



# Cleaning and analysis of the SCTS database

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# Structure: 20 March 2012

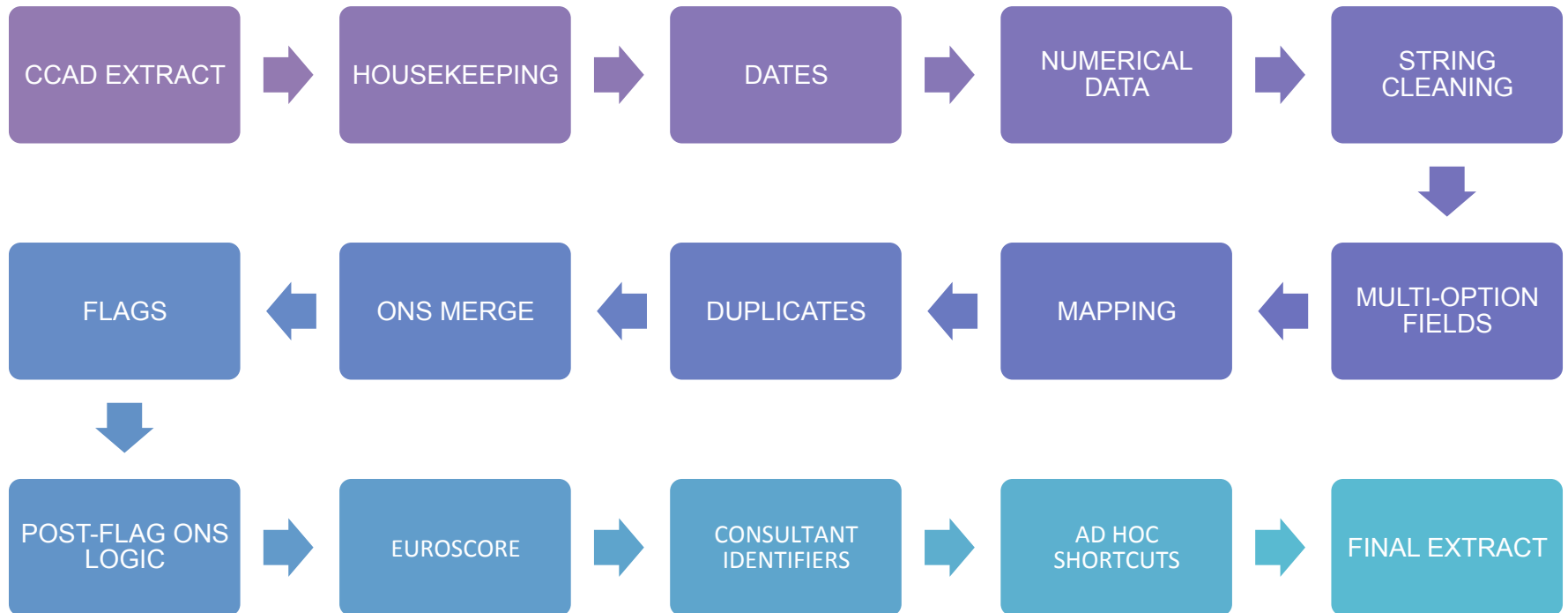
- 444,289 records pre-cleaning
- 422,493 records post-cleaning
- 181 fields made available
- 45 hospitals in UK and Ireland

- Real world data is messy:


- missingness
- measurement error
- conflicts / miscoding

} requires cleaning

# Cleaning schema



# Implementation

- : a language and environment for statistical computing and graphics
- Transparent (common S language and open source)
- Sharable (free software);
- Reproducible (tweak and re-run)
- Programmable reports (data organisation, cleaning, analysis, presentation)
- Seamless transition from cleaning to analysis

# Database in action

The image shows a Mac desktop environment with several R console windows open. The top window displays a data table with columns for hospital information, gender, administrative category, and various clinical status indicators. The bottom window shows R code for data processing and visualization, including a function for checking EuroSCORE and a plot for mortality records. A red arrow labeled "Cleaning" points from the R console to the "audit.r" window, and another red arrow labeled "Analysis" points from the "audit.r" window back to the R console.

```
~/Dropbox/Work/SCTS/Database/v6.4 Help Search
```

PAP. Papworth Hospital	X1.01.Hospital	X1.07.Gender	X1.08.Administrative.Category
BHL. Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital:	18053	1. Male :308246	1. NHS :351074
BRI. Bristol Royal Infirmary	: 17705	2. Female:114046	2. Private: 21981
STH. St Thomas Hospital	: 17280		
LGI. Leeds General Infirmary	: 14755		
FRE. Freeman Hospital	: 14422		
(Other)	:321004		

```
X2.01.Angina.Status.Pre.Surgery : 24935
0. No angina : 92760
1. No limitation of physical activity : 45828
2. Slight limitation of ordinary activity :116572
3. Marked limitation of ordinary physical activity: 98522
4. Symptoms at rest or minimal activity : 43876

X2.02.Dyspnoea.Status.Pre.Surgery : 11700
1. No limitation of physical activity :106802
2. Slight limitation of ordinary physical activity:166748
3. Marked limitation of ordinary physical activity:112873
4. Symptoms at rest or minimal activity : 24370

X2.03.N.Previous.MI : 12846
0. None :262837
1. One :113710
2. Two or more: 24854
9. Unknown : 8246

X2.04.Interval.between.Surgery.and.last.MI : 21894
0. No previous MI:261693
1. MI < 6 hours : 894
2. MI 6-24 hours : 1756
3. MI 1-30 days : 34646
4. MI 31-90 days : 26882
5. MI > 90 days : 74728

X2.05.Previous.PCI : 42091
0. No previous PCI :352985
1. PCI < 24 hours before surgery : 2155
2. PCI >24 hours before surgery; same admission : 2280
3. PCI >24 hours before surgery; previous admission: 22982

X2.07.Previous.Surgical.Interventions X2.08.Date.Last.Cardiac.Operation
0. No previous surgery :350716 Min. :1967-01-01
: 44835 1st Qu.:1988-07-05
2. Valve : 8188 Median :1996-03-14
1. CABG : 8111 Mean :1995-03-01
3. Congenital cardiac : 1762 3rd Qu.:2002-09-16
9. Other peripheral vascular: 1675 Max. :2011-12-22
```

