

# 1 FHIR-DHP: A Standardized Clinical Data Harmonisation Pipeline for 2 scalable AI application deployment

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17 *Background:* Increasing digitalisation in the medical domain gives rise to large amounts of  
18 healthcare data which has the potential to expand clinical knowledge and transform patient  
19 care if leveraged through artificial intelligence (AI). Yet, big data and AI oftentimes cannot  
20 unlock their full potential at scale, owing to non-standardised data formats, lack of technical  
21 and semantic data interoperability, and limited cooperation between stakeholders in the  
22 healthcare system. Despite the existence of standardised data formats for the medical  
23 domain, such as Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR), their prevalence and  
24 usability for AI remains limited.

25 *Objective:* We developed a data harmonisation pipeline (DHP) for clinical data sets relying on  
26 the common FHIR data standard.

27 *Methods:* We validated the performance and usability of our FHIR-DHP with data from the  
28 MIMIC IV database including > 40,000 patients admitted to an intensive care unit.

29 *Results:* We present the FHIR-DHP workflow in respect of transformation of “raw” hospital  
30 records into a harmonised, AI-friendly data representation. The pipeline consists of five key  
31 preprocessing steps: querying of data from hospital database, FHIR mapping, syntactic  
32 validation, transfer of harmonised data into the patient-model database and export of data  
33 in an AI-friendly format for further medical applications. A detailed example of FHIR-DHP  
34 execution was presented for clinical diagnoses records.

35 *Conclusions:* Our approach enables scalable and needs-driven data modelling of large and  
36 heterogenous clinical data sets. The FHIR-DHP is a pivotal step towards increasing  
37 cooperation, interoperability and quality of patient care in the clinical routine and for  
38 medical research.

39

40 **Keywords:** Data interoperability, FHIR, data standardisation pipeline, MIMIC IV

41

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43 **Introduction**

44

45 The increasing digitalisation of healthcare creates vast amounts of clinical data that are  
46 collected and stored in an Electronic Health Record (EHR). Patient information from all  
47 medical domains is captured in diverse sets of data recorded in standalone systems. With  
48 the prevalent use of EHRs in healthcare organisations, there is abundant opportunity for  
49 additional application of EHR data in clinical and translational research. For instance, such  
50 data can be used to develop artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms which have the potential to  
51 transform patient care and medical research. Resource intensive and inefficient clinical  
52 workflows could be optimised by the analysis of historical data with AI applications (1,2). In  
53 particular, the time-consuming and high-priced process of identifying and enrolling the right  
54 patients into a clinical trial manually can be reduced significantly by automation (3,4).  
55 However, the exchange of medical data remains limited due to the lack of data  
56 interoperability between healthcare providers, owing to outdated IT infrastructure,  
57 inconsistencies in data formats, poor data quality, inadequate data exchange solutions and  
58 data silos (5,6). To achieve data interoperability, the following steps must be incorporated: i)  
59 integration of isolated data silos, ii) safe exchange of data and iii) effective use of the  
60 available data (7). Each of these operations includes database schema matching (8) and  
61 schema mapping (9), which allow translation of the relationships between the source  
62 database and the target data standard.

63 Employing a harmonised data format will facilitate the exchange of medical data, enabling  
64 wide-ranging data-driven collaborations within the private and public healthcare sectors.  
65 Data interoperability requires EHR data to be structured in a common format and in  
66 standardised terminologies. Standardisation is often performed by adopting the Health Level  
67 7 (HL7) Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) model (10), which is supported by

68 numerous healthcare institutions and vendors of clinical information systems (11). FHIR is an  
69 international industry standard with the benefit of integrating diverse sets of data in well-  
70 defined exchangeable segments of information, which are known as FHIR resources.  
71 Therefore, FHIR facilitates interoperability between healthcare organisations and allows  
72 third-party developers to provide medical applications which can be easily integrated into  
73 existing systems. FHIR enables the harmonization of data and thus allows standardized data  
74 processing and also the rollout of AI applications across different clinics and hospitals  
75 regardless of which information system they use. Therefore, FHIR forms an important  
76 component for the scalable development and deployment of AI in clinics and hospitals.

77 However, to apply AI, the input data needs to be adapted to the AI algorithms. The  
78 conventional AI frameworks such as Tensorflow (14) and Pytorch (15) require data to take a  
79 tensor form which is a vector or matrix of n-dimensions that represents various types of data  
80 (e.g., tabular, time series, image, text). FHIR facilitates the application of AI in medical  
81 domain as it provides needed interoperability for a standardised access of EHR data. FHIR  
82 format's multi-layered nested structure requires case-specific data pre-processing to use it  
83 for AI algorithms. Depending on the AI application and the chosen data source, a custom  
84 data preprocessing pipeline needs to be designed, which leads to diminished AI scalability.  
85 Up to the present time, a number of studies have attempted to solve this problem. Prior  
86 research addressed this problem in different forms, but focuses on individual use cases and  
87 thus constrains the basic idea of FHIR to be independent of the use case.. There have been a  
88 few attempts to flatten the hierarchical FHIR structure and transform it into NDJSON-based  
89 data format (16) or tabular format saved in CSV files (17). Such formats are more AI-friendly  
90 as they represent the data in a more accessible and standardised form for an application of  
91 common AI frameworks. Nonetheless, the NDJSON-based FHIR data transformation

92 approach (16) does not provide data selection criteria and filtering capabilities. The  
93 approach presented in (17) requires expert knowledge of *FHIRPath* query language.

