

# Machine Learning for Healthcare

HST.956, 6.S897

## Lecture 4: Risk stratification

David Sontag



# Outline for today's class

## 1. Risk stratification

## 2. Case study: Early detection of Type 2 diabetes

- Framing as supervised learning problem
- Evaluating risk stratification algorithms

## 3. Discussion with Leonard D'Avolio (Assistant Professor at HMS, CEO @ Cyft)

# What *is* risk stratification?

- Separate a patient population into **high-risk** and **low-risk** of having an outcome
  - Predicting something in the future
  - Goal is different from diagnosis, with distinct performance metrics
- Coupled with **interventions** that target high-risk patients
- Goal is typically to reduce cost and improve patient outcomes

# Examples of risk stratification

Preterm infant's  
risk of severe  
morbidity?

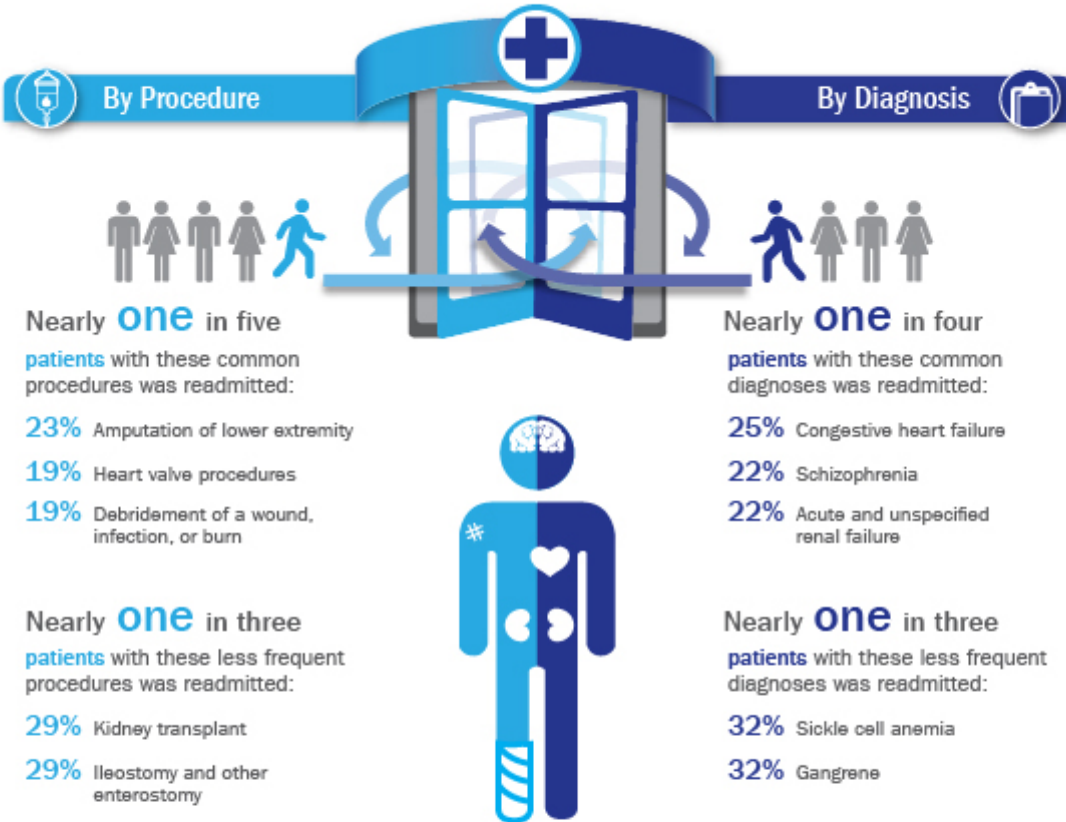
(Saria et al., Science Translational  
Medicine 2010)

Does this patient  
need to be  
admitted to the  
coronary-care  
unit?

(Pozen et al., NEJM 1984)

# 30-DAY READMISSION RATES TO U.S. HOSPITALS

Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) data from 2010 provide the most comprehensive national estimates of 30-day readmission rates for specific procedures and diagnoses.\* Examples include:



## Readmission Rates by Payer

Medicaid and Medicare patients have a higher percentage of readmissions than other payers



\*Readmissions were for all causes and did not necessarily include the same procedure or diagnosis as the original admission (index stay).

Likelihood of hospital readmission?

# Old vs. New

- Traditionally, risk stratification was based on simple scores using human-entered data

## APGAR SCORING SYSTEM

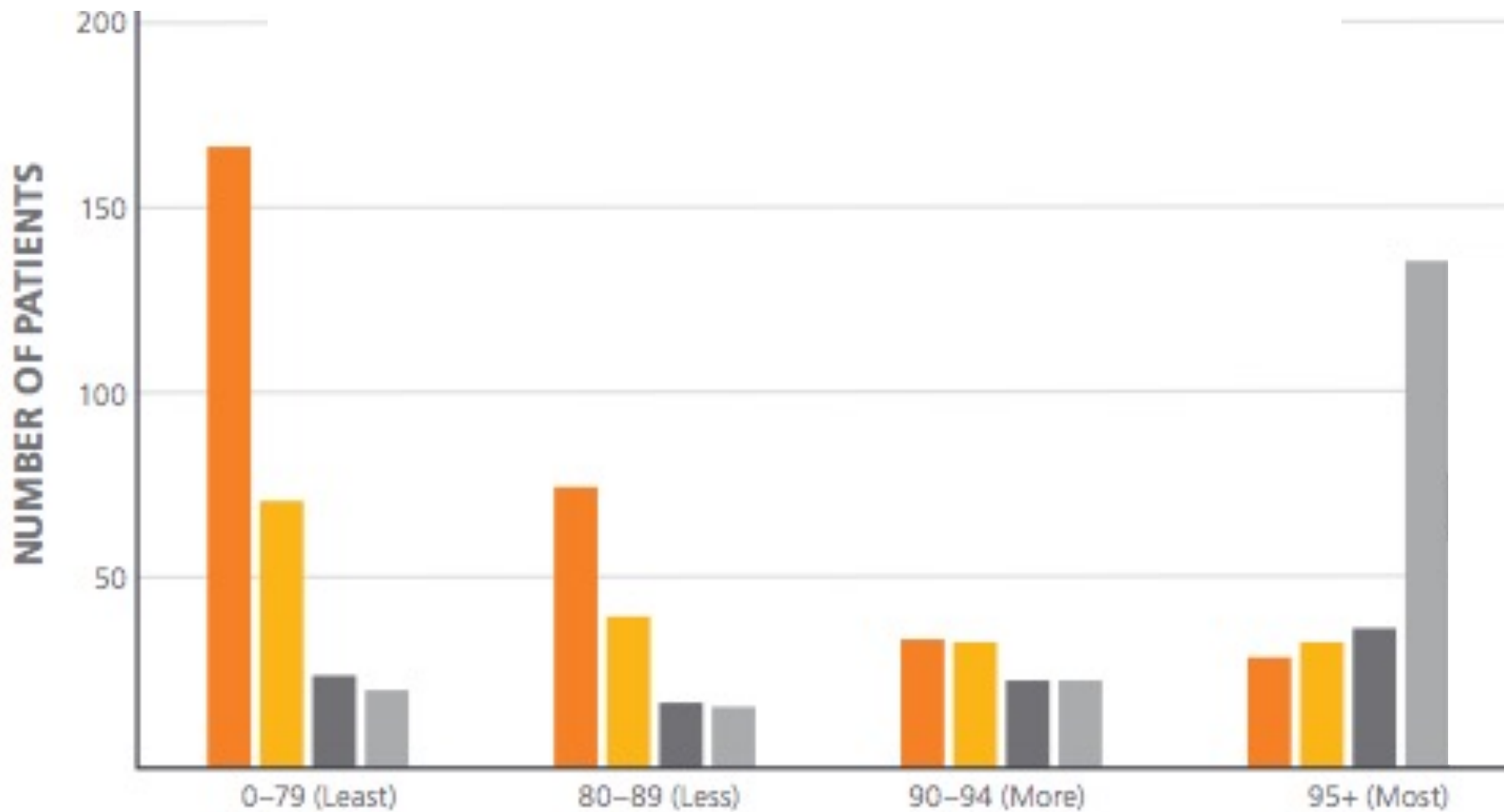
	0 Points	1 Point	2 Points	Points totaled
Activity (muscle tone)	Absent	Arms and legs flexed	Active movement	↓
Pulse	Absent	Below 100 bpm	Over 100 bpm	
Grimace (reflex irritability)	Flaccid	Some flexion of Extremities	Active motion (sneeze, cough, pull away)	
Appearance (skin color)	Blue, pale	Body pink, Extremities blue	Completely pink	
Respiration	Absent	Slow, irregular	Vigorous cry	

