# Minutes of the Population-Level Estimation Workgroup

July 13, 2016

Present: Ajou University students, Kenneth Mann, Rae Woong Park, Ajou students, Dukyong Yoon

Rae mentions that many hospitals in Korea are planning to convert to the CDM.

Martijn presents on defining a set of best practices. He discusses a recent paper by Morton et al. that reviews 9 sets of guidelines for observational studies. Morton finds many differences between the guidelines. Martijn is of the opinion that the guidlines lack in clarity, are often not very prescriptive (they rather just enumerate all options with guidance which one to choose), and following the guidelines does not guarantee a good study. For these reasons Martijn proposes we create a new set of guidelines, the OHDSI Best Practices for Population Level Estimation. We’ve already begun formulating these best practices in the Wiki: <http://www.ohdsi.org/web/wiki/doku.php?id=development:best_practices_estimation>

Martijn proposes we always make our protocol publicly available prior to initiating a study. Rae mentioned that several people have told him they are worried people will ‘steal’ the protocol and perform the study before they are able to do it. Martijn has also heard similar remarks. Perhaps there should be an indepent site where protocols can be registered without publicly disclosing them?

Martijn also has some strong opinions on how to perform a new-user cohort method. Allthough people probably agree, they would like to see evidence for some of the proposed best practices, such as using large scale regularized regression for creating propensity score models.

Rae’s team expresses great interest in the CohortMethod package. Martijn mentions that there will be a full day tutorial in Washington D.C. on the day after the OHDSI Symposium. Many people would like to join, so perhaps we should also organize the tutorial in Korea?