94 In this paper, we address the challenge of data interoperability in the healthcare sector by  
95 proposing a FHIR Data Harmonisation Pipeline (DHP) that provides EHR data in an AI-friendly  
96 format. The newly developed FHIR-DHP represents a data workflow solution that includes  
97 the aforementioned operations such as data exchange, mapping, and export. Data privacy is  
98 a delicate topic in healthcare and is of great ethical concern (18). Given the degree of  
99 automation, such pipeline should allow preprocessing of unseen data in an isolated hospital  
100 environment, which makes the harmonisation privacy-preserving. In this setting, direct  
101 access to the sensitive data would not be required to run the standardisation pipeline. FHIR-  
102 based data preprocessing pipelines have already been implemented in different contexts: as  
103 electronic data capture (12), as a natural language processing tool (13) and as a  
104 standardisation protocol based on the Resource Description Framework (RDF) (6). Despite  
105 their immense benefit of processing EHR data, existing approaches are limited to specific use  
106 cases or require considerable data preparation to perform standardisation. Moreover, their  
107 final output is not easily accessible by common data preprocessing tools and thus hinders  
108 the application of AI.

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## 110 **Methods**

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### 112 *FHIR-DHP Development*

113 In our work, we propose a generic solution to harmonise hospital EHR data. The FHIR-DHP  
114 was designed based on the Extract-Transform-Load (ETL) framework (19) in which the data is  
115 pulled out (i.e. queried) from diverse sources, processed into the desired format and loaded  
116 into a data warehouse, namely the "patient-model DB". As the hospital database (DB)

117 contains highly sensitive patient data, it is located behind the hospital's security  
118 infrastructure and is completely isolated from outside access. Therefore, an edge-  
119 computation solution was designed, bringing the FHIR-DHP into the hospital's own  
120 infrastructure. The edge-computation solution represents a set of frameworks which  
121 perform data querying, preprocessing, storage and export. In this setting, direct access to  
122 the sensitive data is not required to run the standardisation pipeline. The queries to the data  
123 are defined beforehand based on the database documentation.

124 To bring the data into a harmonised form we used Fast Healthcare Interoperability  
125 Resources (FHIR) data model which is applied by mapping the relationships between the  
126 source database and the desired data standard. The FHIR standard is straightforward to  
127 implement because it provides a choice of JavaScript Object Notation (JSON), Extensible  
128 Markup Language (XML), or Resource Description Format (RDF) for data representation. The  
129 mapping pipeline was developed in Python programming language to translate queried  
130 hospital data into matching FHIR concepts and save the resulting resources in JSON format.  
131 The conversion to FHIR was designed to only support a core standard of the FHIR format to  
132 allow generic data preprocessing.

133 Syntactic validation of FHIR resources is necessary in the remote data standardisation  
134 scenario to prevent errors. For instance, conversion of data types can sometimes lead to  
135 wrong values, especially with date features. Automatic syntactic validation allows logging of  
136 occurred errors and improvement of standardisation pipeline when working with unseen  
137 data. After the mapped data is validated, FHIR resources should be sent to the database for  
138 storage to allow fast and easy retrieval of preprocessed data for AI applications.

139 In the final stage of data export, we designed the output that provides the benefits of the  
140 original FHIR format with a high level of clinical detail, yet which is also easily accessible for  
141 computational tools. Moreover, we wanted to restructure the data representation in a way  
142 which supports effortless data selection and filtering capabilities and which would not require  
143 knowledge of *FHIRPath* query language. Consequently, such output format would enable  
144 smooth conversion of data into a “tensor” format required by conventional AI frameworks.

#### 145 *FHIR-DHP Validation*

146 To demonstrate and evaluate how the FHIR-DHP works, we used the openly available  
147 Medical Information Mart for Intensive Care IV (MIMIC IV) database (20). MIMIC IV includes  
148 patient data from over 40,000 individuals admitted to intensive care units at a tertiary  
149 academic medical center in Boston, MA. We selected a wide range of tables from MIMIC IV  
150 which cover most of the events occurring during the hospital stay as well as core patient  
151 details, information about admissions and hospital transfers (further referred as core tables).  
152 The event tables include laboratory results, diagnoses, prescriptions and other details as  
153 shown in **Table 1**. MIMIC IV includes so-called reference tables containing matching  
154 dictionaries with medical terms which are used in the hospital records.

155

156 **Table 1.** The table lists selected core and event MIMIC IV tables as well as the reference dictionary tables  
157 which were merged together with core and event tables for FHIR mapping.

Selected core and event MIMIC IV tables	Selected MIMIC IV reference tables
Patient	
Admissions	
Transfers	
Chartevents	d_items
Labevents	d_labitems
Procedureevents	d_items
Prescriptions	
Inputevents	d_items
Microbiologyevents	
Outputevents	d_items
Procedures_icd	d_icd_procedures
Diagnoses_icd	d_icd_diagnoses

158

159 The selected tables were mapped to FHIR standard. Automatic semantic validation is  
160 unfeasible, so two of the authors manually validated the mapping semantics independently  
161 of each other. There are many tools which perform automatic syntactic validation, such as  
162 the Python-based package `fhir.resources` used herein (21). To evaluate the exporting of data  
163 from the patient-model DB, we retrieved diagnoses records.