Severely depressed	0-3
Moderately depressed	4-6
Excellent condition	7-10

# Old vs. New

- Traditionally, risk stratification was based on simple scores using human-entered data
- Now, based on machine learning on high-dimensional data
  - Fits more easily into workflow
  - Higher accuracy
  - Quicker to derive (can special case)
- **But, new dangers introduced with ML approach – to be discussed**



Likelihood of COPD-related hospitalization within 6 months categories [End of Data]

Compare by likelihood of CHF-related hospitalization within 6 months categories [End of Data]

■ 0-79 (Least)    
 ■ 80-89 (Less)    
 ■ 90-94 (More)    
 ■ 95+ (Most)

## Optum Whitepaper, "Predictive analytics: Poised to drive population health"



# Example commercial product

High-risk diabetes patients missing tests	# of A1c tests	# of LDL tests	Last A1c	Date of last A1c	Last LDL	Date of last LDL
Patient 1	2	0	9.2	5/3/13	N/A	N/A
Patient 2	2	0	8	1/30/13	N/A	N/A
Patient 3	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Patient 4	0	2	N/A	N/A	133	8/9/13
Patient 5	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Patient 6	0	1	N/A	N/A	115	7/16/13
Patient 7	1	0	10.8	9/18/13	N/A	N/A
Patient 8	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Patient 9	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Patient 10	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

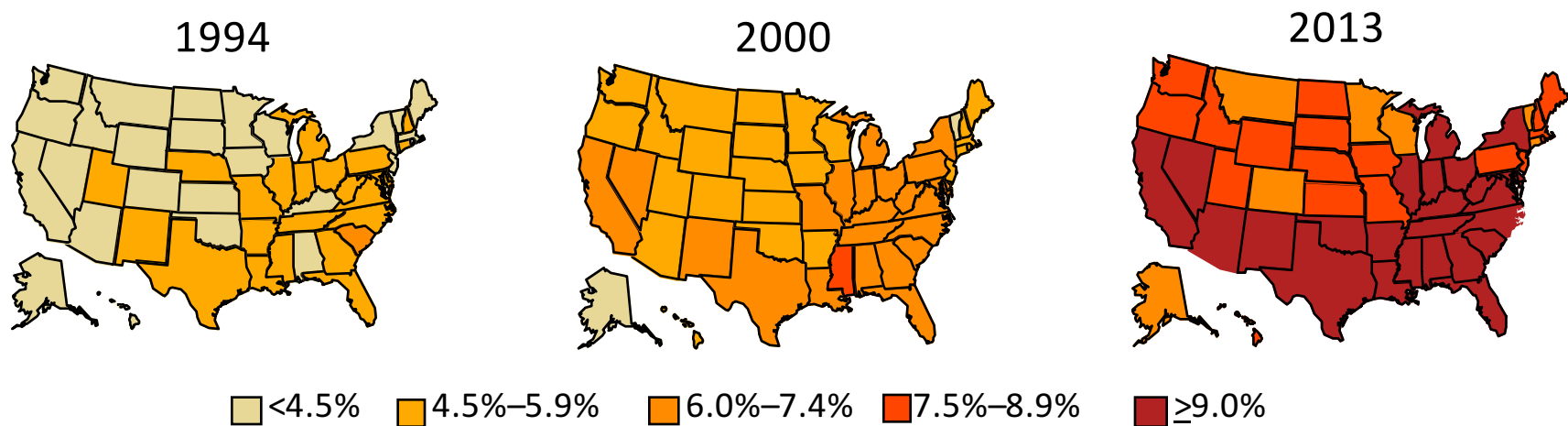
Optum Whitepaper, "Predictive analytics: Poised to drive population health"

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# Type 2 Diabetes: A Major public health challenge



**\$245 billion:** Total costs of diagnosed diabetes in the United States in 2012

**\$831 billion:** Total fiscal year federal budget for healthcare in the United States in 2014

# Type 2 Diabetes Can Be Prevented \*


Requirement for successful large scale prevention program

1. Detect/reach truly at risk population
2. Improve the interventions
3. Lower the cost of intervention

\* Diabetes Prevention Program Research Group. "Reduction in the incidence of type 2 diabetes with lifestyle intervention or metformin." The New England journal of medicine 346.6 (2002): 393.

# Traditional Risk Prediction Models

- Successful Examples
  - ARIC
  - KORA
  - FRAMINGHAM
  - AUSDRISC
  - FINDRISC
  - San Antonio Model
- Easy to ask/measure in the office, or for patients to do online
- Simple model: can calculate scores by hand

 Finnish Diabetes Association

## TYPE 2 DIABETES RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

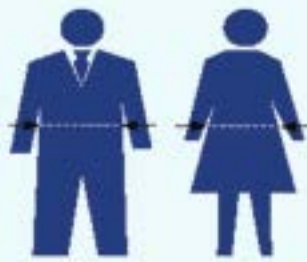
Circle the right alternative and add up your points.

1. Age  
 0 p. Under 45 years  
 2 p. 45–54 years  
 3 p. 55–64 years  
 4 p. Over 64 years

2. Body-mass index (See reverse of form)  
 0 p. Lower than 25kg/m<sup>2</sup>  
 1 p. 25–30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>  
 3 p. Higher than 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>

3. Waist circumference measured below the ribs (usually at the level of the navel)

	MEN	WOMEN
0 p.	Less than 94cm	Less than 80cm
3 p.	94–102cm	80–88cm
4 p.	More than 102cm	More than 88cm



4. Do you usually have daily at least 30 minutes of physical activity at work and/or during leisure time (including normal daily activity)?  
 0 p. Yes  
 2 p. No

5. How often do you eat vegetables, fruit or berries?  
 0 p. Every day  
 1 p. Not every day

6. Have you ever taken anti-hypertensive medication regularly?  
 0 p. No  
 2 p. Yes

7. Have you ever been found to have high blood glucose (e.g. in a health examination, during an illness, during pregnancy)?  
 0 p. No  
 5 p. Yes

