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4 **Derivation and Validation of Pragmatic Clinical Models to Predict**

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7 **Hospital Length of Stay After Cardiac Surgery in Ontario, Canada**

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11 **Short Title:** Predicting Length of Stay after Cardiac Surgery

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46  
47  
48  
49 **Word Count:** 2035

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8 **Acknowledgments:** The authors acknowledge the usage of data compiled and provided by the  
9  
10 Canadian Institute for Health Information. These datasets were linked using unique encoded  
11  
12 identifiers and analyzed at ICES. The analyses, conclusions, opinions, and statements expressed  
13  
14 in the manuscript are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the above  
15  
16 agencies.  
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20

21 **Sources of Funding:** This study is supported by the COVID-19 Response Fund from the  
22  
23 University of Ottawa. LYS is named National New Investigator by the Heart and Stroke  
24  
25 Foundation of Canada and is the Clinical Research Chair in Big Data and Cardiovascular  
26  
27 Outcomes at the University of Ottawa. DSL is the Ted Rogers Chair in Heart Function  
28  
29 Outcomes, University Health Network, University of Toronto.  
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35 This study was supported by ICES, which is funded by an annual grant from the Ontario Ministry  
36  
37 of Health (MOH) and the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC). Parts of this material are based  
38  
39 on data and information compiled and provided by the Canadian Institute for Health Information  
40  
41 (CIHI). The authors acknowledge that the clinical registry data used in this analysis is from  
42  
43 participating hospitals through CorHealth Ontario, which serves as an advisory body to the MOH,  
44  
45 is funded by the MOH, and is dedicated to improving the quality, efficiency, access and equity in  
46  
47 the delivery of the continuum of adult cardiac and stroke care in Ontario, Canada. The analyses,  
48  
49 conclusions, opinions and statements expressed herein are solely those of the authors and do not  
50  
51 reflect those of the funding or data sources; no endorsement is intended or should be inferred.  
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8 **Disclosures:** none  
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11 **Data Sharing Statement:** The dataset from this study is held securely in coded form at ICES.  
12  
13 While legal data sharing agreements between ICES and data providers (e.g., healthcare  
14 organizations and government) prohibit ICES from making the dataset publicly available, access  
15 may be granted to those who meet pre-specified criteria for confidential access, available at  
16 [www.ices.on.ca/DAS](http://www.ices.on.ca/DAS) (email: [das@ices.on.ca](mailto:das@ices.on.ca)). The full dataset creation plan and underlying  
17 analytic code are available from the authors upon request, understanding that the computer  
18 programs may rely upon coding templates or macros that are unique to ICES and are therefore  
19 either inaccessible or may require modification.  
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33 **Contributor Statement:**  
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35 Conception and Design: LYS  
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41 Drafting of the manuscript: AF, LYS  
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43 Critical revision and final approval: AF, ABE, DSL, GW, LYS  
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45 Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the  
46 accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved: LYS  
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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Cardiac surgery is resource intensive and often requires considerable length of stay (LOS). To facilitate evidence-based resource planning, we derived and validated a set of clinical models to predict postoperative hospital LOS.

**Methods:** We used linked, population-level databases with information on all Ontario residents. Included were patients  $\geq 18$  years of age who underwent coronary artery bypass grafting, valvular, or thoracic aorta surgeries between October 2008 and September 2019. The primary outcome was hospital LOS. The models were derived on patients who had surgery before September 30, 2016 and validated on those after that date. To address the rightward skew in LOS data and to identify top-tier resource users, we used logistic regression to derive a model to predict the likelihood of LOS being  $>98^{\text{th}}$  percentile ( $\geq 35$  days). We then used gamma regression in the remainder to predict the actual LOS in days. We used backward stepwise variable selection for both models.

**Results:** Among 105,193 patients, 2,422 (2.3%) had LOS of  $\geq 35$  days. The median LOS was 46 (IQR, 37-66) days for those with LOS in the top 2 percentiles and 6 (5-8) days for those without. The c-statistic was 0.92 for the prolonged LOS model and the mean absolute error was 2.4 days for the model that predicted actual LOS.

