Reviewer’s report

Title: Building a Tobacco User Registry by Extracting Multiple Smoking Behaviors from Clinical Notes

Version: 0 Date: 19 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Jos Aarts

Reviewer's report:

Despite concerted efforts to reduce smoking, it remains a major public health problem. The authors have written an excellent study of building a Tobacco User Registry by extracting data from clinical notes. In clinical notes much detail about smoking behaviors that otherwise not available. The authors developed and evaluated a health informatics pipeline for identifying complete smoking history. They used a machine-learning classifier and obtained interesting results. A positive point is the clear distinction between smokers and non-smokers, indicating a high sensitivity. The authors also discuss the distinction between different groups of smokers and outline how that can be improved. They detail the limitations, but also the benefits of their study in detail. They demonstrate how their work is a step forward compared to earlier studies. I saw no really serious issues. The manuscript is well written and references are extensive and appropriate.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
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Acceptable

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