8. Have any of the members of your immediate family or other relatives been diagnosed with diabetes (type 1 or type 2)?  
 0 p. No  
 3 p. Yes: grandparent, aunt, uncle or first cousin (but no own parent, brother, sister or child)  
 5 p. Yes: parent, brother, sister or own child

**Total risk score**  
 The risk of developing type 2 diabetes within 10 years is

Lower than 7	Low: estimated 1 in 100 will develop disease
7–11	Slightly elevated: estimated 1 in 25 will develop disease
12–14	Moderate: estimated 1 in 6 will develop disease
15–20	High: estimated 1 in 3 will develop disease
Higher than 20	Very high: estimated 1 in 2 will develop disease

Please turn over

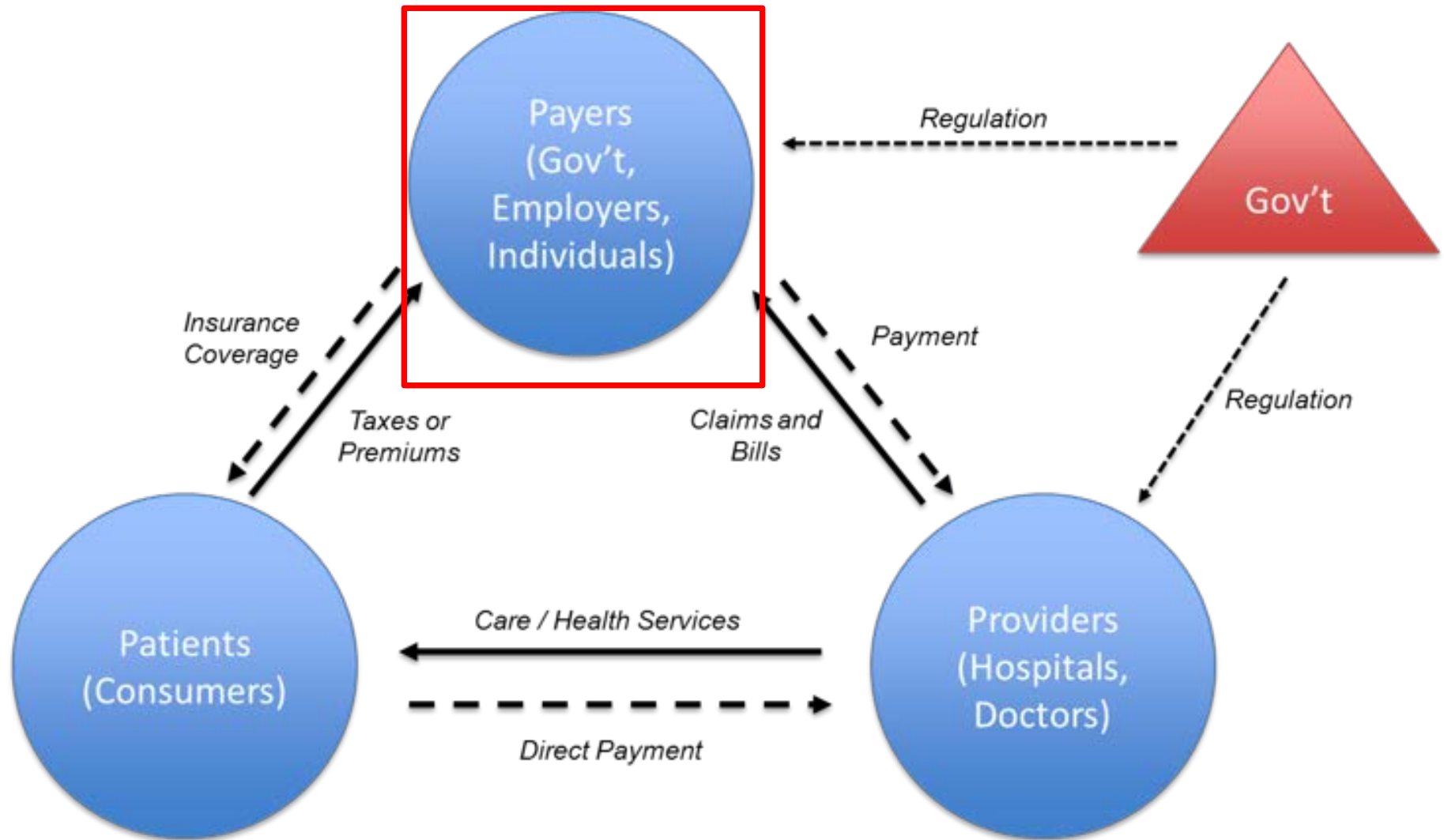
# Challenges of Traditional Risk Prediction Models

- A screening step needs to be done for every member in the population
  - Either in the physician's office or as surveys
  - Costly and time-consuming
  - Infeasible for regular screening for millions of individuals
- Models not easy to adapt to multiple surrogates, when a variable is missing
  - Discovery of surrogates not straightforward

# Population-Level Risk Stratification

- Key idea: Use readily available administrative, utilization, and clinical data
- Machine learning will find surrogates for risk factors that would otherwise be missing
- Perform risk stratification at the population level – millions of patients

