced to support the continuous insight ingestion that defines a learning health system. By successfully bridging the gap between research and clinical operations through standards-based, scalable architecture, we have created a practical framework for advancing the vision of the learning health system that has been articulated by leading health policy organizations for over a decade. The platform's ability to support daily clinical applications while accelerating research workflows positions it as important infrastructure for the future of evidence-based healthcare delivery.

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#OHDSISocialShowcase This Week

Friday

Causal Learning with Large-Scale Propensity Scores to Predict Treatment Outcomes: A Study of Bipolar disorder in Adults with Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder

(Junhyuk Chang, Dong Yun Lee, Rae Woong Park)



Causal Learning with Large-Scale Propensity Scores to Predict Treatment Outcomes : A Study of Bipolar disorder in Adolescents with Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder

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Background

- Depression commonly co-occurs with adult attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and methylphenidate (MPH) is often prescribed to dual diagnoses.
- Several case reports and observational studies have suggested that MPH may induce manic episode, which can lead to a transition to bipolar disorder (BD)
- Causal machine learning facilitates the estimation of individualized treatment effects by flexibly addressing confounding structures and complex variable interactions

Methods

1. Data collection

- Database: Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service – Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (HIRA-ADHD) database which contained ADHD patient data from nationwide claims data
- HIRA-ADHD database was converted to OMOP-CDM [2016 – 2020]

2. Cohort definition

- Target Cohort
- MPH-used patients with ADHD and depressive disorder diagnoses aged ≥ 18
- Patients without nonstimulant ADHD agents

Outcome Cohort: Bipolar disorder

Results

- Among the total of 28,939 patients, 19,939 patients were prescribed MPH, and 1,881 patients had occurrences of BD
- A total of 4,608 baseline covariates were extracted and reduced to 4,477 after 10-fold cross-validation
- The ATE for the validation dataset is 1.8% [1.1%-5.3%]
- Figure 1 shows the ATEs by CATE quantiles, with values of 4.2%, 3.3%, 1.5%, 0.3%, and 1.9%
- The estimated heterogeneity among the quantiles was statistically significant ($\chi^2_4 = 11.65, p = 0.0202$)

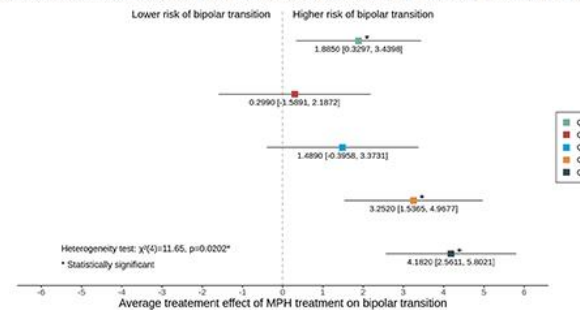


Figure 1. Average treatment effect of quantile groups

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Acknowledgements

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3. Data preprocessing

- Split: 70% for training / 30% for testing, ensuring the same outcome prevalence in both sets
- Extracted baseline covariates to employ a large-scale propensity score
- Initial screening was conducted to exclude rare covariates by 10-fold cross-validation

4. Estimate average treatment effect

- Estimated average treatment effect (ATE) using causal forest model with doubly robust estimation
- Heterogeneity was assessed by estimating conditional ATE (CATE)
- Stratified patient by CATE quantiles, and re-estimate ATEs with targeted minimum loss estimation
- Compared top 15 variables based on variable importance from the causal forest model to identify characteristics of high and low CATE groups

- Figure 2 represents the density of top 15 baseline covariates between high and low CATE groups

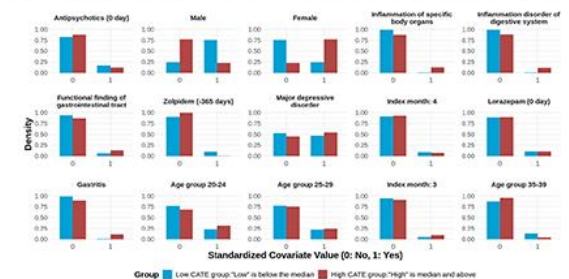


Figure 2. Density of top 15 covariates

Conclusions

- This study suggests that MPH treatment may be associated with increased risk of BD in specific populations
- Individualized treatment rule accounting for this heterogeneity could modify guidelines for MPH use



Where Are We Going?

**Any other announcements
of upcoming work, events,
deadlines, etc?**



Three Stages of The Journey

Where Have We Been?

Where Are We Now?

Where Are We Going?



**The weekly OHDSI community call is held
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