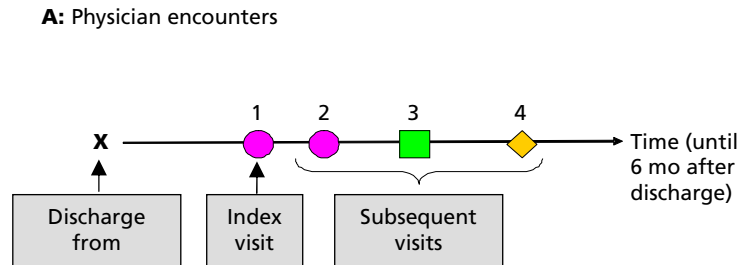


**Appendix 1:** Creation of the analytical data set from information about patients' encounters with physicians.



**Section A** illustrates a single patient's history of physician encounters during the observation period following discharge from hospital. For each patient, the observation period was 6 months after discharge. The index visit was the first encounter with any physician after discharge. Subsequent visits to physicians were included in the analytical data set only if they were preceded by a visit with a different physician. For example, visit 2, with Dr. Circle, was preceded only by another visit with Dr. Circle and was therefore excluded. Visit 3, with Dr. Square, was preceded by 2 visits with a different physician (in this case, 2 visits with Dr. Circle) and was therefore included in the analytical data set twice.

**B: Encounter data set for sample patient**

Visit	Physician	Eligible for inclusion in dataset
1	Circle	No
2	Circle	No
3	Square	Yes
4	Diamond	Yes

**Section B** shows how the information about encounters was summarized in the encounter data set. Each row represents a single physician visit. Only combinations of visits involving current visit 3 and current visit 4 were eligible for inclusion. Visits 1 and 2 were excluded.

C: Analytical data set for sample patient			
Current–previous visit combination*	Current physician	Previous physician	Information from previous visit available to current physician
3–1	Square	Circle	Yes
3–2	Square	Circle	No
4–1	Diamond	Circle	No
4–2	Diamond	Circle	Yes
4–3	Diamond	Square	Yes

\*Where the previous visit was with a different physician.

**Section C** shows how the encounter data set was modified to generate the analytical data set. Each row represents one current–previous visit combination. The last column represents the primary outcome for each encounter: whether information about the previous visit was available during the current visit. When Dr. Square saw this patient at visit 3, he had information about visit 1 but not visit 2 (both with Dr. Circle). When Dr. Diamond saw the patient at visit 4, she had information about visit 2 with Dr. Circle (but not visit 1 with the same physician) and about visit 3 with Dr. Square.