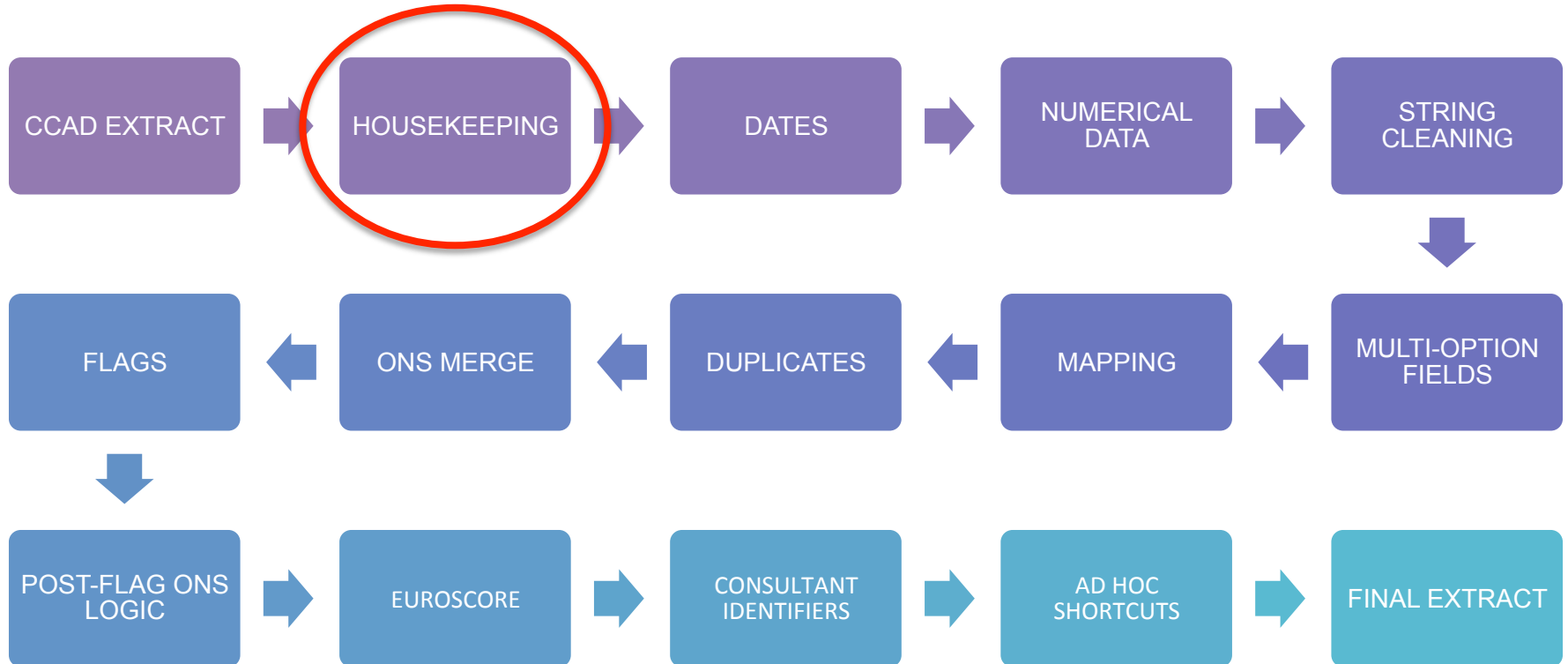
```
do.flag.R
do.flag
Help search
```

```
45 x$Dead.flag2 = x$Dead.flag
46 x406 = as.Date(x$X4.06.Discharge.Date)
47 LS.Date = as.Date(x$LS.Date)
48 LS.Status = x$LS.Status
49
50 x$Dead.flag2[is.na(x$Dead.flag2) & (LS.Date == x406) & (LS.Status == "Dead")] = TRUE
51 x$Dead.flag2[is.na(x$Dead.flag2) & (LS.Date >= x406) & (LS.Status == "Alive")] = FALSE
52
53 #-----
54
55 ## Valve procedure
56
57 x323 = x$X3.23.Aortic.Valve.Explant
58 x324 = x$X3.24.Mitral.Valve.Explant
59 x325 = x$X3.25.Tricuspid.Valve.Explant
60 x326 = x$X3.26.Pulmonary.Valve.Explant
61 x327 = x$X3.27.Natural.Orifice.Valve.Path
62 x328 = x$X3.28.Natural.Orifice.Valve.Path
63 x329 = x$X3.29.Natural.Orifice.Tricuspid.Valve.Path
64 x330 = x$X3.30.Natural.Orifice.Pulmonary.Valve.Path
65 x335 = x$X3.35.Reason.Repeat.aortic.valve.replacement
```

```
audit.r
EuroSCORE.check
Help search
```

```
603 # Using ONS back-filled + default fields over last 3 financial years +
604 # stack by urgency
605 miss.mort2 = summarise(Dead.flag2 ~ X1.01.Hospital + X2.35.Operative.Urgency,
606 data = subset(x.sub, !is.na(Dead.flag2) & fin.year %in% c("2008", "2009", "2010")),
607 FUN = function(u) summarise(
608
609
610 names(miss.mort2) = c("hospital", "urgency", "count")
611 miss.mort2$hospital = factor(
612 miss.mort2$hospital,
613 levels = levels(miss.mort2$hospital)[order(miss.mort2$count)]
614 p = ggplot(miss.mort2, aes(x = hospital, y = count, fill = urgency))
615 p = p + geom_bar()
616 p + opts(axis.text.x = theme_text(angle = -90, hjust = 0),
617 title = "Number of missing 'ONS back-filled' in-hospital mortality records (2008-11) ")
618
619 #-----
620
621 ## Validation tables (mitral surgery counts) by financial year + hospital
622
623 mitral.table = function(x.sub, year = "2010") {
```

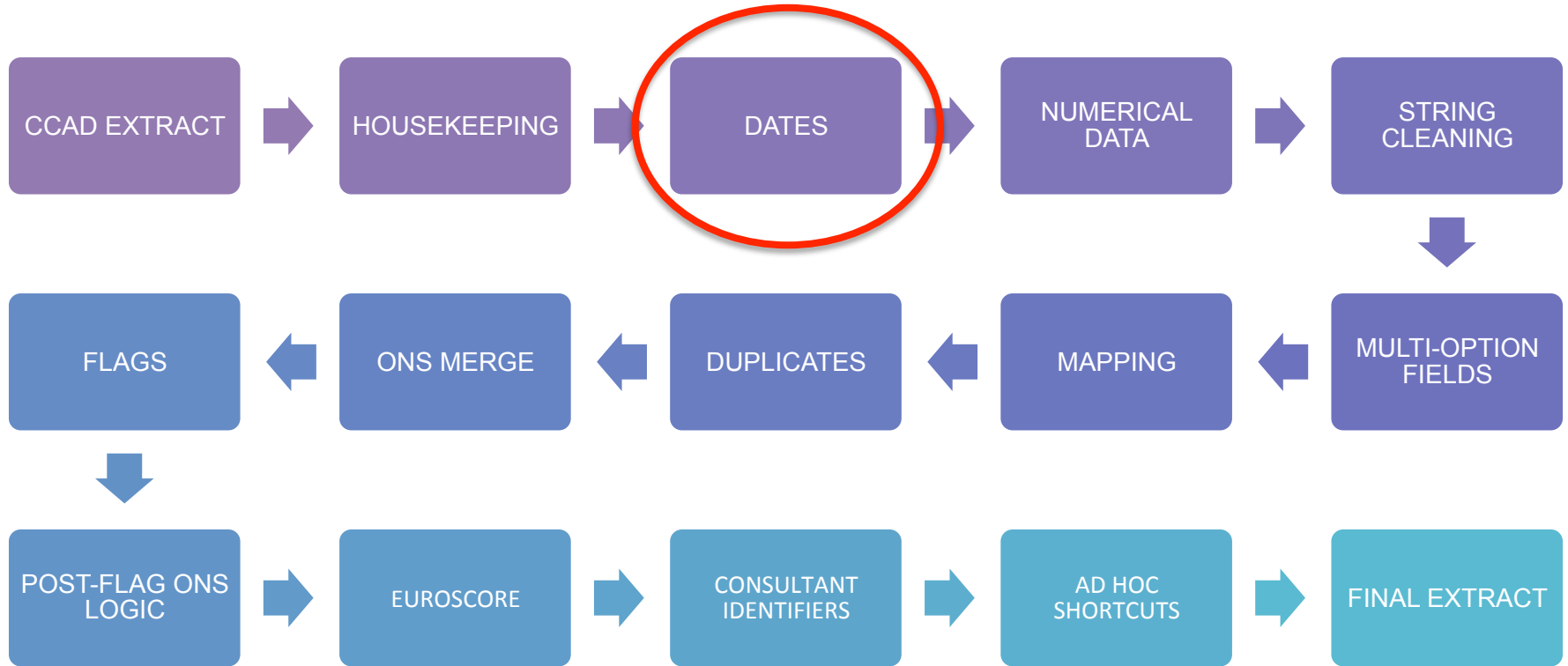
# Cleaning schema



# Housekeeping

- Remove identifiable fields
- Delete free text and low-importance fields
- Tidy-up field names (spelling, whitespace, etc.)