164

## 165 **Results**

### 166 *FHIR-DHP Architecture*

167

168 The approach presented herein represents a scalable protocol for harmonising hospital EHR  
169 datasets based on five stages from data query to data export in a standardised format.

170

#### 171 *1. Querying data from the hospital database*

172 To connect the FHIR-DHP pipeline to the hospital DB, a communication server is employed.  
173 This server runs all necessary queries to retrieve the patient data. The query execution can  
174 be run at regular intervals as well as in batches of patients, so as not to overload the data  
175 pipeline. Furthermore, the queries pre-structure the data according to their semantic  
176 relations before proceeding to data mapping.

#### 177 *2. Mapping data to FHIR*

178 FHIR allows describing data formats and elements which are recorded as "resources" and an  
179 application of a programming interface (API) for exchanging EHRs. To perform the mappings,  
180 semantics of features from the source database and FHIR concepts are explored as well as  
181 relationships between the data tables. Consequently, the mappings between the database

182 tables and FHIR resources are defined. Features where a matching FHIR concept is not found  
183 are excluded. The resulting FHIR resources are then saved in JSON format.

184

### 185 *3. Syntactic validation of FHIR mappings*

186 During validation, mapped data is ensured to have the correct data types as well as the  
187 syntactic format where the hierarchy is maintained and entries follow FHIR standard  
188 specifications. All mappings are validated first during the development stage to identify  
189 structural errors and data type inconsistencies. A validation algorithm is incorporated into  
190 the pipeline to confirm the correctness of transformed data in the remote data  
191 standardisation scenario.

192

### 193 *4. Transferring FHIR resources to patient-model DB*

194 The database of choice for the patient-model is Postgres (22) which is an open-source  
195 relational database management system (RDBMS) featuring SQL compliance and storage of  
196 JSON documents. PostgreSQL allows handling both small and large workloads. The database  
197 for FHIR resources is used to harmonise the locally available data only once to allow further  
198 application of various medical AI-based solutions. The data is stored according to FHIR  
199 resource type where each resource is saved in a separate JSON structure.

### 200 *5. Exporting data into custom JSON format*

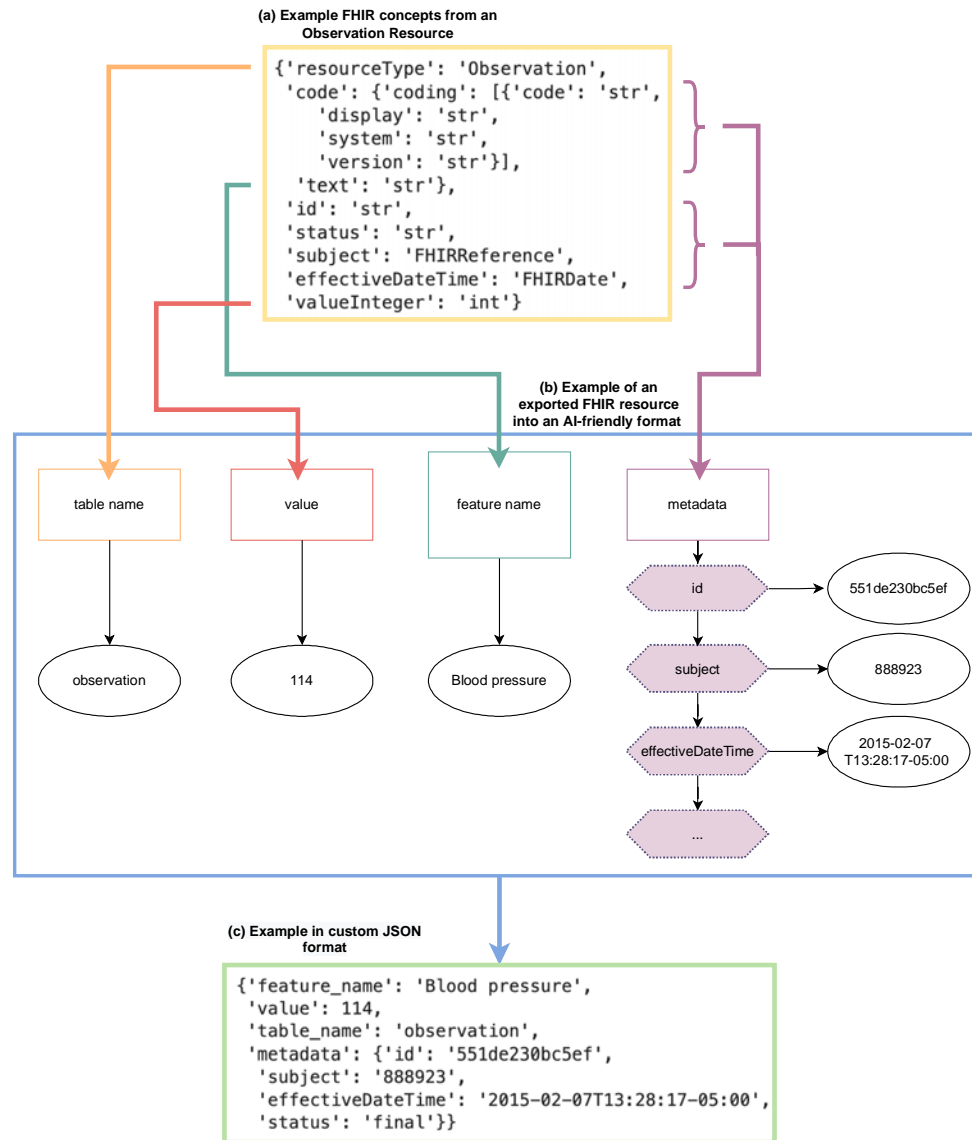
201 To export the data from the patient-model DB, the selection is performed by outlining the  
202 tables and features of interest in a configuration file which is then used to determine which  
203 data is queried from the patient-model DB. Following that, the data is exported into the  
204 custom JSON file adhering to specific formatting rules in respect of its key-value structure. To  
205 create a custom JSON structure, *FHIRPath* queries were written to retrieve all elements from  
206 FHIR resources. Such transformation flattens the hierarchical structure of FHIR resources and