**Interpretation:** We derived and validated a set of clinical models to identify top-tier resource users and predict actual LOS with excellent accuracy. Our models could be used to benchmark quality, rationally allocate resources and support patient-centered operative decision-making.

**Key Words:** cardiac surgery, length of stay, hospitalization, access to care, capacity planning, patient-centered research

## INTRODUCTION

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7 Around the world, approximately 2 million cardiac surgeries are performed each year.<sup>1,2</sup> Cardiac  
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10 surgery is resource intensive. It carries a higher burden of complications, requires intensive  
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13 postoperative monitoring, and often longer hospital length of stay (LOS) as compared to  
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16 noncardiac surgery<sup>3</sup>. With steady improvements in surgical technique and perioperative care,  
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19 cardiac surgery is increasingly being offered to frail and complex patients with higher resource  
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22 needs<sup>4,5</sup>. Organizations' drive for operational efficiency and competing capacity needs in the era  
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25 of COVID-19 makes evidence-based triaging and resource allocation, founded on real-world  
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28 data, an urgent priority. Prediction of intensive care unit (ICU) LOS after cardiac surgery<sup>6-8</sup> is  
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31 important but does not fully reflect the extent of resources needed. Nonetheless, few models are  
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34 available to predict postoperative LOS in hospital. Although existing models include those from  
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37 the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) and the EuroSCORE datasets<sup>9-11</sup>, they were developed  
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40 to predict perioperative mortality and end organ morbidity and were only later validated in single  
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43 center datasets for the purpose of predicting prolonged LOS. To better inform health resource  
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46 planning, we derived and externally validated clinical models using population-based data to  
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49 identify top-tier resource users and to predict actual hospital LOS after cardiac surgery.  
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## METHODS

The dataset from this study is held securely in coded form at ICES (formerly the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences). The use of data was authorized under section 45 of Ontario's *Personal Health Information Protection Act*, which does not require review by a research ethics board.<sup>12</sup>

### Design and Population

We conducted a population-based, retrospective cohort study of adult patients  $\geq 18$  years of age, who underwent coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG), aortic, mitral or tricuspid valve, or thoracic aorta surgery in Ontario, Canada between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2019. For patients with multiple cardiac procedures during the study period, only the index procedure was included in the analyses. Ontario is the most populous province in Canada, with about 14.6 million residents and is ethnically diverse<sup>1,3</sup>.

### Data Source

We used the clinical registry of CorHealth Ontario and population-level administrative healthcare databases from ICES. ICES is an independent, non-profit research institute whose legal status under Ontario's health information privacy law allows it to collect and analyze health care and demographic data, without consent, for health system evaluation and improvement.

Datasets were linked deterministically using confidential identifiers and analyzed at ICES. ICES holds multiple population-based health databases of Ontario residents. CorHealth Ontario

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3 maintains a prospective registry of all patients who undergo invasive cardiac procedures in  
4 Ontario and regularly undergoes selected chart audits and core laboratory validation.<sup>12</sup>  
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10 We linked the CorHealth Ontario registry (patient and procedural details) with the Canadian  
11 Institute for Health Information Discharge Abstract Database (comorbidities, hospital admissions  
12 and in-hospital procedures), the Ontario Health Insurance Plan database (physician service  
13 claims) and the Registered Persons Database (vital statistics). These administrative databases  
14 have been validated for many outcomes, exposures, and comorbidities, including heart failure,  
15 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, hypertension, and diabetes.<sup>14-17</sup>  
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26 Potential covariates considered in the analyses are described in **Table 1** and included  
27 demographic, physiological, anatomical and comorbidity data, as well as procedure-specific  
28 information (operative priority status, redo sternotomy, type of surgery, and surgery duration).  
29 We obtained data on height, weight, operative priority, and information pertaining to LVEF,  
30 valvular disease and coronary anatomy from the CorHealth Ontario registry. In addition, we  
31 identified comorbidities from the CorHealth Ontario registry which we supplemented with data  
32 from the Discharge Abstract Database and the Ontario Health Insurance Plan database using  
33 International Classification of Diseases 10<sup>th</sup> Revision (ICD-10-CA) codes<sup>18</sup> within five years  
34 prior to surgery, according to validated algorithms.<sup>14,16,19,20</sup>  
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## 49 **Outcome**