# Cleaning schema

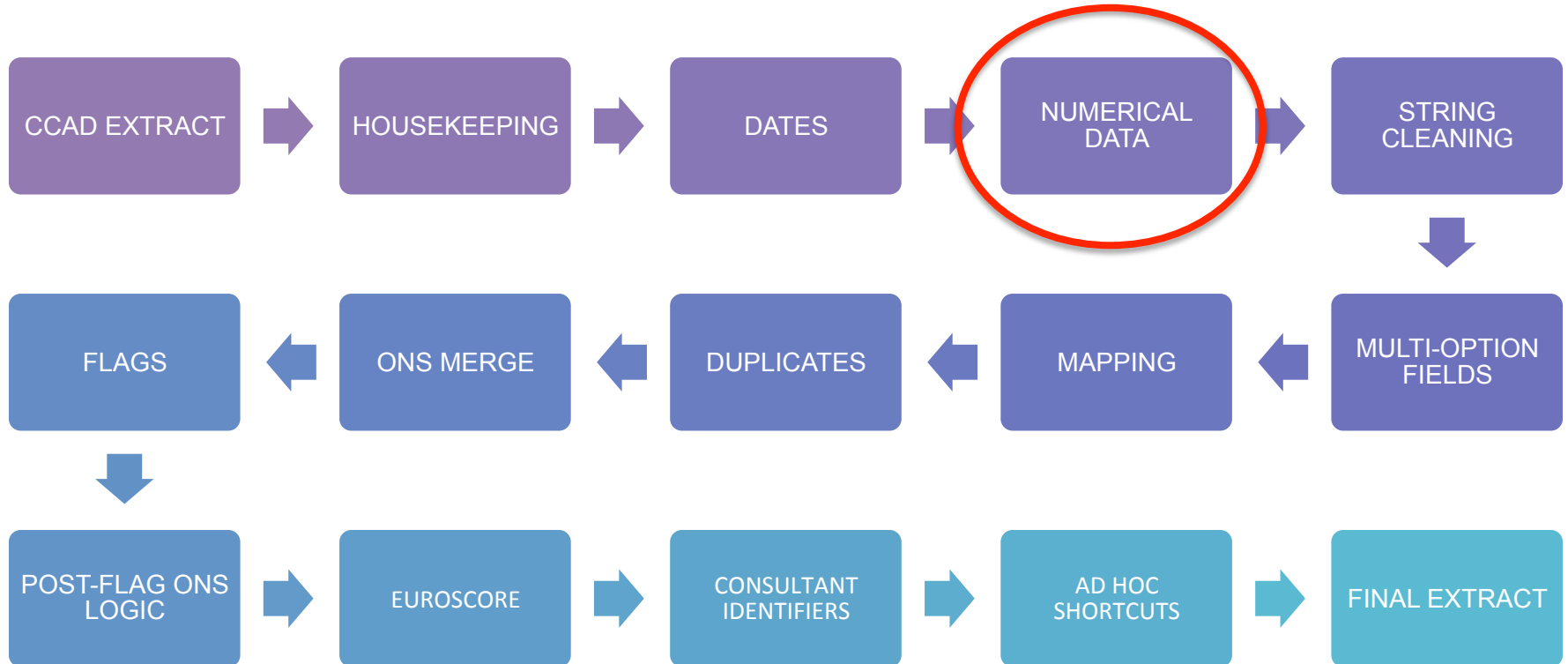




# Dates

- Formatting – time discarded except for procedure
- Delete records < 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1998
- Delete dates (pre-67 and future)
- Delete records not satisfying sensible logic:  
admission  $\leq$  procedure  $\leq$  discharge

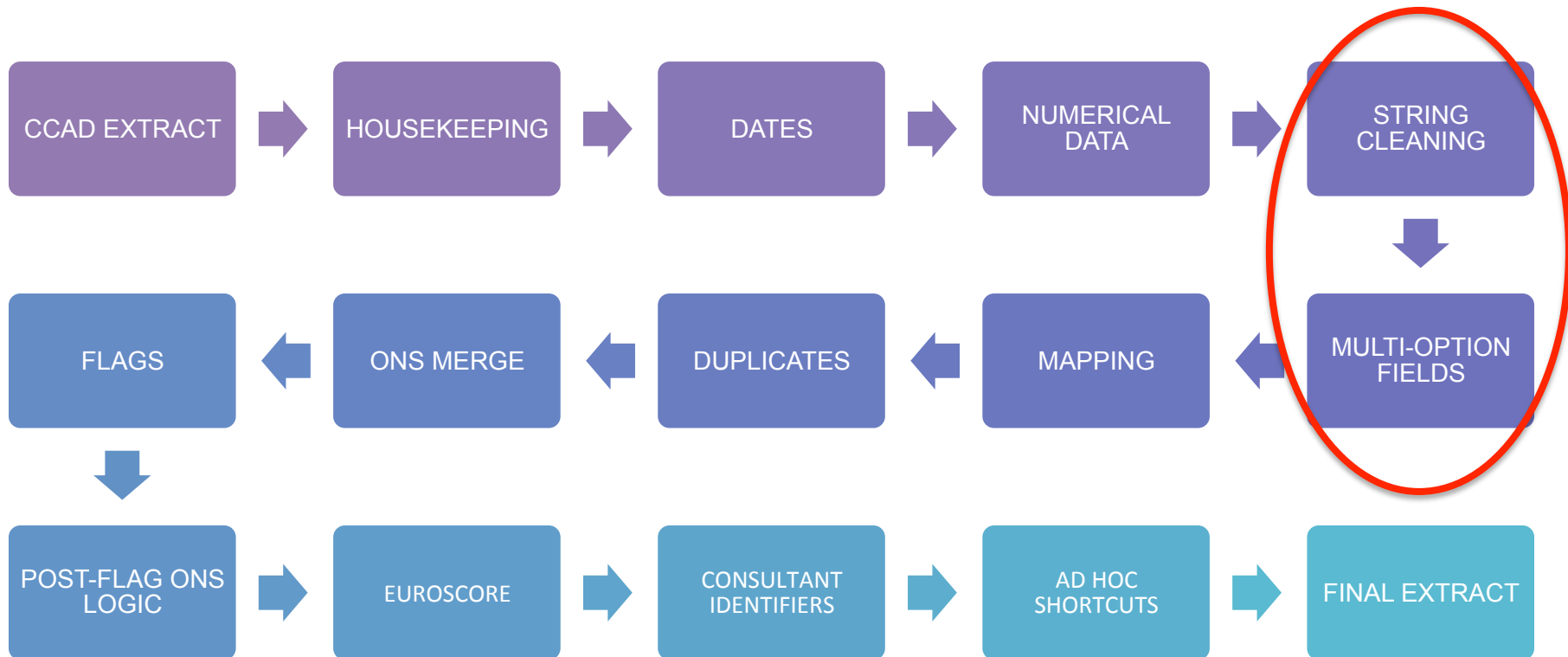
# Cleaning schema



# Numerical data

- Delete free text and symbols
- Delete impossible values (e.g. 5 valves operated on)
- Delete [clinically] unlikely values (e.g. > 11 grafts)
- Resolve 'obvious' serial imputation errors (e.g. height recorded in mm and not cm)