207 makes the data more accessible for common data preprocessing tools. The final flattened  
208 output does not require expert knowledge of *FHIRPath* query language and supports  
209 effortless data selection and filtering. The resulting file allows uncomplicated conversion of  
210 data into a “tensor” format required by conventional AI frameworks and fast data selection  
211 based on four keys: feature\_name, table\_name, value and metadata.

212 In **Figure 1**, we demonstrate how the FHIR-DHP recodes nested FHIR syntax to more  
213 accessible features in an AI-friendly format. Example FHIR concepts from an Observation  
214 resource are given in **Figure 1a** where the code’s entity “text” defines the record or  
215 measurement label. The entity “text” is often duplicated in the item “display”. However,  
216 depending on the coding system this “display” item can change, whereas “text” always stays  
217 the same and is therefore used as a feature name. The information from the FHIR resource is  
218 grouped into four concept-keys such as feature name (ex. “Blood pressure”), value (ex.  
219 “114”), table name (ex. “observation”) and metadata (**Figure 1b**). For a given FHIR resource  
220 type, the metadata may include concepts such as dates, references, coding system details,  
221 resource ID amongst other things. As an output, feature names together with a  
222 corresponding value and available metadata are provided in a custom JSON structure (**Figure**  
223 **1c**). The defined format allows uncomplicated data selection and aggregation based on  
224 resource type (ex. “table\_name”), feature name and value. Additional information in a  
225 standardised format can be easily accessed from the metadata key and allows further data  
226 manipulation.

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Figure 1. Conceptual overview for an exemplary FHIR structure and hospital record which are transformed from FHIR standard to an AI-friendly format.

### 232 FHIR-DHP Validation

233 The MIMIC IV data was queried accordingly to the defined FHIR mappings. The core and  
234 event MIMIC IV tables were merged with reference tables to contain complete description  
235 of the hospital records. As a result, the data was grouped and restructured into the  
236 information blocks required in FHIR standard. Manual independent validation of the  
237 mapping semantics resulted in slight discrepancies which were subsequently resolved to

238 adhere closely to the FHIR standard. The automatic syntactic validation allowed prompt  
239 verification of standardisation operations.

240 **Table 2** shows to which FHIR resources the MIMIC IV tables were mapped. The largest  
241 proportion of tables (4 out of 12 tables) were mapped to the *Observation* FHIR resource type  
242 which included lab, microbiology, output and charted events collected throughout the  
243 patient stay. The information on admissions and transfers was translated into the *Encounter*  
244 FHIR resource (2 out of 12 tables). Procedure events and ICD codes (2 out of 12 tables) were  
245 stored in the *Procedure* FHIR resource. Given that the prescriptions table contains  
246 medication requests (1 out of 12 tables) and inpuvents table holds records of medication  
247 administration (1 out of 12 tables), these tables were mapped to corresponding FHIR  
248 resource types. Finally, the *Condition* FHIR resource was used to map the table with patients'  
249 diagnoses details (1 out of 12 tables).

250 Table 2. Overview of mappings performed on the selected MIMIC DB tables to FHIR resource types.

MIMIC IV DB	FHIR Resource Type
Patients	Patient
Admissions	Encounter
Transfers	Encounter
Chartevents	Observation
Labevents	Observation
Procedureevents	Procedure
Prescriptions	MedicationRequest
Inputevents	MedicationAdministration
Microbiologyevents	Observation
Outputevents	Observation
Procedure_icd	Procedure
Diagnoses_icd	Condition

251

252 In **Table 3**, we demonstrate how the mapping of the MIMIC IV “diagnoses\_icd” table to  
253 *Condition* FHIR resource was conducted. Multiple columns of the “diagnoses\_icd” table such  
254 as “icd\_code”, “icd\_version” and “long\_title” were mapped to FHIR “condition.code”  
255 concept, which has a nested structure and provides keys to store the exact ICD code, version

256 of the coding system and the code title. The full diagnosis title was mapped both to the  
257 “display” and “text” entities.

