Author's response to reviews

Title:A Three-Step Approach for the Derivation and Validation of High-Performing Predictive Models Using an Operational Dataset: Congestive Heart Failure Readmission Case Study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Buczak,

Thank you for the thoughtful review of our manuscript submission, entitled "A Three-Step Approach for the Derivation and Validation of High-Performing Predictive Models Using an Operational Dataset: Congestive Heart Failure Readmission Case Study." As described in the "Comments and Resulting Revisions" table below, we believe we have addressed all of the final comments.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this manuscript.

Sincerely,

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**Reviewer 1: Patricia Kipnis**

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<th>Comment</th>
<th>Resulting Revisions</th>
<th>Revision Section</th>
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<td>1-I suggest to move the section “Evaluation of Potential for Overfitting” from the Discussion to the Results section.</td>
<td>We have moved the section as recommended.</td>
<td>Results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2- Comment 9: Change the word &quot;different&quot; to &quot;significant&quot; in this sentence: “These tests were also used to identify whether any explanatory variables have highly different p-values across the derivation datasets (e.g., p &gt; 0.1 vs. p &lt; 0.001)...”</td>
<td>We have changed the word “different” to “significant” as recommended.</td>
<td>Proposed Approach</td>
</tr>
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Reviewer 2: Steven Babin

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<td>1-I found one error that they should correct: in the first paragraph under Background, one of the sentences states &quot;...were readmitted within 30 days, with unplanned hospitalizations leading to $17.4 billion in excesses costs to Medicare in 2004.&quot; Please change excesses to excess.</td>
<td>We have corrected this error.</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
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