# Health stakeholders

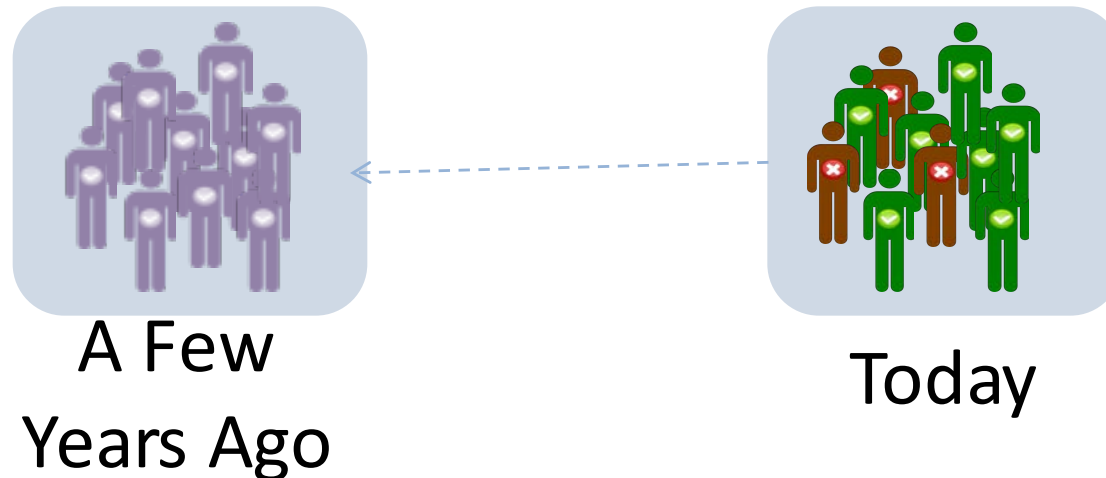


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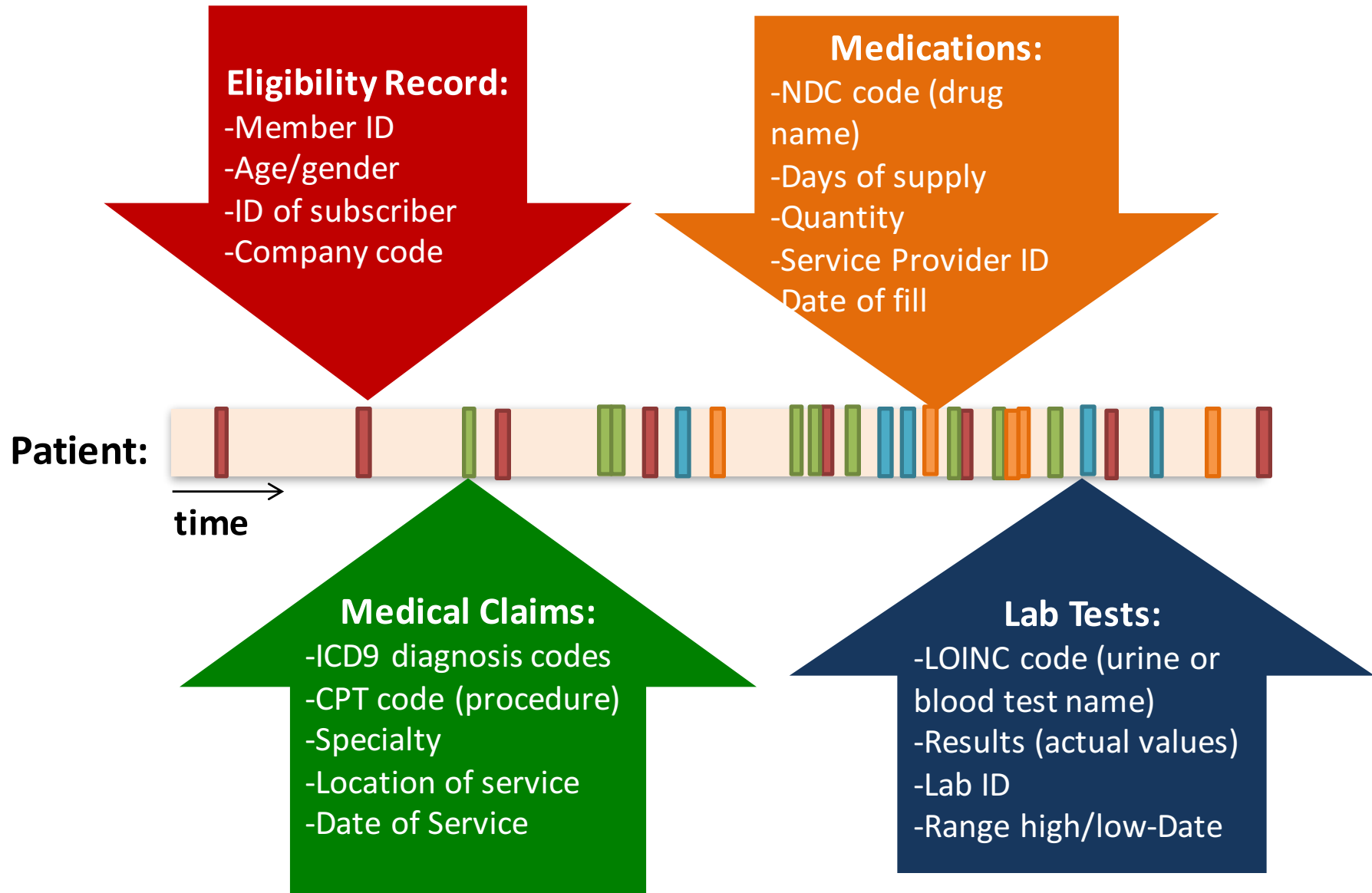


# A Data-Driven approach on Longitudinal Data

- Looking at individuals who got diabetes *today*, (compared to those who didn't)
  - Can we infer which variables in their record could have predicted their health outcome?



# Administrative & Clinical Data



# Top diagnosis codes

Disease	count
<b>4011 Benign hypertension</b>	447017
2724 Hyperlipidemia NEC/NOS	382030
4019 Hypertension NOS	372477
<b>25000 DMII wo cmp nt st uncntr</b>	339522
2720 Pure hypercholesterolem	232671
2722 Mixed hyperlipidemia	180015
V7231 Routine gyn examination	178709
2449 Hypothyroidism NOS	169829
<b>78079 Malaise and fatigue NEC</b>	149797
<b>V0481 Vaccin for influenza</b>	147858
<b>7242 Lumbago</b>	137345
<b>V7612 Screen mammogram NEC</b>	129445
<b>V700 Routine medical exam</b>	127848

Disease	count
<b>53081 Esophageal reflux</b>	121064
42731 Atrial fibrillation	113798
<b>7295 Pain in limb</b>	112449
41401 Crnry athrscl natve vssl	104478
2859 Anemia NOS	103351
<b>78650 Chest pain NOS</b>	91999
<b>5990 Urin tract infection NOS</b>	87982
V5869 Long-term use meds NEC	85544
<b>496 Chr airway obstruct NEC</b>	78585
4779 Allergic rhinitis NOS	77963
41400 Cor ath unsp vsl ntv/gft	75519

Disease	count
71947 Joint pain-ankle	28648
3004 Dysthymic disorder	28530
2689 Vitamin D deficiency NOS	28455
V7281 Preop cardiovsclr exam	27897
<b>7243 Sciatica</b>	27604
<b>78791 Diarrhea</b>	27424
<b>V221 Supervis oth normal preg</b>	27320
36501 Opn angl brderln lo risk	26033
37921 Vitreous degeneration	25592
4241 Aortic valve disorder	25425
61610 Vaginitis NOS	24736
70219 Other sborheic keratosis	24453
3804 Impacted cerumen	24046

**Out of 135K patients who had laboratory data**

# Top lab test results

Lab test	
2160-0 Creatinine	1284737
3094-0 Urea nitrogen	1282344
2823-3 Potassium	1280812
2345-7 Glucose	1299897
1742-6 Alanine aminotransferase	1187809
1920-8 Aspartate aminotransferase	1187965
2885-2 Protein	1277338
1751-7 Albumin	1274166
2093-3 Cholesterol	1268269
2571-8 Triglyceride	1257751
13457-7 Cholesterol.in LDL	1241208
17861-6 Calcium	1165370
2951-2 Sodium	1167675

Lab test	
2085-9 Cholesterol.in HDL	1155666
718-7 Hemoglobin	1152726
4544-3 Hematocrit	1147893
9830-1 Cholesterol.total/Cholesterol.in HDL	1037730
33914-3 Glomerular filtration rate/1.73 sq M.predicted	561309
785-6 Erythrocyte mean corpuscular hemoglobin	1070832
6690-2 Leukocytes	1062980
789-8 Erythrocytes	1062445
787-2 Erythrocyte mean corpuscular volume	1063665