258 Table 3. Mapping of “diagnoses\_icd” table to Condition FHIR resource.

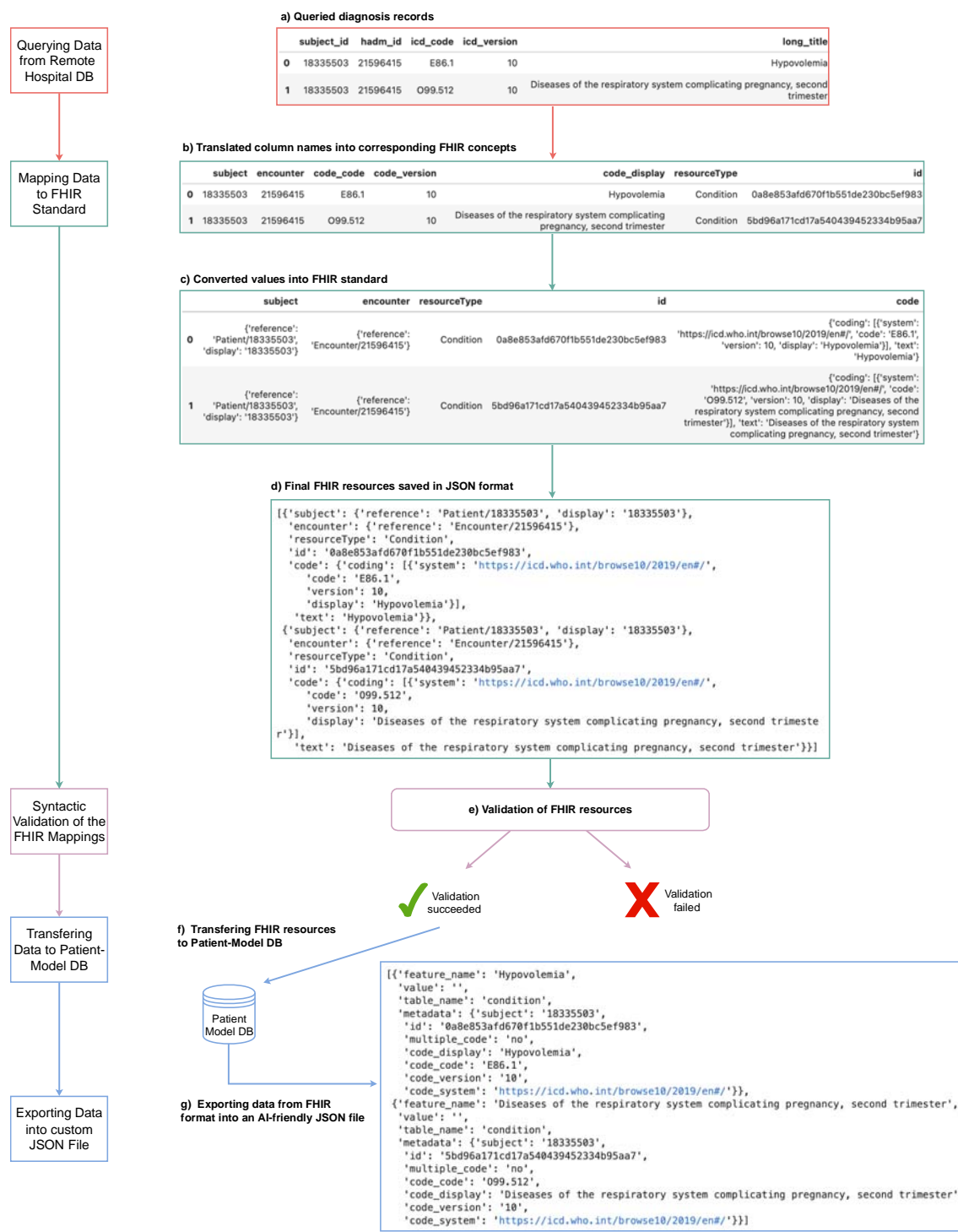
MIMIC format	FHIR resource format
mimic.diagnoses_icd.subject_id	fhir.condition.subject
mimic.diagnoses_icd.hadm_id	fhir.condition.encounter
mimic.diagnoses_icd.icd_code	fhir.condition.code_code
mimic.diagnoses_icd.icd_version	fhir.condition.code_version
mimic.diagnoses_icd.long_title	fhir.condition.code_display
mimic.diagnoses_icd.long_title	fhir.condition.code_text

259

260 **Figure 2** shows an example of how queried diagnoses records are harmonised to an AI-  
261 friendly format. The standardisation follows the described FHIR-DHP stages. At first, the raw  
262 data from tables “diagnoses\_icd” and “d\_icd\_diagnoses” is queried (**Figure 2a**) and merged  
263 accordingly to the defined FHIR mappings. Then the features are renamed as defined in  
264 **Table 3** for FHIR Condition resource and required entities such as “resourceType” and “id”  
265 are created (**Figure 2b**). Finally, the values are placed into a nested FHIR structure (**Figure**  
266 **2c**), and subsequently the data is transformed into JSON format (**Figure 2d**), which can be  
267 automatically validated (**Figure 2e**) and saved in the patient-model DB. When the resource is  
268 not approved in terms of its syntactic quality, e.g. data type, nested structure or cardinality,  
269 an error is raised which prevents further saving of this resource in the patient-model DB  
270 (**Figure 2e**). Otherwise, the resource is transferred into a storage (**Figure 2f**) and the  
271 requested data is exported in a custom AI-friendly JSON format (**Figure 2g**).

272 We provide an example of further two-step transformation of harmonised example  
273 diagnoses data to a “tensor” format in Supplementary Material, chapter A.

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Figure 2. Flow chart showing an example diagnoses data being processed through the five stages in FHIR-DHP. The first stage includes querying of the diagnoses records (a), at the second stage the data is mapped to FHIR standard (b-c), and the third stage carries out the syntactic resource validation. If the FHIR resource is successfully validated, it is being transferred into the patient-model DB (f) and then exported in a custom AI-friendly JSON format (g).