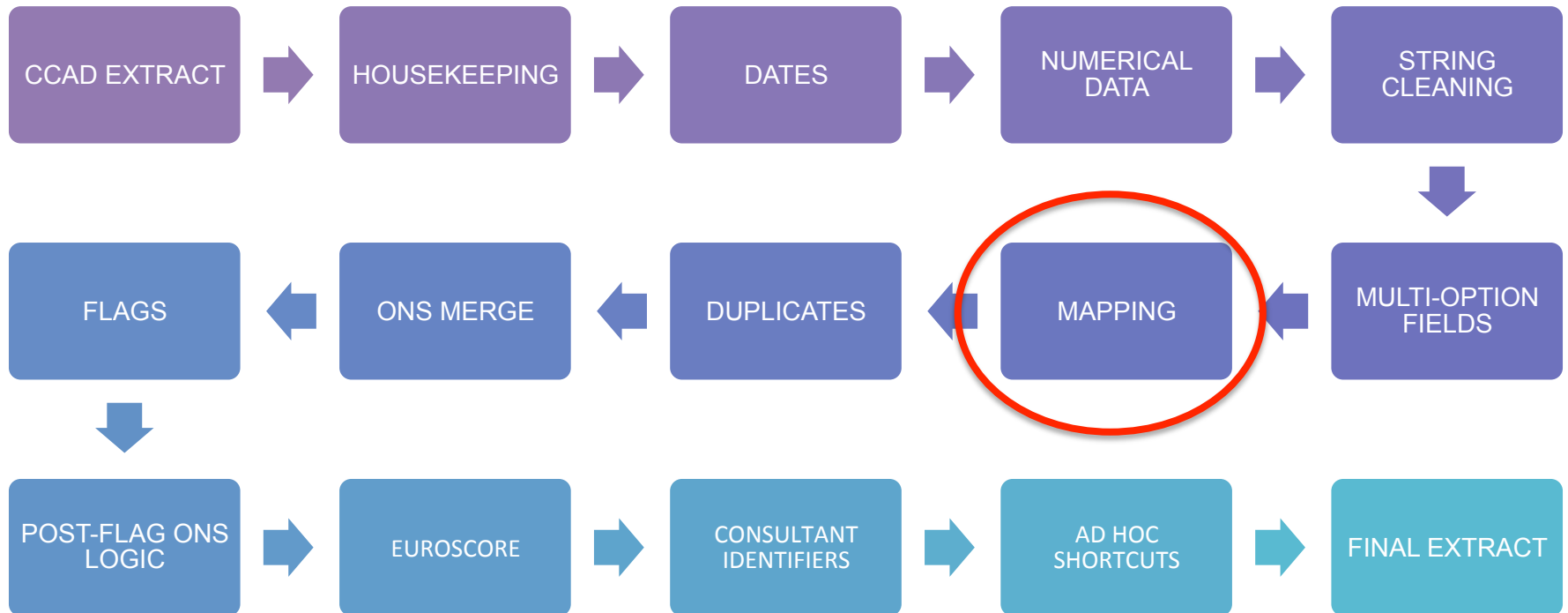
# Cleaning schema



# String cleaning

- Transcriptional errors harmonized (e.g. 'female'  
→ '2. Female')
  - manual
  - automated macros
- Invalid inputs (e.g. free text) assigned to [clinically] appropriate options
- Multi-option fields (ordered + unordered) – structure retained
- Small number of conflicts and mappings handled

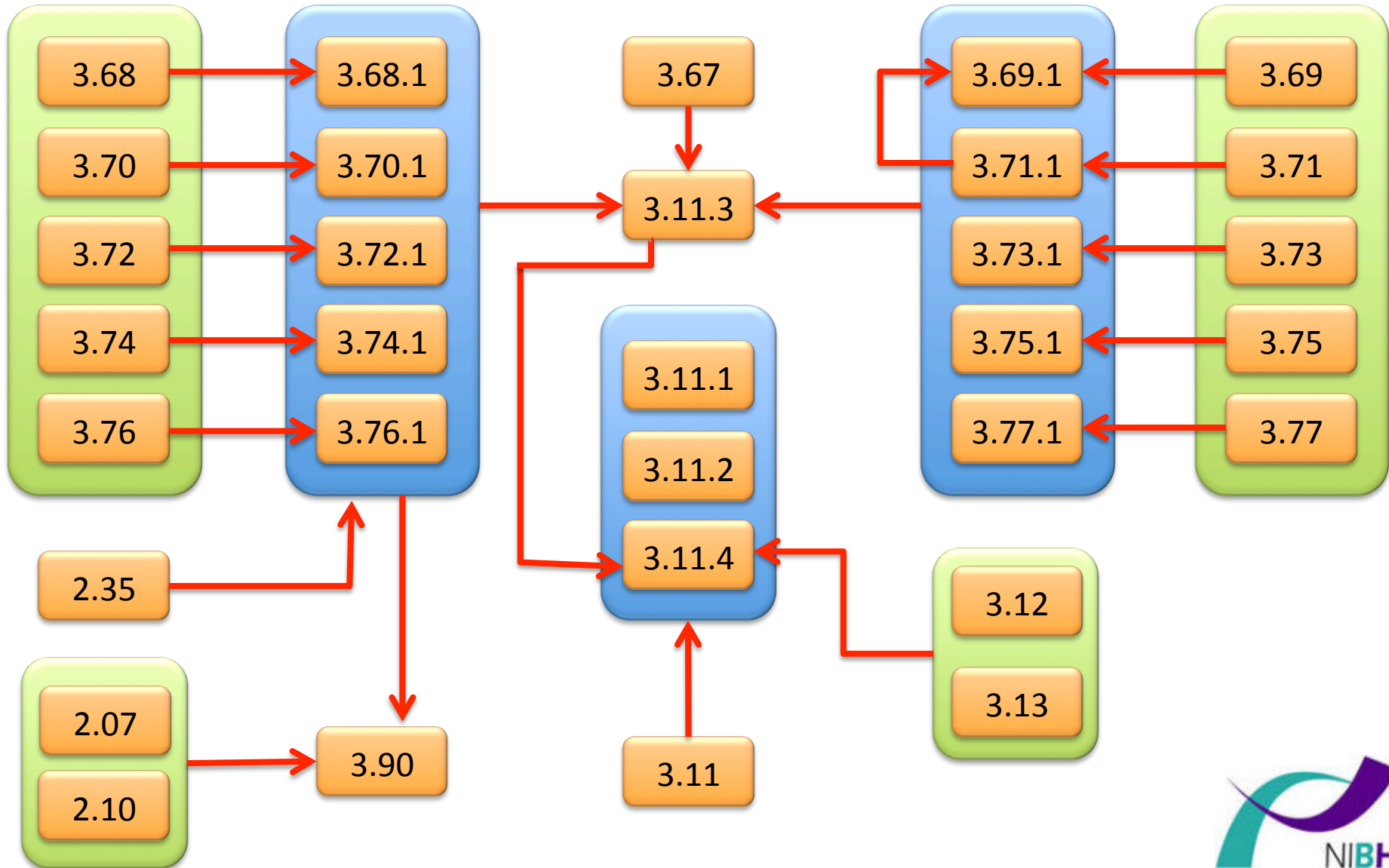
# Cleaning schema



# Mapping

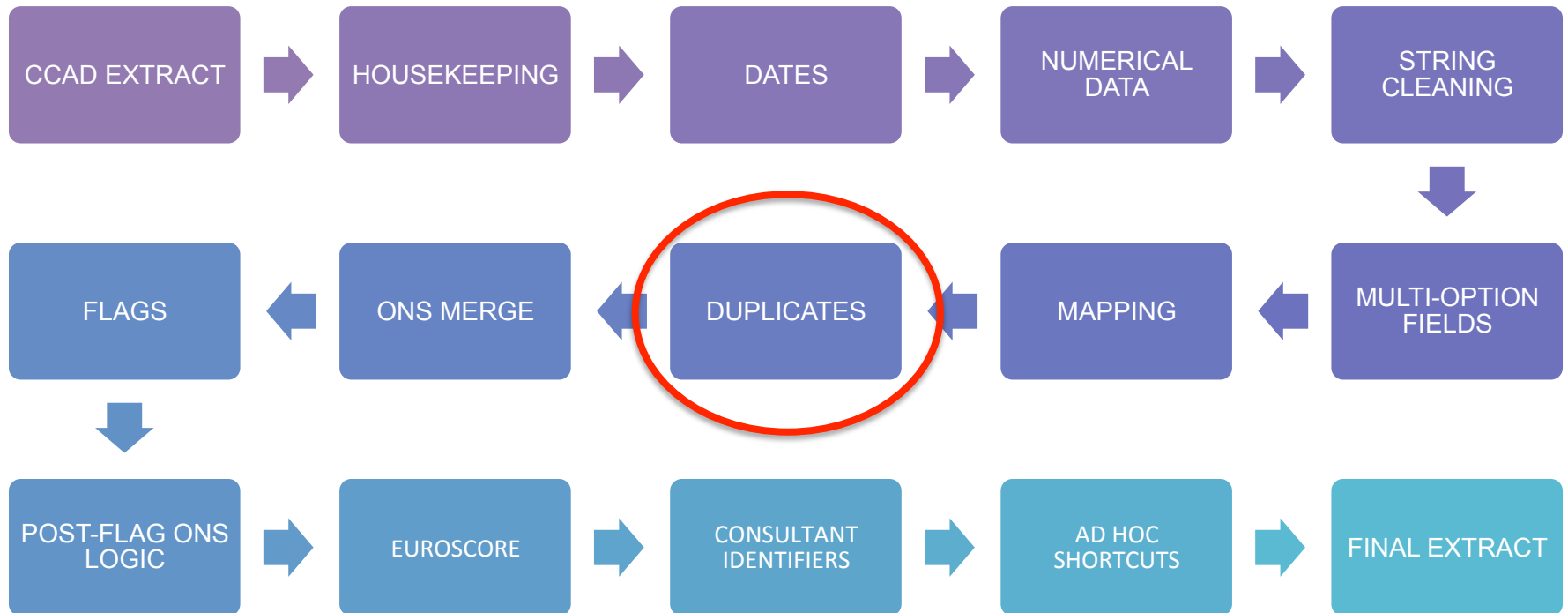
- Partially fragmented about March 2010: Version 3 & 4.
- Scripts written to **map** V3.8 into V4.1.2
- Simultaneous pre- and post-mapping cleaning
- Retrospectively deleted isolated abdominal procedure records