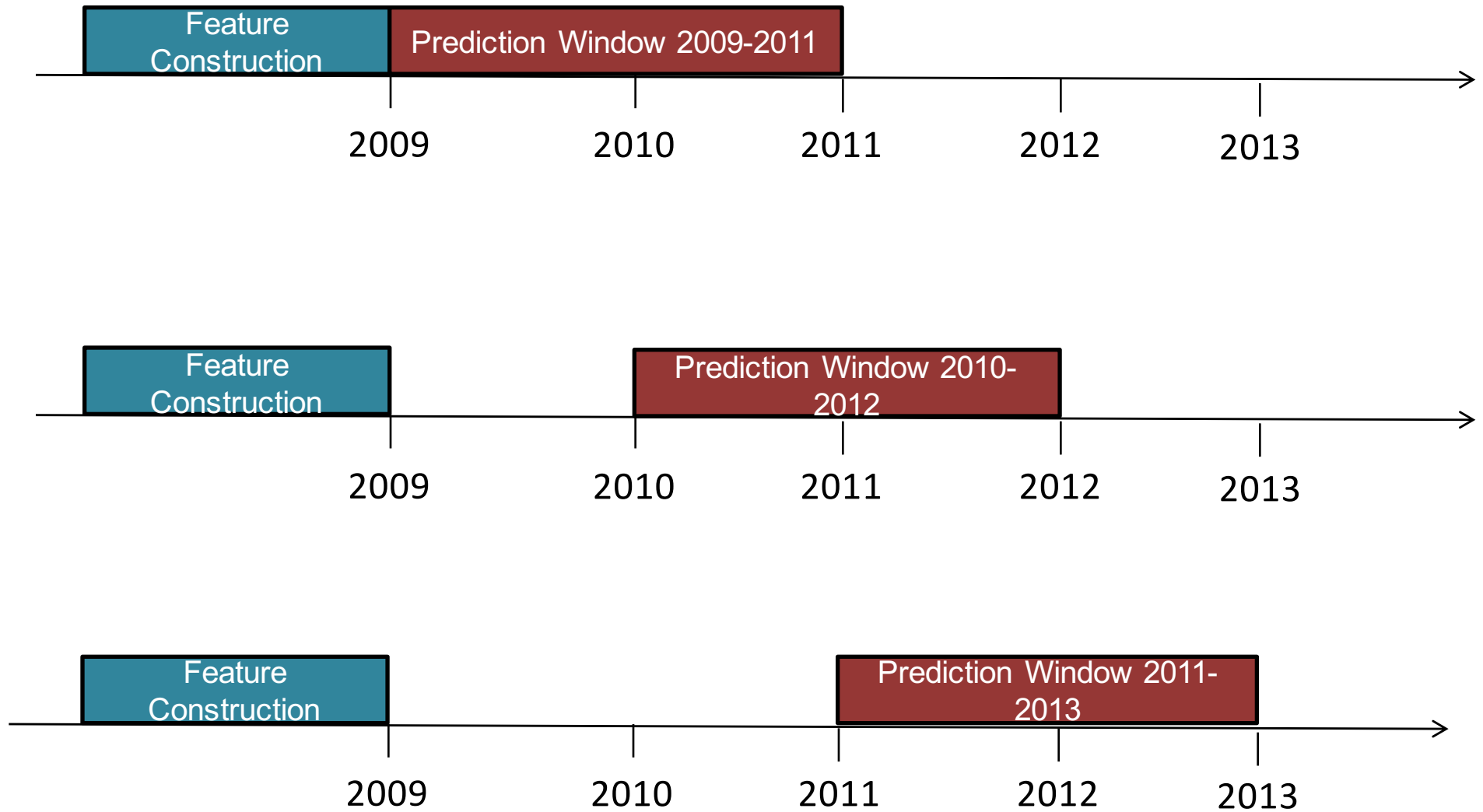
Lab test	
770-8 Neutrophils/100 leukocytes	952089
731-0 Lymphocytes	943918
704-7 Basophils	863448
711-2 Eosinophils	935710
5905-5 Monocytes/100 leukocytes	943764
706-2 Basophils/100 leukocytes	863435
751-8 Neutrophils	943232
742-7 Monocytes	942978
713-8 Eosinophils/100 leukocytes	933929
3016-3 Thyrotropin	891807
4548-4 Hemoglobin A1c/Hemoglobin.total	527062

**Count of people who have the test result (ever)**

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# Framing for supervised machine learning



**Gap is important to prevent label leakage**

# Framing for supervised machine learning

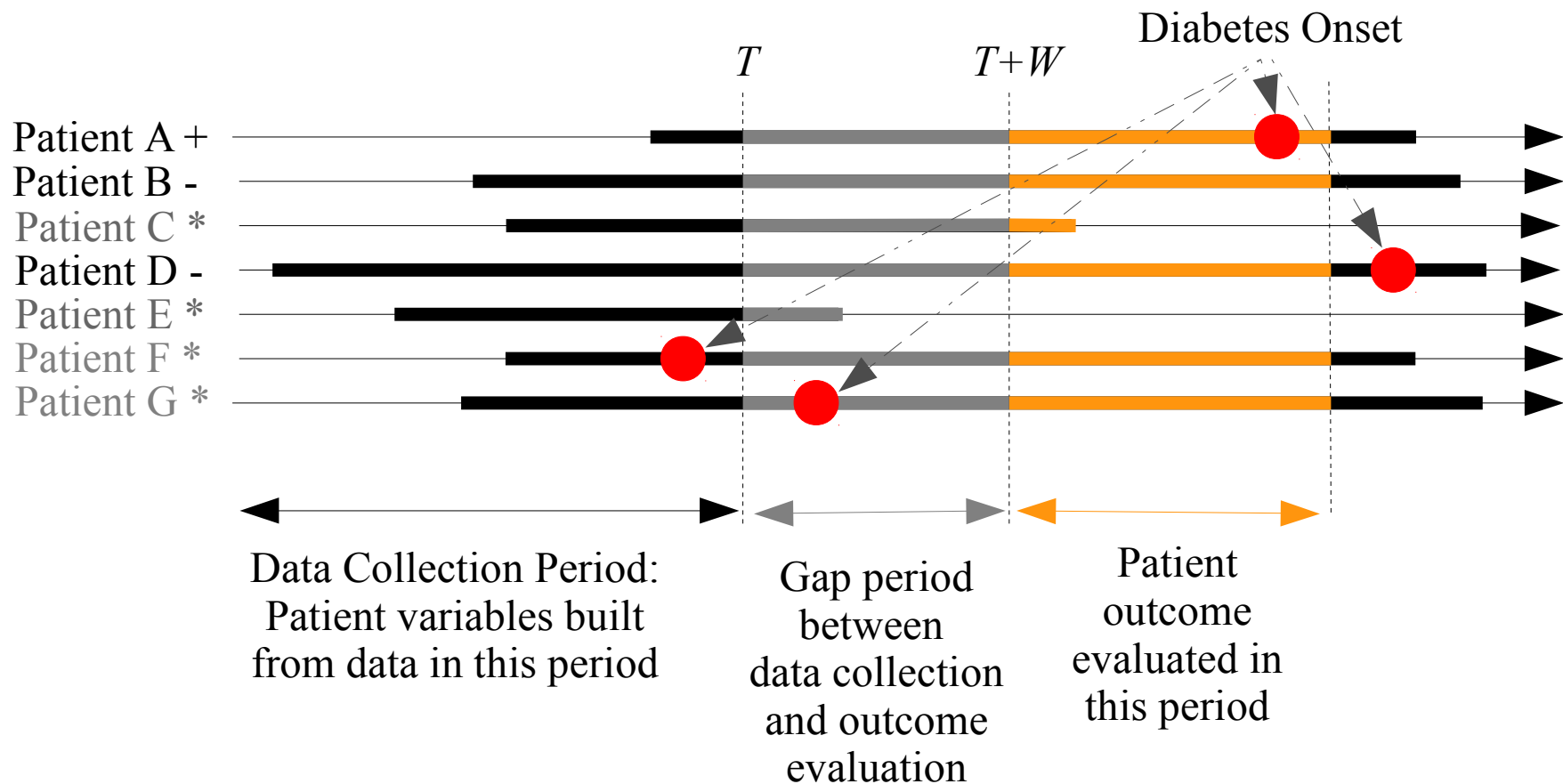


## **Problem: Data is censored!**

- Patients change health insurers frequently, but data doesn't follow them
- *Left censored*: may not have enough data to derive features
- *Right censored*: may not know label

# Reduction to binary classification

Exclude patients that are left- and right-censored.