285 **Discussion**

286

287 Harmonisation of EHR data is a crucial step towards increasing cooperation, interoperability  
288 and quality of patient care in the clinical routine and medical research. To drive  
289 harmonisation of medical data forward, we developed the FHIR-DHP and evaluated it on key  
290 MIMIC IV tables. A detailed example of data standardisation was presented for clinical  
291 diagnoses records from the MIMIC IV database. The FHIR-DHP allows querying of health data  
292 in an isolated environment employing an edge-computation solution and a communication  
293 server which retrieve patient data and pre-structure it for further mapping to the FHIR  
294 standard. A validation step ensures syntactic compliance and initiates transfer of formatted  
295 data to the patient-model DB. The data export provides FHIR resources in a custom JSON file  
296 format.

297 Owing to the FHIR format's multi-layered nested structure, its accessibility for AI algorithms  
298 is low as it requires transformation into a format compatible with common data  
299 preprocessing tools. Up to the present time, a number of studies have attempted to solve  
300 this problem. However, the final output of these studies has not supported data selection  
301 criteria and filtering capabilities (16) and requires expert knowledge of *FHIRPath* query  
302 language (17). Here, we introduce a custom JSON format which represents a higher level of  
303 abstraction to support easier data selection based on four keys: `feature_name`, `table_name`,  
304 `value` and `metadata`. Moreover, the newly developed JSON structure fits the expected data  
305 format of common data preprocessing frameworks, which are designed to work efficiently  
306 with tabular data. As a result, the output presented facilitates generic and fast deployment of  
307 AI and patient cohort identification algorithms.

308 In comparison to (12,13), the details of FHIR-DHP execution inside the hospital environment  
309 to protect data privacy are discussed. This step, though crucial, is often omitted and left out  
310 of the published standardisation protocols. The edge-computation solution sets up the FHIR-  
311 DHP in a privacy-preserving way where preprocessing of the patient-related data is  
312 performed inside the hospital and is completely isolated from outside access. So-called  
313 federated learning (FL) framework (23) can be integrated into FHIR-DHP workflow to run  
314 algorithms locally using the data on the on-premise component in the respective hospitals  
315 and to merge model parameters centrally in the cloud without any patient data leaving the  
316 hospital. The FL framework requires data to be in a consistent format across various hospital  
317 systems. The developed pipeline achieves such a format and enables scaling of AI  
318 applications. Furthermore, given the degree of automation, the setup of the pipeline  
319 facilitates preprocessing of unseen data in an isolated hospital environment, which makes  
320 the harmonisation privacy-preserving.

321 To the date of publication of this paper, there are only two studies attempting to perform  
322 mapping of MIMIC IV database (24,25). In (24), the mapping was performed on fewer tables  
323 than our approach (8 versus 12 tables). The FHIR mappings from (25) have been recently  
324 released and were not yet widely validated. Similarly to (12,13,24), FHIR-DHP includes  
325 verification of the performed FHIR mapping which is essential to ensure validity of data  
326 transformation. An automated syntactic verification of translated to FHIR data is crucial to  
327 adhere to FHIR version updates. Moreover, in comparison to (12,13,24), FHIR-DHP  
328 represents a generic approach to standardise EHR data and can be applied to various  
329 hospital database systems.

330 The FHIR-DHP allows integration into the hospital data management system which facilitates  
331 the development and application of advanced AI and patient cohort identification algorithms

332 without compromising on data privacy protection laws. With the introduction of the FHIR-  
333 DHP into the hospital environment, a number of patient stay parameters can be potentially  
334 optimised using AI-based algorithms. For example, the length of stay as well as mortality  
335 could be reduced (26) and patients suitable for trial treatment could be automatically and  
336 efficiently identified (27). In consequence the financial impact on medical providers in  
337 respect of personnel time and resources would decrease considerably. The FHIR-DHP aims to  
338 bring healthcare closer to digital transformation and thus towards Healthcare 4.0 (28) by  
339 making EHR data usable “from bedside-to-bench”. By inverting the idea of translational  
340 research, in contrast to “from bench-to-bedside”, accessing the full potential of medical big  
341 data with AI will further inform and advance basic research.

342 There are several limitations that we would like to emphasise. FHIR-DHP only works with a  
343 core standard of the FHIR format. Those core FHIR resource types have a bounded set of  
344 concepts which presents a constraint to mapping accuracy. Although the standard resources  
345 can be expanded using profiling technique or FHIR extensions, the use of those would make  
346 the FHIR-DHP less generic. Hence, we implemented the mapping using only the standard  
347 FHIR resources and omitted some of the MIMIC IV data features which did not have a  
348 matching concept in FHIR. Additionally, the FHIR mapping step is subject to the extent of the  
349 detail of the database documentation used to infer semantic and syntactic properties of the  
350 data. A solution for an automatic concept recognition can potentially solve this problem. The  
351 existing approach in (6) is limited to a small number of FHIR resources and requires an  
352 extensive data preparation. Further experiments in this direction could alleviate the concept  
353 matching problem and the requirement for a detailed database description. Moreover, the  
354 validation and robustness of FHIR-DHP needs to be tested on other EHR datasets to evaluate



355 its generic setup. In addition, to validate the FHIR-DHP compatibility with machine learning  
356 pipelines, further experiments are needed.