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51 The primary outcome was hospital LOS. As LOS data is invariably right-skewed with extreme  
52 values in those with prolonged stay,<sup>21,22</sup> we derived two separate models: the first (binary  
53 outcome model) to identify the top-tier resource users (i.e., LOS exceeding the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile  
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3 value of  $\geq 35$  days), and the other (continuous outcome model) to predict the actual LOS in days  
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5 in the remainder of the cohort.  
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## 10 **Statistical Analysis**

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12 We compared continuous variables using a 2-sample *t*-test or Wilcoxon rank sum test where  
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14 appropriate, and categorical variables using a chi-square test.  
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## 17 ***Missing Data***

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20 Left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) was missing in 3 582 (3.4%), rurality status in 87  
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22 (0.08%), income quintile in 272 (0.26%), GFR in 4 671 (4.4%), BMI in 5 583 (5.3%), surgery  
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24 duration in 1 317 (1.2%) and operative priority 12 060 (11.5%) patients. We imputed these  
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26 missing values once within the SAS “proc MI” framework, where they were predicted drawing  
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28 on all candidate covariates using predictive mean matching for continuous variables and logistic  
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30 regression for categorical variables.<sup>23</sup>  
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## 34 ***Model Development and Validation***

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36 We split the cohort temporally into a derivation and validation datasets, such that the cohort who  
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38 underwent cardiac surgery before September 30, 2016 was used to derive the models and the  
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40 remainder of the cohort was used to externally validate these models. We predicted prolonged  
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42 hospital LOS using logistic regression and actual hospital LOS using gamma regression. For  
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44 each of the models, we selected predictor variables using a backward stepwise algorithm with a  
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46 significance threshold of  $P < 0.1$  for entry and  $P < 0.05$  for retention in the model.<sup>24</sup> For  
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48 continuous variables, we examined their association with the outcome using cubic splines. Most  
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50 of these variables were entered into the models as continuous values, while body mass index  
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52 (BMI) violated the linearity assumption and was entered as a spline term.  
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### ***Model Evaluation***

The discrimination of the binary outcome model was evaluated using the c-statistic and its calibration was assessed using the Brier score,<sup>25</sup> as well as plots of observed versus predicted rates within deciles of predicted risk in the validation cohort. The performance of the continuous outcome model was assessed using the mean absolute error (MAE), as well as plots of mean observed versus predicted LOS in days within each decile of observed LOS in the validation cohort.

We performed the analysis using SAS 9.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC) and defined statistical significance by a two-sided *P*-value of  $< 0.05$ .

## **RESULTS**

### **Patient Characteristics**

Among 105 193 patients, 2 422 (2.3%) had prolonged hospital LOS of  $\geq 35$  days. The median LOS was 46 (IQR, 37-66) days for those with prolonged LOS and 6 (5-8) for the remainder of the cohort. Patient characteristics were notably different between groups (**Table 1**). Patients with prolonged hospital LOS were older, more frail, and more likely to be female, have lower income levels and to present urgently and emergently for complex procedures (CABG + valve(s),

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3 multiple valves and thoracic aorta surgery) at teaching hospitals. They are also more likely to  
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7 have a higher multimorbidity burden, reduced LVEF, and longer surgical durations.  
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### 13 **Predictors of Length of Stay**

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17 The binary model for prolonged LOS consisted of 16 variables (**Table 2**) and the continuous  
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20 model consisted of 28 variables (**Table 3**). The characteristics common to both models are  
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23 procedure type and duration, age, rural residence, BMI, frailty, Canadian Cardiovascular Society  
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26 and New York Heart Association classification status, LVEF, glomerular filtration rate, valvular  
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29 disease, diabetes requiring treatment, anemia, cerebrovascular disease, malignancy, and  
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32 depression. The continuous outcome model additionally included sex, presenting at a community  
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35 hospital, operative priority, atrial fibrillation, endocarditis, peripheral arterial disease, COPD,  
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38 pulmonary circulatory disease, alcoholism, dementia, and psychosis.  
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### 47 **Model Performance**

#### 48 49 50 *Binary outcome model*

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3 The c-statistic was 0.92 in both derivation and validation datasets, demonstrating excellent  
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6 discrimination. The model was well calibrated, with a Brier score of 0.016 and the observed and  
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9 predicted risks of prolonged LOS being very similar across all probability deciles in the  
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12 calibration dataset (**Figure 1**).

