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OBJECTIVES

This study presents performance insights into our clinical Natural Language Processing (NLP) pipeline. We have developed multilingual transformer-based models, trained on in-house curated data, for concept recognition, normalization and attribute extraction such as negation and temporality (Figure 1).

De patiënt heeft geen geschiedenis van diabetes in de familie, maar vertoont symptomen van hartfalen. In 2011 is er een EGFR -positieve NSCLC vastgesteld, waarvoor behandeling opgestart met Pembrolizumab sinds mei 2011.

The patient has diabetes and is showing early signs of hypertension. Last year, she tested positive for rheumatoid arthritis

Der Patient hat eine Vorgeschichte von Asthma und Pankreaskarzinom.

La patient n'a pas d'antécédents de cancer, mais il présente des symptômes d 'hypertension.

phrase	cui	name	negation	dates	experiencer	uncertainty	temporality
diabetes	C0011849	Diabetes Mellitus	☒	2024-07-12	other	☐	historical
hartfalen	C0018801	Heart failure	☐	2024-07-12	patient	☐	recent
EGFR -positieve NSCLC	C5770046	Primary epidermal g	☐	2011-12-31	patient	☐	recent
Pembrolizumab	C3658706	pembrolizumab	☐	2011-05-31	patient	☐	recent
diabetes	C0011849	Diabetes Mellitus	☐	2024-07-12	patient	☐	recent
hypertension	C0020538	Hypertensive disease	☐	2024-07-12	patient	☒	recent
rheumatoid arthritis	C0003873	Rheumatoid Arthritis	☐	2023-12-31	patient	☐	historical
Asthma	C0004096	Asthma	☐	2024-07-12	patient	☐	historical
Pankreaskarzinom	C0346647	Malignant neoplasm	☐	2024-07-12	patient	☐	historical
cancer	C0006826	Malignant Neoplasm	☒	2024-07-12	patient	☐	recent
hypertension	C0020538	Hypertensive disease	☐	2024-07-12	patient	☐	recent

Figure 1. Example of multilingual NLP pipeline concept extraction and mapping

We compare here the out-of-the-box (OOTB) precision and recall to post-validation metrics. We aim to:

- highlight the initial effectiveness of OOTB metrics, and
- demonstrate the crucial role of validation by annotators and physicians in boosting performance across diverse medical domains.

METHODS

The NLP pipeline processes unstructured data from electronic health records (EHRs) of hospitals within our network, focusing on broad-scope data points and specific therapeutic areas (TAs) to generate OMOP-CDM databases that also include structured data sources (Figure 2).

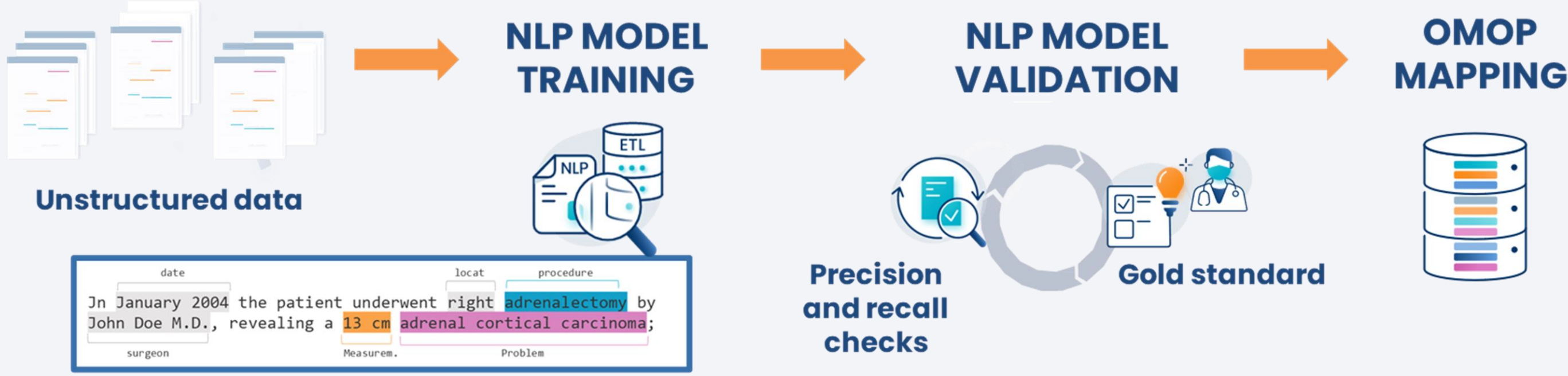


Figure 2. Unstructured data processing by NLP model training, validation, and mapping.