# Example: major aortic fields





# Cleaning schema



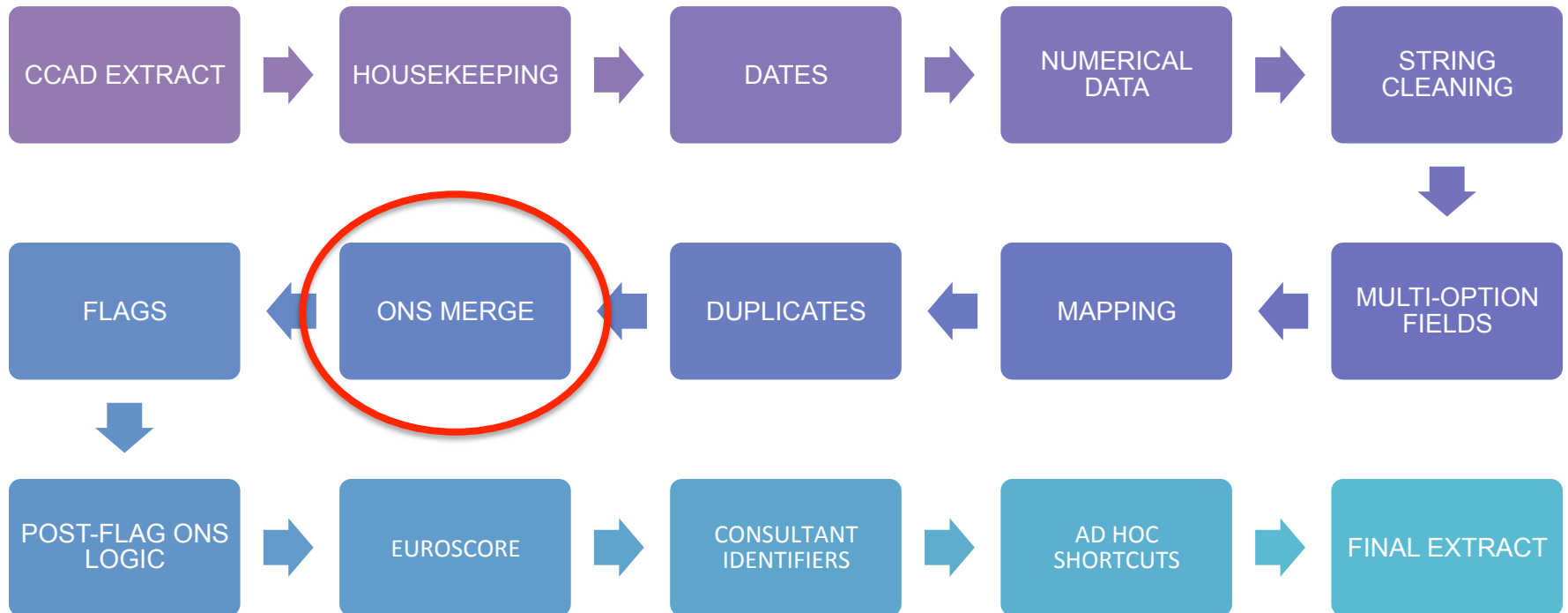
# Duplicate records

- A record is classed as a **duplicate** if it matches on a subset.
- The most recent record created is kept; others deleted
- Records inspected after removal to 'confirm' duplicates and not re-dos

## Match criteria

- ✓ hospital
- ✓ gender
- ✓ age (decimal precision)
- ✓ Apollo number (where available)
- ✓ number of previous heart operations
- ✓ procedure indicators (CABG, valve, major aortic, other)
- ✓ admission, procedure (incl. time) and discharge date
- ✓ elective (true/false)

# Cleaning schema

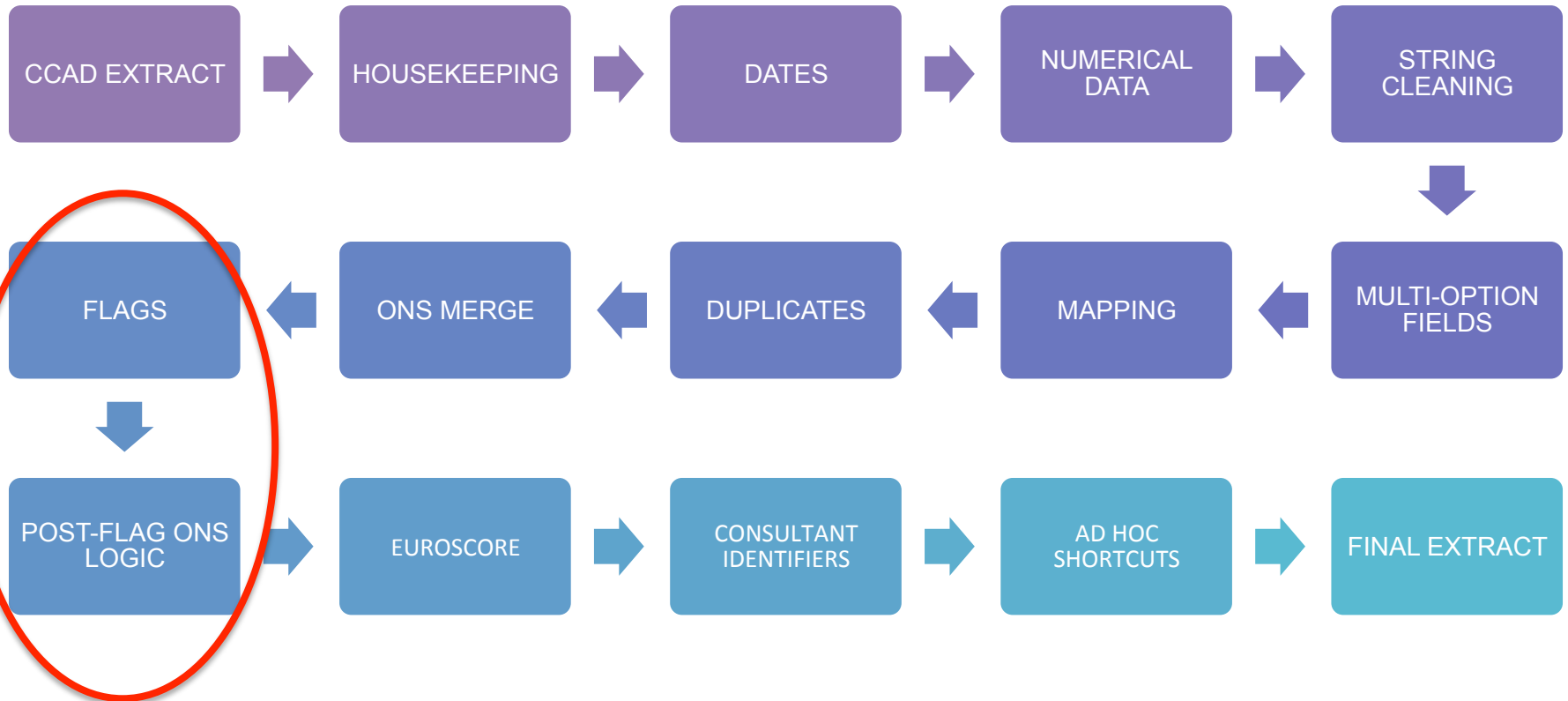


# ONS data linkage



- Life status data extracted from the Office for National Statistics (ONS)
- ONS data removed if precedes procedure date
- Records deleted if patient deceased prior to a first-time cardiac procedure