This is an example of alignment by *absolute time*



# Alternative framings

- Align by relative time, e.g.
  - 2 hours into patient stay in ER
  - Every time patient sees PCP
  - When individual turns 40 yrs old
- Align by data availability

## **NOTE:**

- If multiple data points per patient, make sure each patient in *only* train, validate, or test

# Methods

- L1 Regularized Logistic Regression
  - Simultaneously optimizes predictive performance *and*
  - Performs feature selection, choosing the subset of the features that are most predictive
- This prevents overfitting to the training data

# L1 regularization

- Penalizing the L1 norm of the weight vector leads to *sparse* (read: many 0's) solutions for  $w$ .

$$\min_w \sum_i \ell(x_i, y_i; w) + \|w\|_1 \qquad \|\vec{w}\|_1 = \sum_d |w_d|$$

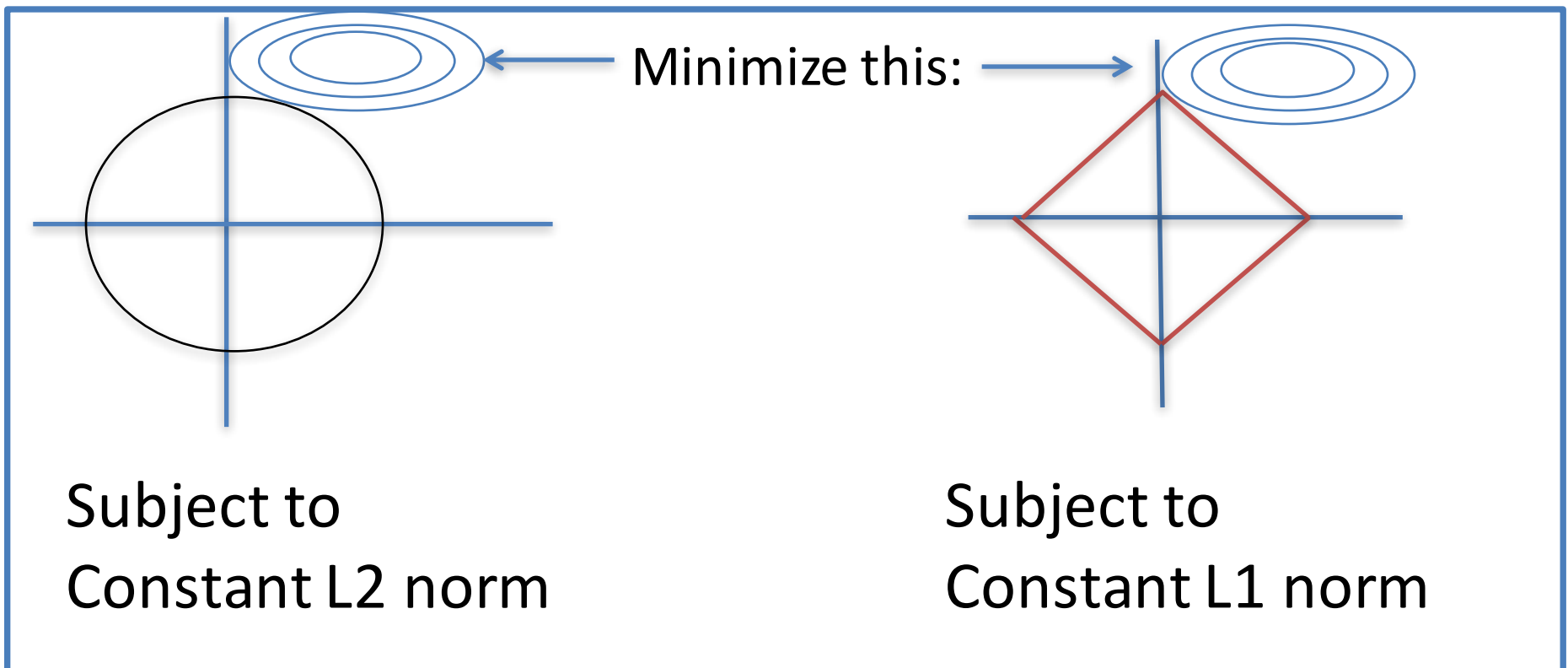
instead of

$$\min_w \sum_i \ell(x_i, y_i; w) + \|w\|_2^2 \qquad \|\vec{w}\|_2^2 = \sum_d w_d^2$$

- Why?

# L1 regularization

- Penalizing the L1 norm of the weight vector leads to *sparse* (read: many 0's) solutions for  $w$ .



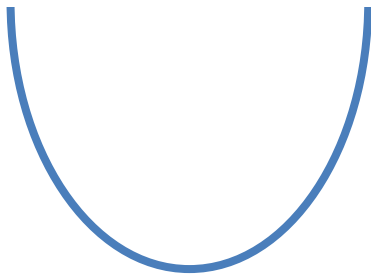
# L1 regularization

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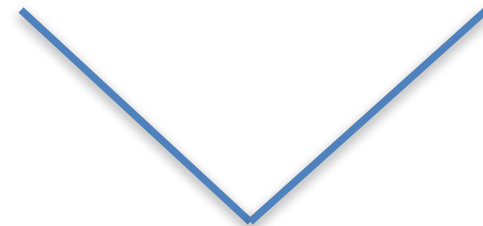
Intuition #2 – w.w.g.d.d

(What would gradient descent do?)

$$\frac{d}{dw_i} \lambda \|w\|_2^2 = \pm \lambda w_i$$



$$\frac{d}{dw_i} \lambda |w| = \pm \lambda$$

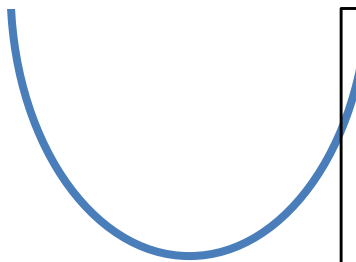


# L1 regularization

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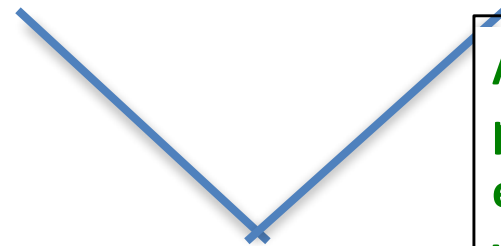
Intuition #2 – w.w.g.d.d  
(What would gradient descent do?)

