Reviewer’s report

Title: Customization Scenarios for De-identification of Clinical Notes

Version: 0 Date: 17 May 2019

Reviewer: Boshu Ru

Reviewer's report:

In this manuscript, the authors present an automated machine learning system to recognize PHI information in clinical notes and masked them with tags. While the machine learning algorithm/models are commonly used in the text datamining, the dedicated design of 4 experiment scenarios makes this work interesting to PHI data management professionals. I have one question for the authors. In error analysis of a fully customized system (page 13), several false positive cases were concluded as some names can be a person's name or a medical term. Can you address some possible solutions, for example, using medical terminology resource?

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

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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