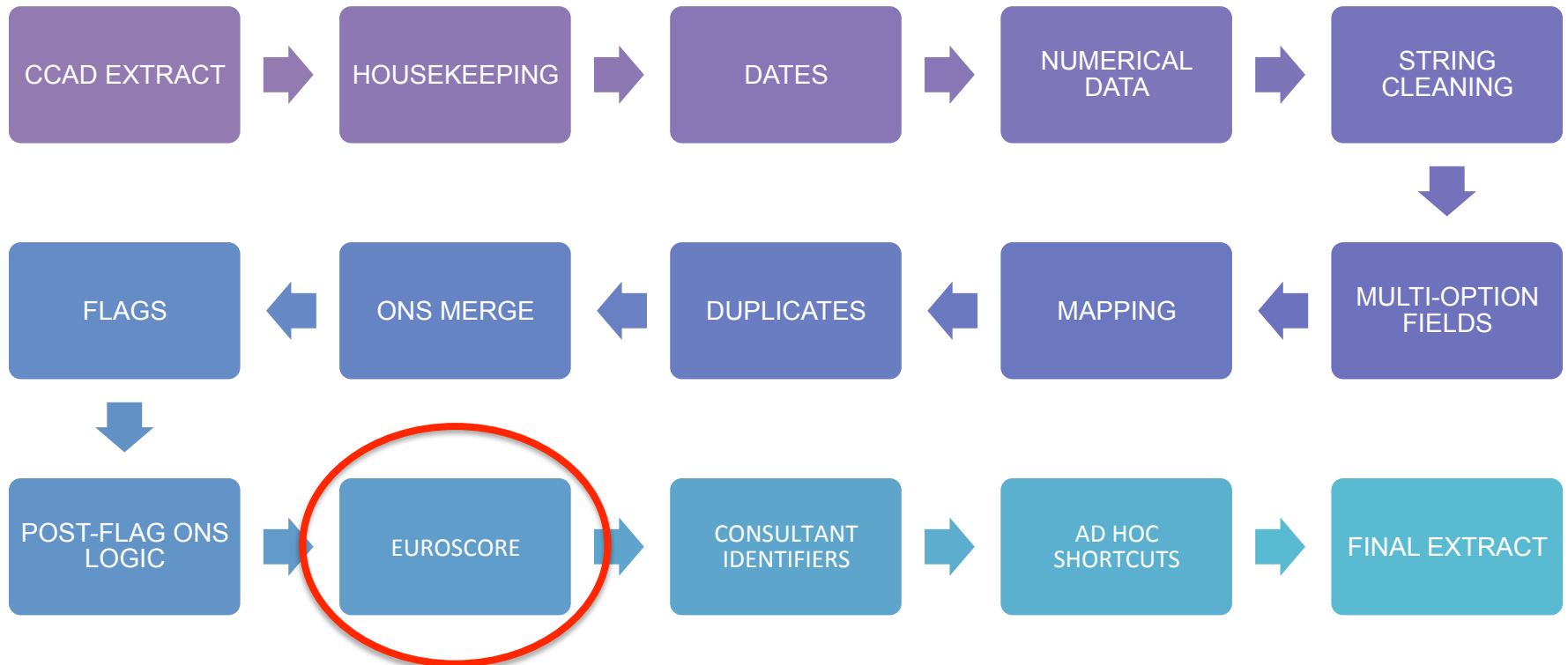
# Cleaning schema



# Flags

- **Resolve conflicts**
  - in-hospital mortality (e.g. deceased but sent home)
  - back-fill missing mortality from ONS
- **Evidence based indicators** (incl. resolving conflicts):
  - (individual) valve procedures
  - first operation in a single admission spell
  - first-time cardiac surgery

# Cleaning schema

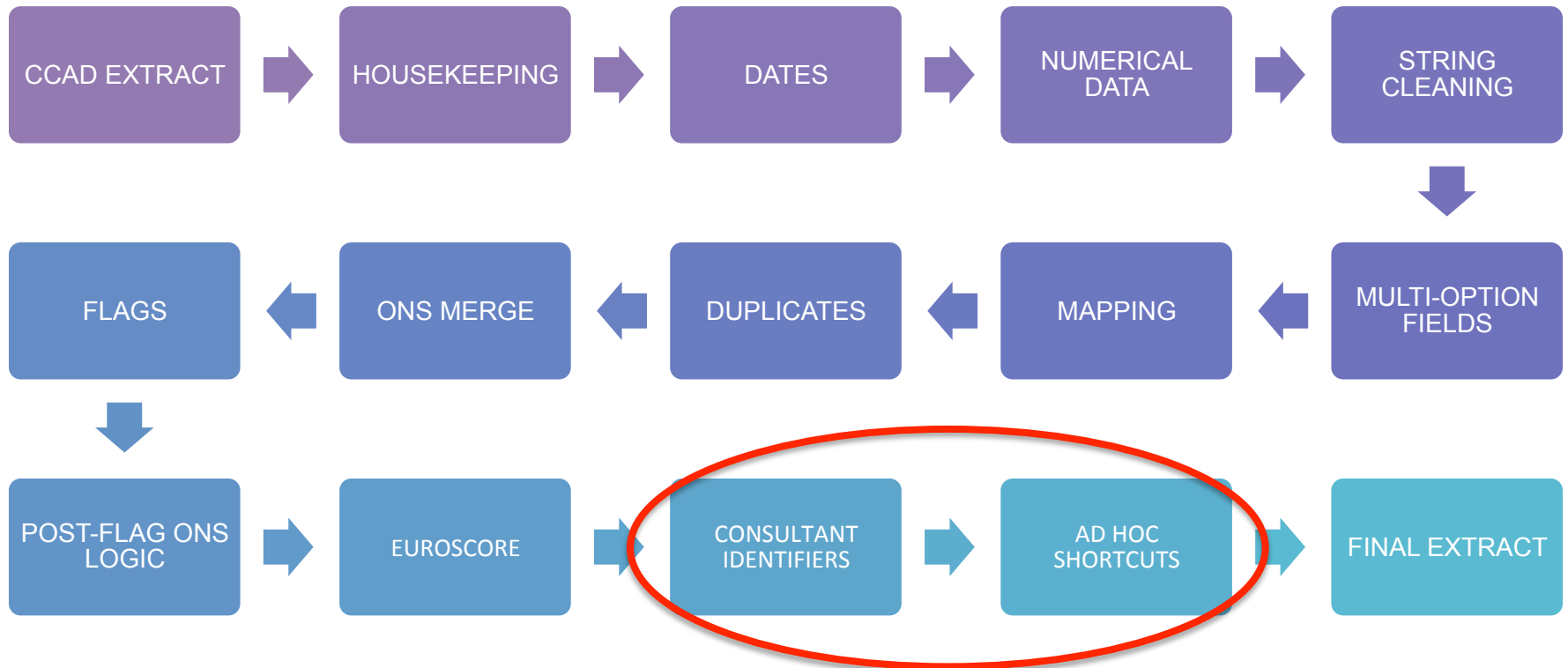


# EuroSCORE

- 3 predictions calculated: logistic, mEuroSCORE & EuroSCORE II
- Emphasis on identifying true missing values:
  - data quality measure
  - future analysis of consequences of SCTS imputation
- Database not developed with EuroSCORE II in mind