### 13 14 15 16 17 *Continuous outcome model*

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20 The continuous model had a MAE of 2.3 days in the derivation dataset. The MAE was 2.4 in the  
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23 validation dataset, indicating good predictive accuracy. The calibration plot in **Figure 2** shows  
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26 that the mean observed and predicted hospital LOS within each LOS decile were nearly identical  
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29 in the validation cohort.

## 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 **INTERPRETATION**

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41 Operative decision-making may be enhanced by objective tools to more efficiently allocate  
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44 resources in a patient-centered manner. Traditional statistical models are dated; they are limited  
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47 to the prediction of prolonged LOS of varying durations and fail to predict actual LOS<sup>26–29</sup>.

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50 While the latter is beginning to be explored using machine learning techniques in isolated CABG  
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53 patients, it is based on small, single-center datasets and lack generalizability in the broader  
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3 healthcare setting<sup>30,31</sup>. Our models were pragmatically designed for operational capacity planning  
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7 and were derived and validated in a large and representative population to overcome these  
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10 limitations. In this population, the risk-adjusted average hospital LOS for the 2011 – 2016 fiscal  
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13 years were reported as 7.85 days for isolated CABG, 9.26 days for isolated AVR, and 12.07 days  
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16 for CABG/AVR<sup>32</sup>. Of note, this report had trimmed hospital LOS at the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile to remove  
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19 extreme observations, much like the methodology employed in our analysis to isolate top-tier  
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22 resource users who are at the highest risk of complications, worsening frailty, functional decline  
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25 and loss of personal freedom and independence after surgery<sup>12,33-37</sup>. The ability to identify those  
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28 at risk for extremely prolonged LOS allows for better decision-making from the perspectives of  
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31 the healthcare system as well as the individual patient. As the system level, this ability, coupled  
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34 with actual LOS prediction, will facilitate data-driven clinical scheduling to increase throughput,  
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37 facilitate targeted interventions such as prehabilitation, Enhanced Recovery After Surgery, and  
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40 early referral to continuing care facilities. As prolonged LOS has also been implicated with  
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43 increased healthcare cost<sup>9</sup> and disability after discharge,<sup>12,35,36,38,39</sup> our predictive models will  
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49 inform effective provider-patient discussions and encourage patient-centered operative decision-  
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54 making.

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7 Notably, our binary outcome model demonstrated excellent performance with a c-statistic of 0.92  
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10 and outperforms existing models. Comparatively, the EuroScore had a c-statistic of 0.71 (0.69-  
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13 0.72) for predicting prolonged hospital LOS (> 12 days) when validated in a monocentric  
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16 setting<sup>11</sup>, and the STS model had a c-statistic of 0.716-0.732 for predicting short hospital LOS of  
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19  $\leq 5$  days and 0.739-0.796 for predicting prolonged stay of > 5 days, depending on the type of  
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22 surgery performed.<sup>40</sup> It should also be noted that these models rely on designated staff for data  
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25 collection, which constitutes further healthcare resource demands and is not feasible at all  
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31 centers.

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37 Our continuous outcome model was able to predict LOS with an error margin of 2 days, which is  
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40 accepted in a publicly funded healthcare ecosystem given LOS could be influenced by the  
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43 availability of post-discharge continuing care facilities and home-based caregivers rather than  
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46 medical indications alone. Importantly, our ability to predict actual LOS enables precision-based  
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49 hospital capacity planning, as well as quality benchmarking and incentivized allocation of  
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52 healthcare funding. Incorporation of the model into tools such as the province-wide CorHealth  
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4 information system could also help individual providers to understand bed requirements at the  
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7 time of intervention, allowing for more accurate resource planning.  
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13 Many risk factors from our LOS models are consistent with those published in the literature<sup>9,41</sup>.  
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17 We were additionally able to incorporate frailty as a defining element of perioperative outcomes  
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20 and recovery<sup>42,43</sup>, as well as anemia, dementia, psychosis, hospital type, and a variety of  
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23 sociodemographic factors to ensure that all patient groups are equally represented. The variables  
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26 included in our models are routinely collected and readily available to facilitate their adoption at  
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30 most institutions.  
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### 37 **Strengths and Limitations**

