

The underlying pattern of health seeking behavior and its documentation within the health system

- Describe the strategy used to screen for medication use, informed by underlying pattern of patient behavior, and formatting documentation within the data source
- Describe the steps taken to transform the data into a common data model (e.g., cleaning, curation, mapping)
- Describe the medication record type(s) (e.g., prescription order, medication administration, dispensing claim, multiple types)

The characteristics of data source that were used and approach used to identify the medication used

- Use knowledge of clinical practice, how the data are produced, and how the data are sorted to guide decisions regarding the appropriate sources of medication information within a given data source
- Use knowledge about the format in which the medications use data are captured and stored (in structured fields, as coded data within structured fields, text within semi-structured or discrete fields, within free-text clinical notes) to guide the identification of medications used
- Include the structured code list or list of string texts used to identify occurrences of medication use as supplementary material for any study protocols and manuscripts

Timing elements related to medication use

- Describe how elements related to timing (initiation, subsequent uses, discontinuation) were identified
- Describe how the relative timing of medication use (switching to a new product or the health event of interest) was operationalized, based on the conceptual definition
- How the duration of medication use was calculated

Other features of medication use

- If prevalent or incident use is of interest, describe how it was defined. If incident use is of interest, describe whether or how a clean or washout period was applied
- If only one qualifying episode of medication use was allowed (vs. multiple qualifying episodes), describe how this was selected
- If medication dose is of interest, describe whether dose information was available, the measure of interest, and how medication dose was calculated
- Describe how records with missing medication information were handled
- If multiple data sources are used for a given patient, describe how discrepancies and potential duplicates were handled

Algorithm validation

- Provide the relevant references or describe the validation performed.
- Provide the performance metrics from the validation.