$$\frac{d}{dw_i} \lambda \|w\|_2^2 = \pm \lambda w_i$$



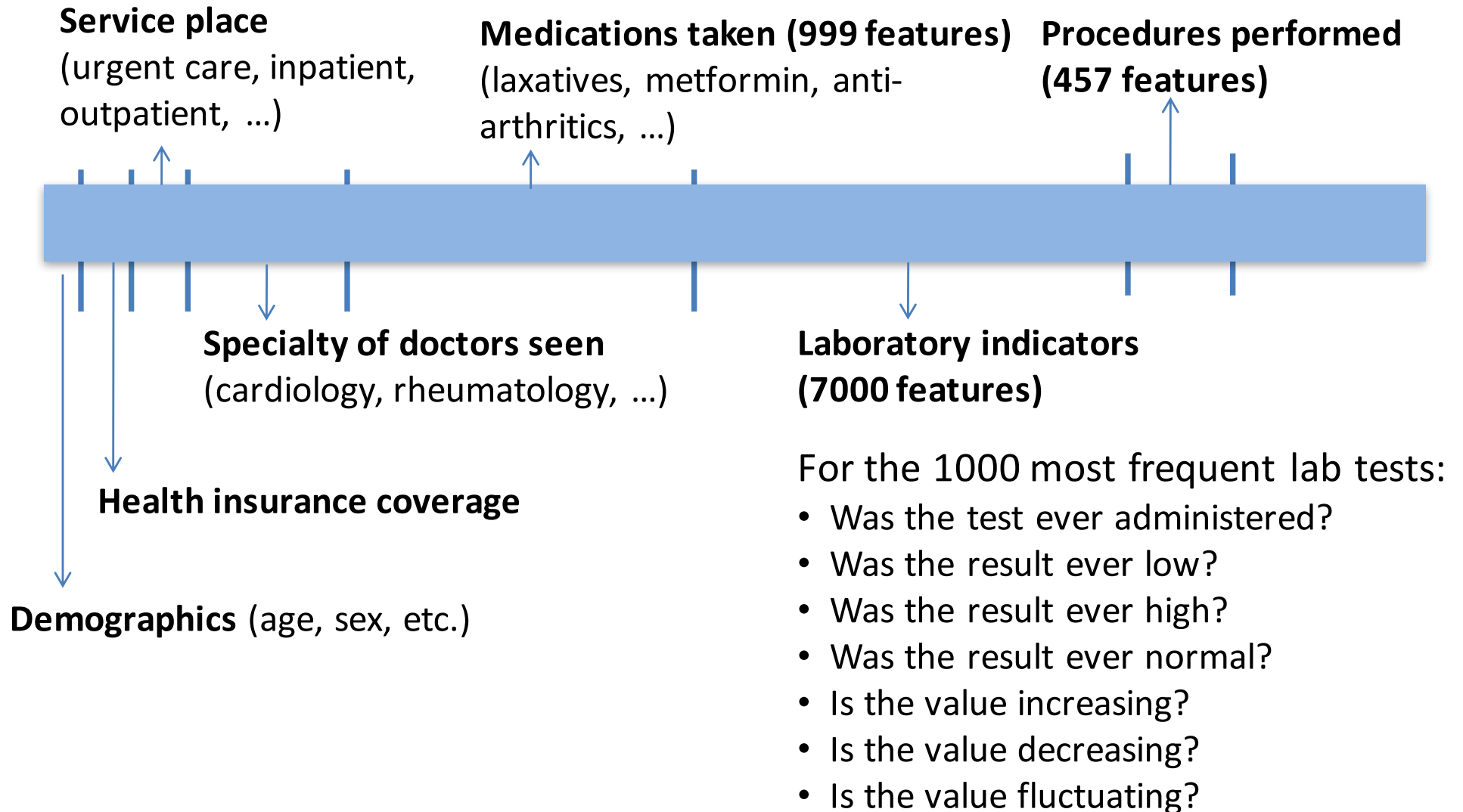
The push towards 0 gets weaker as  $w_i$  gets smaller

$$\frac{d}{dw_i} \lambda |w| = \pm \lambda$$

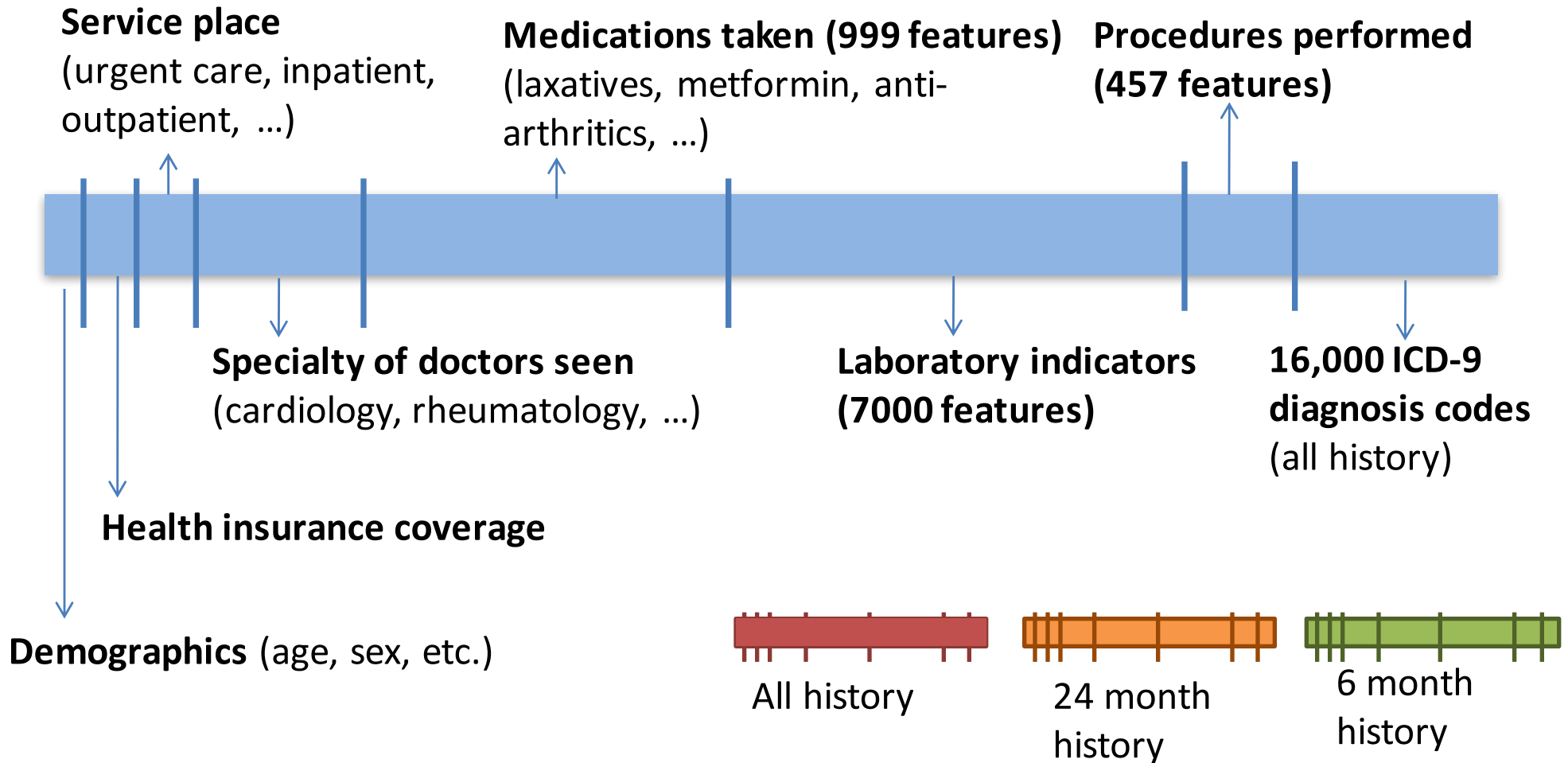


Always pushes elements of  $w_i$  towards 0

# Features used in models



# Features used in models



**Total features per patient: 42,000**



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# What are the Discovered Risk Factors?