# Cleaning schema



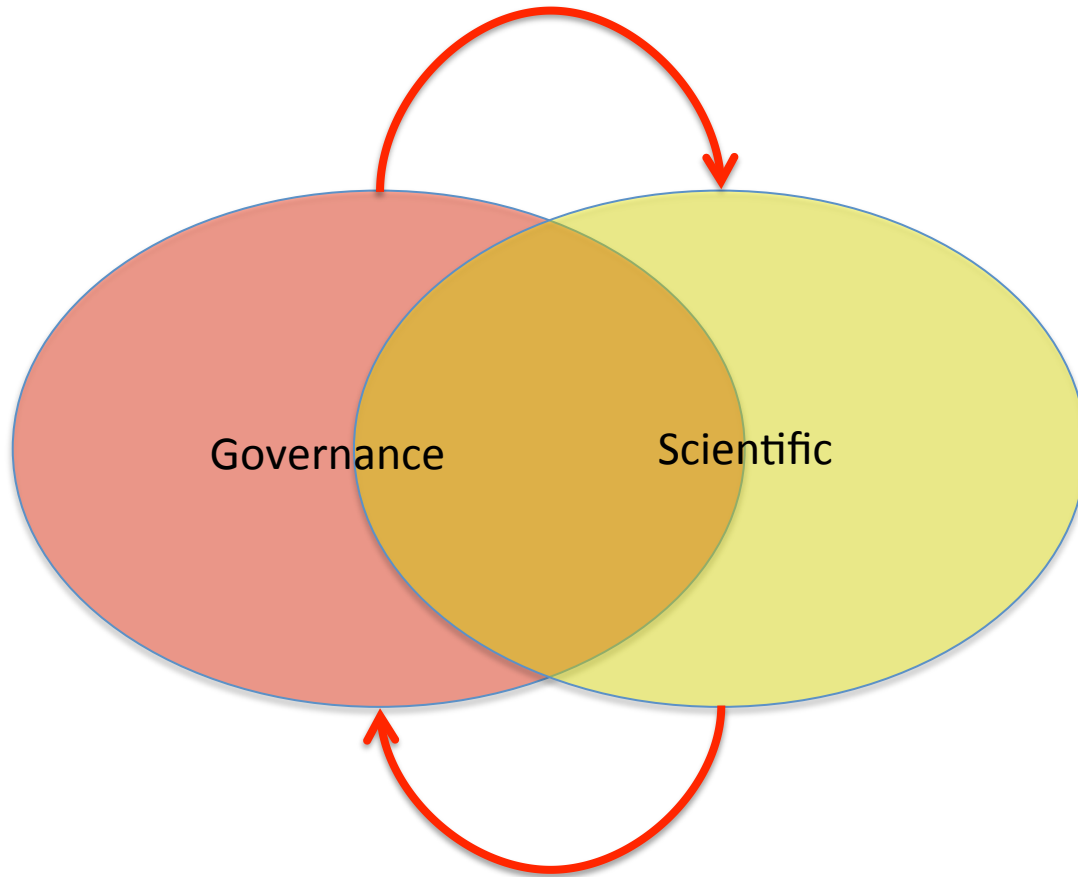
# Additional modules

- Consultant identifiers coded to GMC numbers
  - GMC database; hospital webpage; Dr. Forster
- Records deleted for serious ONS date discrepancies
- Expanding list of shortcut fields (e.g. country, financial year)

# Future cleaning

- Trust-level publication of deleted records
- Tweaks based on validation feedback
- Revisit assumptions + ‘quick-fixes’ of numerical values
- Refinement of the aortic field mappings
- Centralized cleaning / mapping by NICOR


# Analyzing the data



# Governance

Cardiac Surgery

The Society for  
Cardiothoracic Surgery  
in Great Britain & Ireland



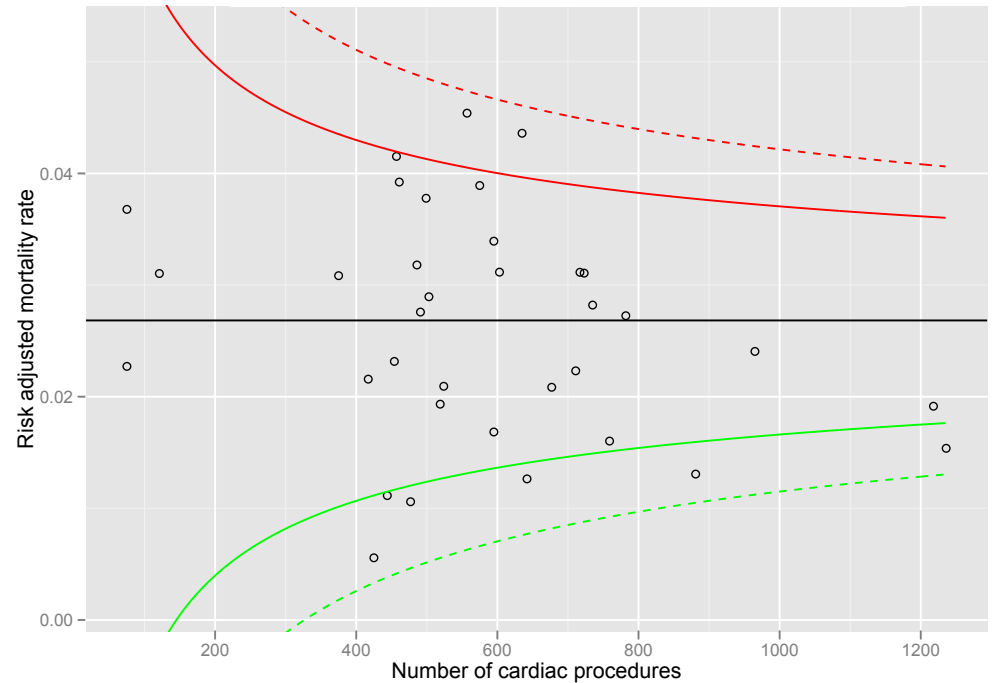
**Sixth**  
National Adult Cardiac  
Surgical Database Report  
2008

*Demonstrating quality*

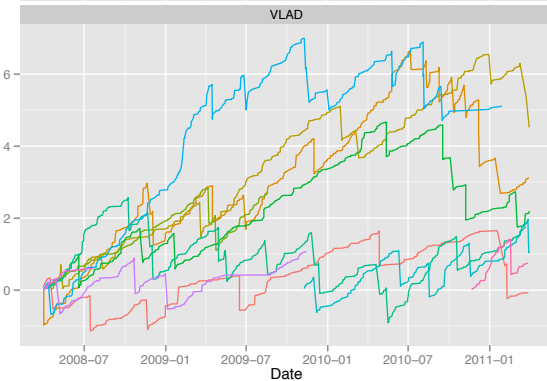
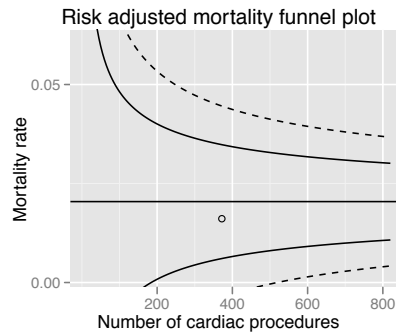
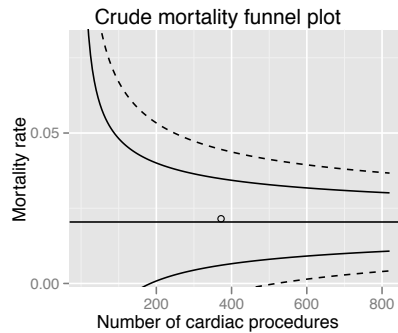
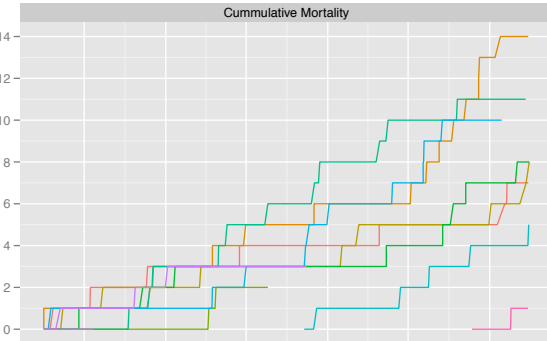
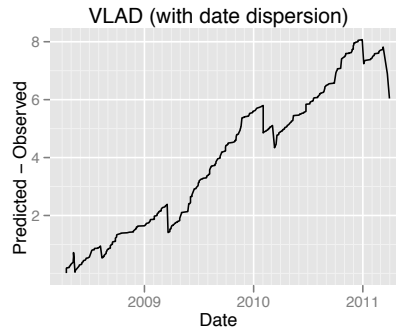
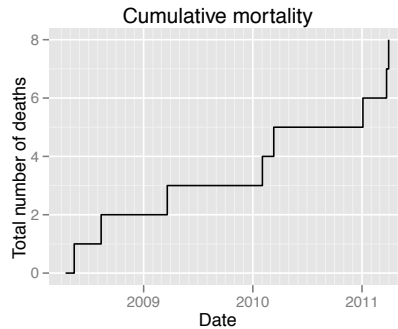
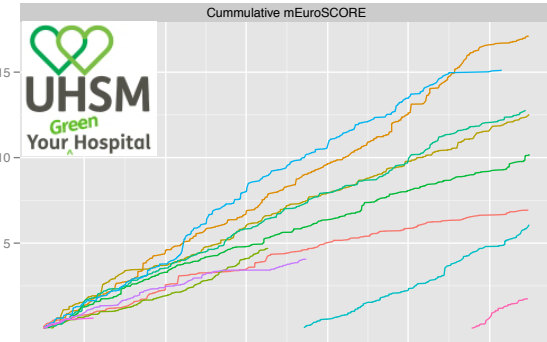
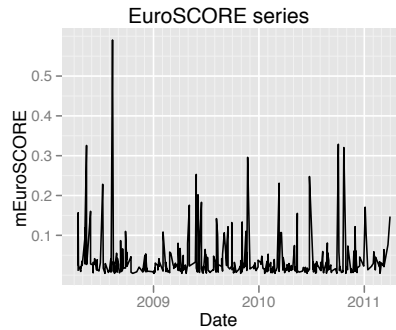
*Prepared by*  
**Ben Bridgewater** PhD FRCS  
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in Great Britain & Ireland*

