Author’s response to reviews

Title: Validation of diagnosis codes to identify side of colon in an electronic health record registry

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Author’s response to reviews:

BMC Medical Research Methodology
RE: BMRM-D-18-00394R1
August 8, 2019

Dear Dr. Harding and Dr. Jones:

Thank you very much for the review of our manuscript, entitled “Validation of diagnosis codes to identify side of colon in an electronic health record registry.” We appreciate the feedback from the reviewers and the option to revise our manuscript. Please find below our responses to the
reviewer comments. If you have any questions regarding our revised manuscript, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Patricia Luhn, PhD, MPH

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Editor Comments:

1. Please ensure that the email address for the corresponding author matches that which has been listed on our editorial system- currently they differ.

Author response: The email address for the corresponding author, Patricia Luhn, has been updated to the following in the manuscript title page: luhn.patricia@gene.com

2. Please state if any permissions were required to access the database.

Author response: No permissions were required to access the database.

3. Please include the full name of the ethics committee (and the institute to which it belongs) that approved the study and the committee’s reference number if appropriate.

Author response: The statement on ethics approval and consent to participate has been updated as follows (pg 12): “Approval of the study protocol (The Flatiron Health Analytic Database; protocol #15-159) by the New England Institutional Review Board, a WIRB-Copernicus company, was obtained prior to study conduct, and included a waiver of informed consent.”
4. Please detail the individual contributions of each author using their initials in the 'Author Contributions' section.

Author response: The following statement has been included in the Author Contributions section (pg 13): “PL, DK, GC, NN, RS, RR, MGT, BA, MDT, NJM participated in the data collection, data analysis, and drafting of the manuscript. PL, DK, GC, NN, RS, RR, MGT, BA, MDT, NJM also approved the final version of the manuscript to be submitted.”

5. Please ensure that all tables are cited in the manuscript in sequential order.

Author response: Table numbers have been updated such that they are now all in sequential order.

6. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files. Please ensure that all figures, tables and additional/supplementary files are cited within the text.

Author response: A clean version of the manuscript will be uploaded and we confirm that all tables and supplementary files are cited within the text.

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Reviewer reports:

Reviewer 2 (Reviewer 2): PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses one or several testable research questions? (Brief or other article types: is there a clear objective?)

Yes - there is a clear objective
DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with sufficient technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? If not, can further revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Yes - current version is technically sound

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: The authors have revised the manuscript and adequately dealt with all the points raised by this reviewer.

Author response: Thank you for your feedback.

If improvements to the English language within your manuscript have been requested, you should have your manuscript reviewed by someone who is fluent in English. If you would like
professional help in revising this manuscript, you can use any reputable English language editing service. We can recommend our affiliates Nature Research Editing Service (http://bit.ly/NRES_BS) and American Journal Experts (http://bit.ly/AJE_BS) for help with English usage. Please note that use of an editing service is neither a requirement nor a guarantee of publication. Free assistance is available from our English language tutorial (https://www.springer.com/gb/authors-editors/authorandreviewertutorials/writinginenglish) and our Writing resources (http://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/writing-resources). These cover common mistakes that occur when writing in English.

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- Consent to publish
- Availability of data and materials
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