- Initial OOTB precision and recall were calculated for 312 data points in over 23,000 records.
- Subsequently, physicians reviewed data point hierarchy and relevance, and validation against a human-generated gold standard (Figure 3).
- Feedback is leveraged to enhance the NLP pipeline regarding e.g., retraining of named entity recognition, entity linking, date detection and attribute detection components
- Post-validation metrics that were assessed:
 - Precision (true positives among all detected)
 - Recall (true positives among all actual data points)

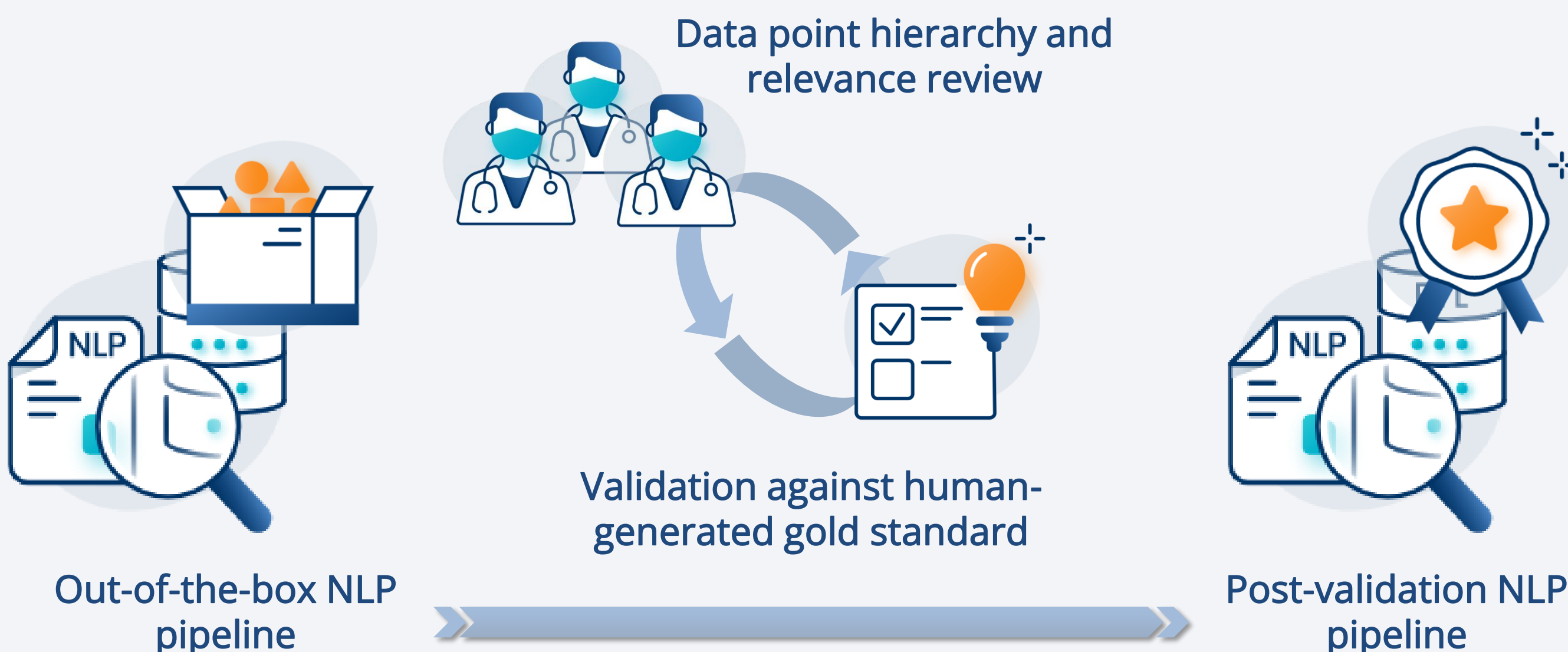
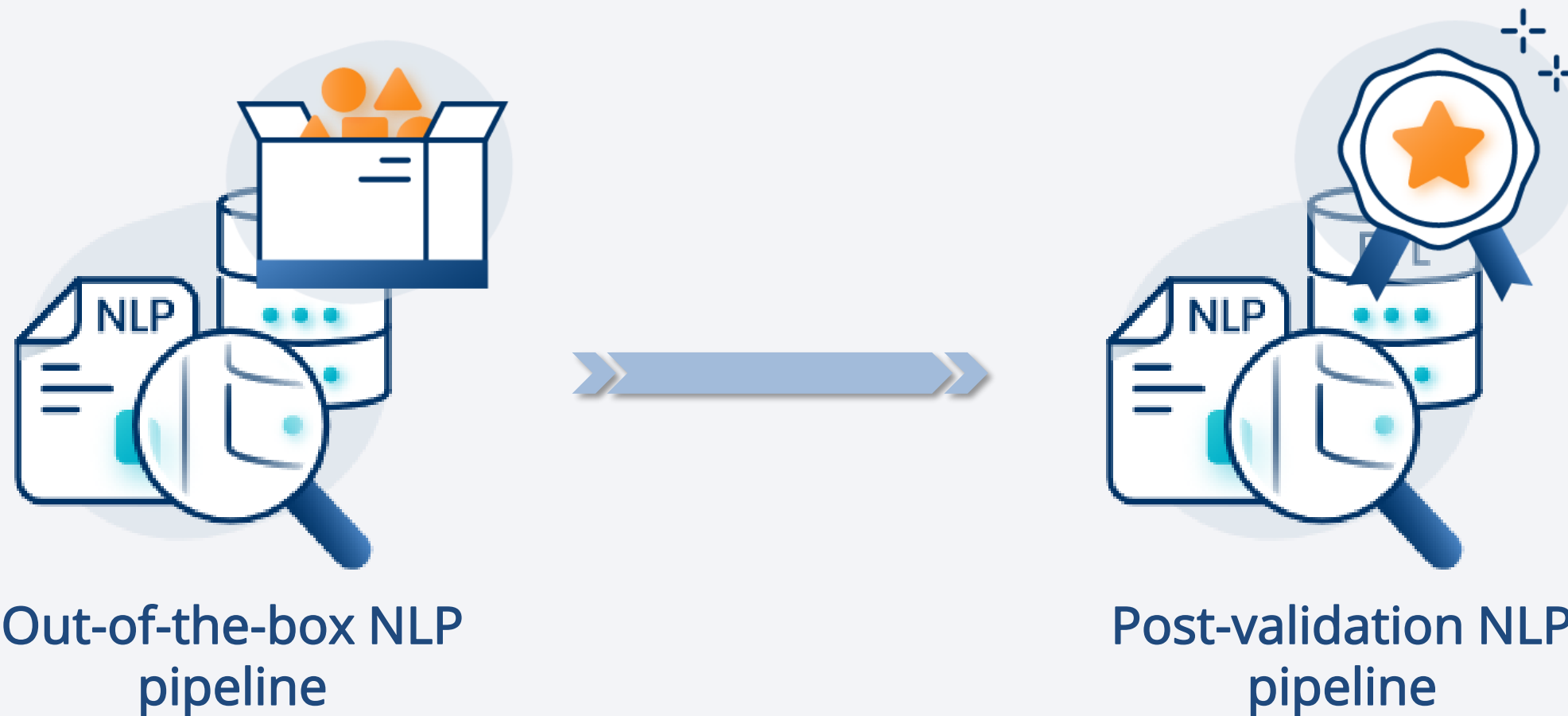


Figure 3. Validation feedback loop for NLP pipeline enhancement

RESULTS

OOTB vs post-validation metrics were assessed for:

- Broad-scope terms: 58 data points and 7,207 records.
- Oncology terms: 193 data points and 13,215 records.
- Cardiology terms: 62 data points and 2,686 records.



Term type	Precision OOTB	Recall OOTB	Precision post-validation	Recall post-validation
Broad	86.3%	82.1%	96.6%	96.3%
Oncology	82.3%	79.1%	96.8%	94.3%
Cardiology	88.6%	79.4%	96.6%	95.6%



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CONCLUSIONS

- Our clinical NLP pipeline significantly enhances real-world data (RWD) quality and integrity by enriching OMOP-CDM datasets with unstructured data.
- Initial out-of-the-box (OOTB) metrics demonstrate promising results, with subsequent validation across diverse medical domains validating its effectiveness for continuous data enrichment.
- Its successful implementation in studies leading to peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts underscores its role in supporting large-scale, cross-institutional research initiatives, contributing to evidence-based medical insights.

Take-home message:
Validation by annotators and physicians ensures comprehensive quality assurance and enhances NLP pipeline performance.



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