- 769 variables have non-zero weight

Top History of Disease	Odds Ratio
Impaired Fasting Glucose (Code 790.21)	4.17 (3.87 4.49)
Abnormal Glucose NEC (790.29)	4.07 (3.76 4.41)
Hypertension (401)	3.28 (3.17 3.39)
Obstructive Sleep Apnea (327.23)	2.98 (2.78 3.20)
Obesity (278)	2.88 (2.75 3.02)
Abnormal Blood Chemistry (790.6)	2.49 (2.36 2.62)
Hyperlipidemia (272.4)	2.45 (2.37 2.53)
Shortness Of Breath (786.05)	2.09 (1.99 2.19)
Esophageal Reflux (530.81)	1.85 (1.78 1.93)

**Diabetes**  
**1-year gap**

# What are the Discovered Risk Factors?

- 769 variables have non-zero weight

## Top History of Diseases

Impaired Fasting Glucose (Code

Abnormal Glucose NEC (790.29)

Hypertension (401)

Obstructive Sleep Apnea (327.23)

Obesity (278)

Abnormal Blood Chemistry (790.6

Hyperlipidemia (272.4)

Shortness Of Breath (786.05)

Esophageal Reflux (530.81)

## Additional Disease Risk Factors Include:

Pituitary dwarfism (253.3),

Hepatomegaly(789.1), Chronic Hepatitis C

(070.54), Hepatitis (573.3), Calcaneal

Spur(726.73), Thyrotoxicosis without

mention of goiter(242.90), Sinoatrial Node

dysfunction(427.81), Acute frontal sinusitis

(461.1 ), Hypertrophic and atrophic

conditions of skin(701.9), Irregular

menstruation(626.4), ...

(1.99 2.19)

1.85

(1.78 1.93)

**Diabetes  
1-year gap**

# What are the Discovered Risk Factors?

- 769 variables have non-zero weight

Top Lab Factors	Odds Ratio
Hemoglobin A1c /Hemoglobin.Total (High - past 2 years)	5.75 (5.42 6.10)
Glucose (High- Past 6 months)	4.05 (3.89 4.21)
Cholesterol.In VLDL (Increasing - Past 2 years)	3.88 (3.53 4.27)
Potassium (Low - Entire History)	2.58 (2.24 2.98)
Cholesterol.Total/Cholesterol.In HDL (High - Entire History)	2.29 (2.19 2.40)
Erythrocyte mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration -(Low - Entire History)	2.25 (1.92 2.64)
Eosinophils (High - Entire History)	2.11 (1.82 2.44)
Glomerular filtration rate/1.73 sq M.Predicted (Low -Entire History)	2.07 (1.92 2.24)
Alanine aminotransferase (High Entire History)	2.04 (1.89 2.19)

**Diabetes**  
**1-year gap**

# What are the Discovered Risk Factors?

- 769 variables have non-zero weight

## Top Lab Factors

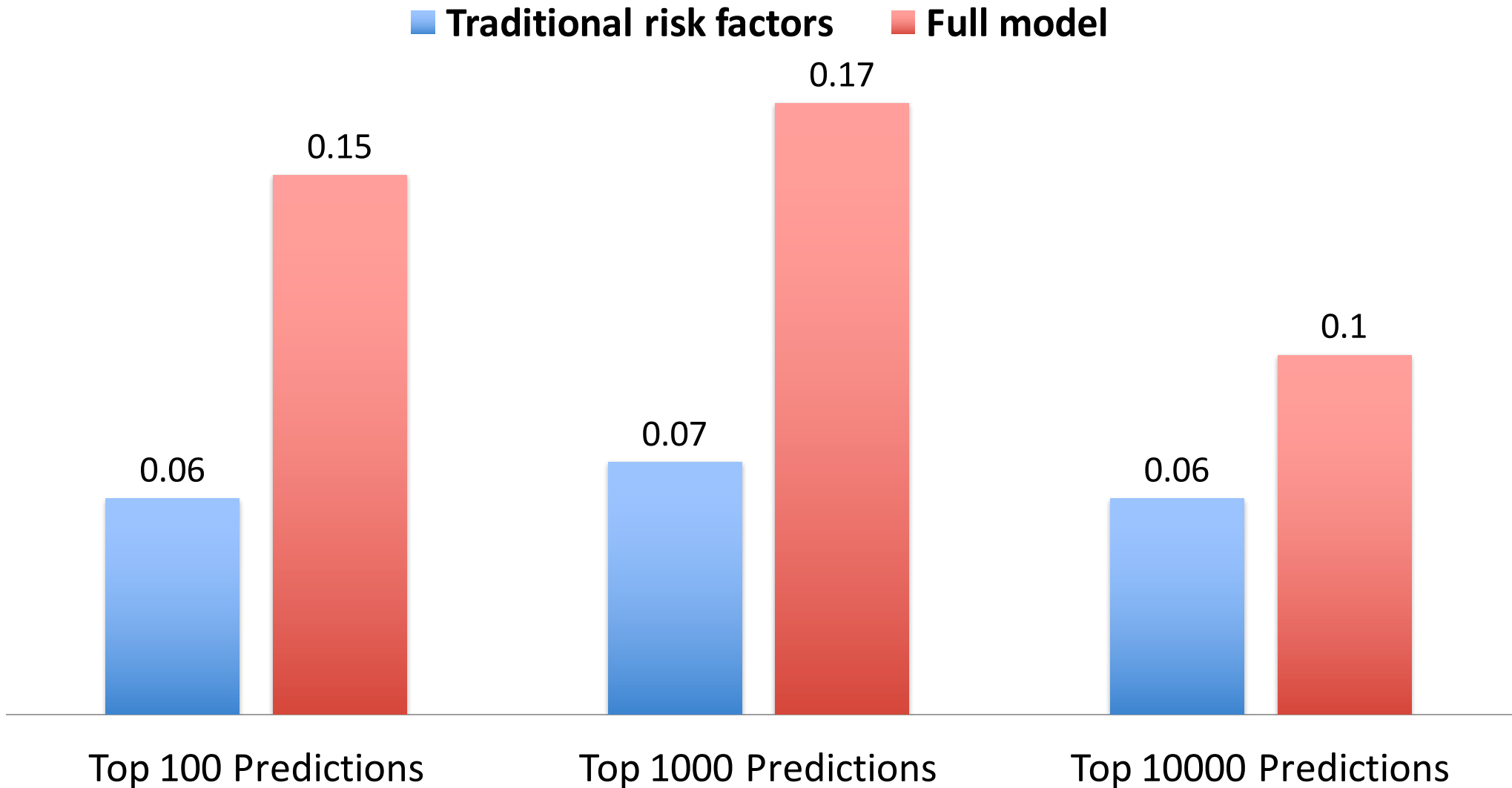
Hemoglobin A1c /Hemoglobin.Total (High)
Glucose (High- Past 6 months)
Cholesterol.In VLDL (Increasing - Past 2
Potassium (Low - Entire History)
Cholesterol.Total/Cholesterol.In HDL (High)

**Additional Lab Test Risk Factors Include:**  
 Albumin/Globulin (Increasing -Entire history), Urea nitrogen/Creatinine -(high - Entire History), Specific gravity (Increasing, Past 2 years), Bilirubin (high -Past 2 years),...

Erythrocyte mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration -(Low - Entire History)	2.25 (1.92 2.64)
Eosinophils (High - Entire History)	2.11 (1.82 2.44)
Glomerular filtration rate/1.73 sq M.Predicted (Low -Entire History)	2.07 (1.92 2.24)
Alanine aminotransferase (High Entire History)	2.04 (1.89 2.19)

**Diabetes**  
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# Positive predictive value (PPV)



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Spring 2019

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