**Robin Kinsman** BSc PhD  
**Peter Walton** MA MB BCHF MBA  
*Dendrite Clinical Systems*

## EuroSCORE II: all cardiac surgery



# Informing our members



# Responding to contemporary questions

The University of Manchester

MANCHESTER 1824

UHSM Your Hospital

## How do the EuroSCORE models perform in emergency and salvage cardiac surgery?

Stuart W Grant, Graeme L Hickey, Iain Buchan, Ben Bridgewater

heart research

NIBHI

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### Higher senior staffing levels at weekends and reduced mortality

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UK cardiac surgery is safe no matter what day of the week; an analysis of the SCTS database 27 March 2012

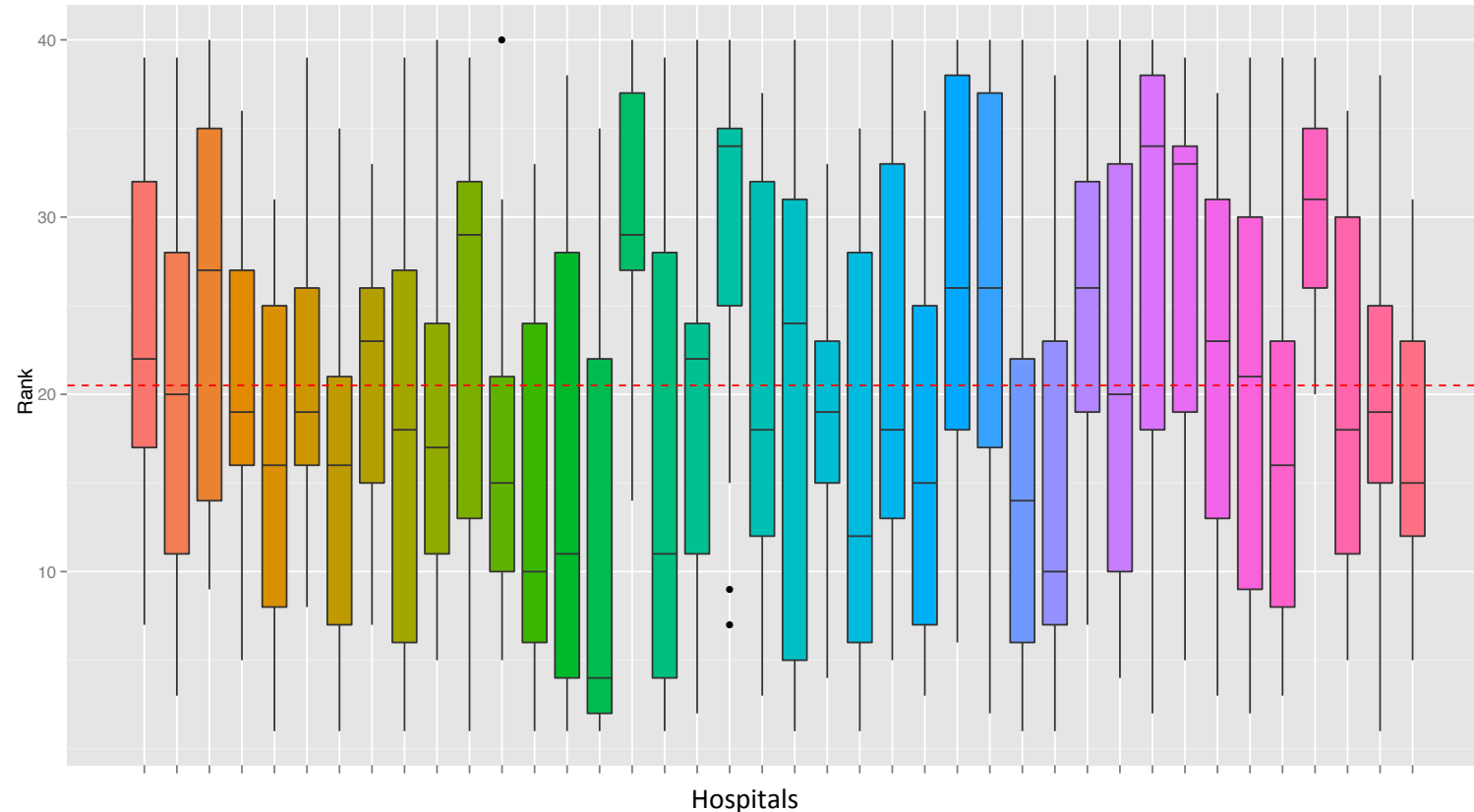
As discussed in the editorial by Goddard and Lees,<sup>1</sup> a recent report by the Dr Foster group demonstrated a higher mortality rate for patients admitted as an emergency at the weekend than for patients admitted as an emergency during the week.<sup>2</sup> The report also suggested that hospitals with higher levels of senior staff available at the weekends were associated with lower mortality rates for emergency admissions at the weekend.<sup>2</sup> Another recent study by Freemantle et al found patients admitted on a weekend were more likely to die in-hospital than patients admitted on a week day.<sup>3</sup>

The Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery in Great Britain and Ireland established its clinical governance and quality improvement programme for adult cardiac surgery performed in NHS hospitals in 2001.<sup>4</sup> This programme has been associated with significant improvements in risk-adjusted mortality rates over time.<sup>5</sup> We have used this database to investigate whether patients who undergo cardiac surgery at the weekend have an increased risk of in-hospital mortality compared to patients who have cardiac surgery during the week.

Stuart W Grant, Research Fellow  
Graeme L Hickey, David P Taggart, James Roxburgh, Graham Cooper, Ben Bridgewater on behalf of the Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery in Great Britain and Ireland  
University of Manchester, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, Department of



# Measuring data quality



Distribution of ranks of EuroSCORE risk factor prevalence might be expected to be homogenous across hospital



Further investigation required



# Scientific

- Mitral valve prosthesis: mechanical vs. biological
- Model validation (→ ensure current governance)
- Calibration drift detection methodology (→ inform future governance)

# Further information

- SCTS website
  - [www.scts.org/](http://www.scts.org/)
- SCTS-NIBHI project website (**incl. contacts**)
  - [personalpages.manchester.ac.uk/staff/graeme.hickey/scts/](http://personalpages.manchester.ac.uk/staff/graeme.hickey/scts/)
- NICOR website
  - [www.ucl.ac.uk/nicor](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/nicor)

# Acknowledgements

- Heart Research UK – funding
- Sue Manuel (NICOR) – database extracts
- All hospital audit leads and database managers – validating audit summaries
- UK cardiac surgeons – ensuring the validity and accuracy of the data inputted
- The SCTS and all its members – for supporting the audit project