357 The proposed FHIR-DHP pipeline highlights the therein featured essential data  
358 standardisation stages and holds the potential to becoming an interoperable harmonisation  
359 system with an AI-friendly data format. FHIR-DHP enables interoperability and cooperation  
360 between clinical institutions, rapid patient cohort identification for clinical trials and unlocks  
361 the potential of big medical data.

## 362 **Conclusions**

363

364 We provide a comprehensive approach to transforming unstandardised EHR data into a  
365 harmonised multi-layered nested FHIR format and then to a more readable, more efficient  
366 AI-friendly JSON structure. We developed a five-stage data harmonisation pipeline, which  
367 includes validation checks. The AI-friendly format of patient data allows generic and fast  
368 integration of both AI and patient cohort identification algorithms. Harmonised and  
369 standardised health care data is of great value to advancing efficiency in big data processing,  
370 cooperation and multi-center data exchange in the clinical sector, in order to boost medical  
371 research, patient care and clinical trial cohort identification. The next steps would include  
372 validating our approach in a hospital environment and applying privacy-preserving FL  
373 framework to make use of advanced AI deployment.

374

## 375 **Acknowledgements**

376 Not applicable.

377

## 378 **List of abbreviations**

379

Abbreviation	Full name
DHP	Data Harmonisation Pipeline

EHR	Electronic Health Record
FHIR	Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources
JSON	JavaScript Object Notation
MIMIC	Medical Information Mart for Intensive Care
RDF	Resource Description Format
XML	Extensible Markup Language

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383 **Declarations**

384

385 *Availability of data and materials*

386 MIMIC IV database which was used in this study is openly available to credentialed users  
387 who sign “Data Use Agreement” at PhysioNet website (20). The code is not publicly available  
388 due to privacy but a demo is available from the corresponding author on request.

389

390 *Conflict of interest*

391 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

392

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396

397 *Authors' contributions*

398 Study conception: EW, SN, MK, JR, AM

399 Data analysis: EW, MK

400 Figures: EW, SN, EM

401 Methods: EW, MK, AM, SN

402 Writing: EW, EM, JR, SAIK

403 Revising: BA, JB, PVB, JC, ARF, ASP, NS

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408

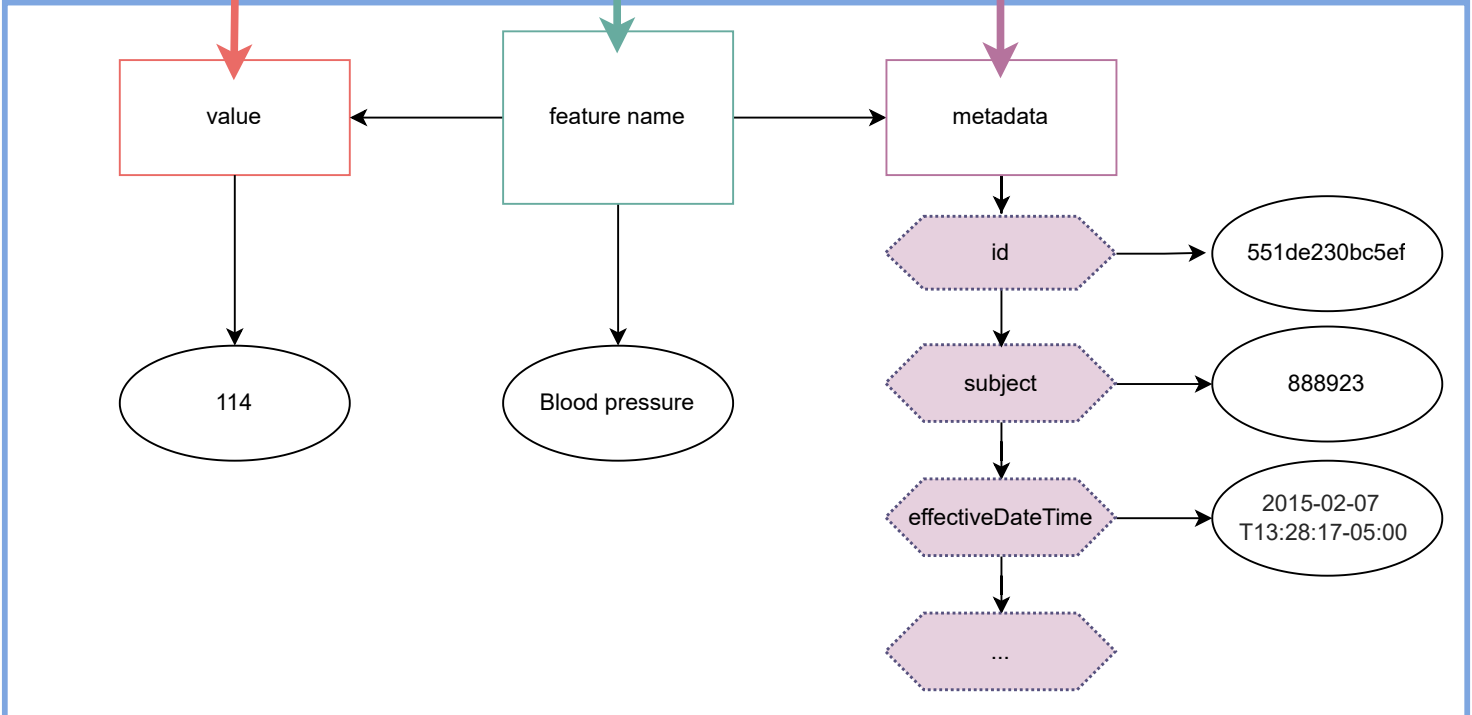
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(a) Example FHIR concepts from an Observation Resource

```
{'code': {'coding': [{'code': 'str',  
  'display': 'str',  
  'system': 'str',  
  'version': 'str'}],  
'text': 'str'},  
'id': 'str',  
'status': 'str',  
'subject': 'FHIRReference',  
'effectiveDateTime': 'FHIRDate',  
'valueInteger': 'int'}
```

