Author’s response to reviews

Title: Automatically Identifying Social Isolation from Clinical Narratives for Patients with Prostate Cancer

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Response to Editors: We appreciate the editors’ careful review of our manuscript and thank them for their thoughtful and helpful comments and suggestions. We have made several revisions to respond to these comments, and these changes enhance the quality of our report. Detailed information on the changes is provided below.

1. Background section. "...electronic clinical notes (EHR)" - suggest removing "EHR" as it is defined in the previous section and also electronic clinical notes aren't the same as EHR

   [Response] Deleted “(EHR)”

2. Methods section -> Development of lexicons for social isolation. "... isolated from others (citation)..."

   [Response] Deleted “(citation)”

3. Results section -> Social isolation lexicon. "... yet it doesn't" suggest replacing contraction

   [Response] Deleted “yet”
4. Discussion section. "cTAKE" should be "cTAKES"

[Response] Changed to “cTAKES”

5. Limitations. The second to last sentence in the limitations section ("Finally, we developed...") is difficult to read and far too long and is structurally a bit odd. I strongly suggest reformulating.

[Response] Reformulated to “Finally, our NLP approach could extract social isolation from clinical notes with high accuracy; however, the clinical notes typically capture information about providers' observations about patients and some patients' chief complaints. Social isolation information may be under-documented in clinical notes. Therefore, we remain cautious about claiming an NLP determinant for prevalence of social isolation (1.2%) in patients with prostate cancer, due to the lack of confirmation from other measures.”

Other items:

Added Declarations, including

- Ethics approval and consent to participate
- Consent to publish
- Availability of data and materials
- Competing interests
- Funding
- Authors' Contributions
- Acknowledgements

Added Abbreviation list