(b) Example of an exported FHIR resource into an AI-friendly format



(c) Example in custom AI-friendly JSON format

```
{'feature_name': 'Blood pressure',  
'value': 114,  
'table_name': 'observation',  
'metadata': {'id': '551de230bc5ef',  
'subject': '888923',  
'effectiveDateTime': '2015-02-07T13:28:17-05:00',  
'status': 'final'}}
```

Querying Data from Remote Hospital DB

a) Queried diagnosis records

	subject_id	hadm_id	icd_code	icd_version	long_title
0	18335503	21596415	E86.1	10	Hypovolemia
1	18335503	21596415	O99.512	10	Diseases of the respiratory system complicating pregnancy, second trimester

Mapping Data to FHIR Standard

b) Translated column names into corresponding FHIR concepts

	subject	encounter	code_code	code_version	code_display	resourceType	id
0	18335503	21596415	E86.1	10	Hypovolemia	Condition	0a8e853afd670f1b551de230bc5ef983
1	18335503	21596415	O99.512	10	Diseases of the respiratory system complicating pregnancy, second trimester	Condition	5bd96a171cd17a540439452334b95aa7

c) Converted values into FHIR standard

	subject	encounter	resourceType	id	code
0	{'reference': 'Patient/18335503', 'display': '18335503'}	{'reference': 'Encounter/21596415'}	Condition	0a8e853afd670f1b551de230bc5ef983	{'coding': [{'system': 'https://icd.who.int/browse10/2019/en#/', 'code': 'E86.1', 'version': 10, 'display': 'Hypovolemia'}], 'text': 'Hypovolemia'}
1	{'reference': 'Patient/18335503', 'display': '18335503'}	{'reference': 'Encounter/21596415'}	Condition	5bd96a171cd17a540439452334b95aa7	{'coding': [{'system': 'https://icd.who.int/browse10/2019/en#/', 'code': 'O99.512', 'version': 10, 'display': 'Diseases of the respiratory system complicating pregnancy, second trimester'}], 'text': 'Diseases of the respiratory system complicating pregnancy, second trimester'}

d) Final FHIR resources saved in JSON format

```
[{'subject': {'reference': 'Patient/18335503', 'display': '18335503'},
'encounter': {'reference': 'Encounter/21596415'},
'resourceType': 'Condition',
'id': '0a8e853afd670f1b551de230bc5ef983',
'code': {'coding': [{'system': 'https://icd.who.int/browse10/2019/en#/',
'code': 'E86.1',
'version': 10,
'display': 'Hypovolemia'}],
'text': 'Hypovolemia'}},
{'subject': {'reference': 'Patient/18335503', 'display': '18335503'},
'encounter': {'reference': 'Encounter/21596415'},
'resourceType': 'Condition',
'id': '5bd96a171cd17a540439452334b95aa7',
'code': {'coding': [{'system': 'https://icd.who.int/browse10/2019/en#/',
'code': 'O99.512',
'version': 10,
'display': 'Diseases of the respiratory system complicating pregnancy, second trimester'}],
'text': 'Diseases of the respiratory system complicating pregnancy, second trimester'}}
```

Syntactic Validation of the FHIR Mappings

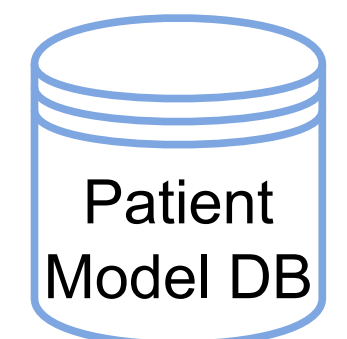
e) Validation of FHIR resources

✓ Validation succeeded

✗ Validation failed

Transferring Data to Patient-Model DB

f) Transferring FHIR resources to Patient-Model DB



Exporting Data into custom JSON File

g) Exporting data from FHIR format into an AI-friendly JSON file

```
[{'feature_name': 'Hypovolemia',
'value': '',
'table_name': 'condition',
'metadata': {'subject': '18335503',
'id': '0a8e853afd670f1b551de230bc5ef983',
'multiple_code': 'no',
'code_display': 'Hypovolemia',
'code_code': 'E86.1',
'code_version': '10',
'code_system': 'https://icd.who.int/browse10/2019/en#/'}},
{'feature_name': 'Diseases of the respiratory system complicating pregnancy, second trimester',
'value': '',
'table_name': 'condition',
'metadata': {'subject': '18335503',
'id': '5bd96a171cd17a540439452334b95aa7',
'multiple_code': 'no',
'code_code': 'O99.512',
'code_display': 'Diseases of the respiratory system complicating pregnancy, second trimester',
'code_version': '10',
'code_system': 'https://icd.who.int/browse10/2019/en#/'}}]
```

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