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40 Notable strengths of our models include their generalizability across the scope of cardiac surgery  
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43 in a large and representative population, as well as their relevance to clinicians, policy makers  
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46 and patients. Limitations include the lack of certain detailed physiologic measures such as the  
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49 brain natriuretic peptide in the databases used, as well as their limited application in those who  
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52 undergo minimally invasive cardiac procedures.  
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## CONCLUSIONS

We derived and validated a set of clinical prediction models to identify top-tier resource users (hospital LOS  $\geq 35$  days) and actual LOS after cardiac surgery with excellent accuracy. The importance of these models lies in their potential to support medical resource planning and patient-centered decision-making. Care, outcomes, and patient satisfaction may be substantially improved if clinical judgment is supported by objective quantification in the planning of care. Being based on an unbiased population-based sample, these models could be combined with established ICU LOS<sup>7</sup> and waitlist<sup>44</sup> management tools to provide evidence-based triaging decision support, to conserve system capacity, enhance operational efficiency, as well as to benchmark performance.

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## 25 FIGURE LEGENDS

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31 **Figure 1.** Calibration plot of observed vs. predicted risk of extremely prolonged postoperative  
32 hospital length of stay of  $\geq 35$  days, according to deciles of expected rate.

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40 **Figure 2.** Calibration plot of observed vs. predicted average lengths of hospital stay in days,  
41 within each decile of expected length of stay.

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## TABLES

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of patients by length of hospital stay.

|                                      | Length of stay <35 d | Length of stay ≥35 d | P-Value |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|
| <b>Demographics</b>                  |                      |                      |         |
| Age, Mean +/- SD, y                  | 66.26 (10.76)        | 70.64 (11.34)        | <0.001  |
| Age, Median (IQR), y                 | 67 (59-74)           | 73 (64-79)           | <0.001  |
| Female sex, n (%)                    | 25 151 (24.5%)       | 832 (34.4%)          | <0.001  |
| BMI, Mean +/- SD, kg/m <sup>2</sup>  | 28.85 (5.74)         | 29.25 (6.81)         | 0.001   |
| BMI, Median (IQR), kg/m <sup>2</sup> | 28 (25-32)           | 28 (25-33)           | 0.504   |
| Rural residence, n (%)               | 15 853 (15.4%)       | 318 (13.1%)          | 0.002   |
| Hospital type, n (%)                 |                      |                      | <0.001  |
| Community                            | 29 328 (28.5%)       | 553 (22.8%)          |         |
| Teaching                             | 73 443 (71.5%)       | 1 869 (77.2%)        |         |
| Income Quintile                      |                      |                      | <0.001  |
| 1 (lowest)                           | 19 540 (19.0%)       | 564 (23.3%)          |         |
| 2                                    | 20 992 (20.4%)       | 546 (22.5%)          |         |
| 3                                    | 21 122 (20.6%)       | 487 (20.1%)          |         |
| 4                                    | 20 754 (20.2%)       | 446 (18.4%)          |         |
| 5 (highest)                          | 20 363 (19.8%)       | 379 (15.6%)          |         |
| <b>Comorbidities</b>                 |                      |                      |         |
| Hypertension, n (%)                  | 87 359 (85.0%)       | 2 188 (90.3%)        | <0.001  |
| Atrial fibrillation, n (%)           | 6 905 (6.7%)         | 397 (16.4%)          | <0.001  |
| Recent MI, n (%)                     | 23 547 (22.9%)       | 637 (26.3%)          | <0.001  |
| CCS classification, n (%)            |                      |                      | <0.001  |
| 0                                    | 21 997 (21.4%)       | 703 (29.0%)          |         |
| 1                                    | 9 733 (9.5%)         | 183 (7.6%)           |         |
| 2                                    | 17 026 (16.6%)       | 164 (6.8%)           |         |
| 3                                    | 15 106 (14.7%)       | 246 (10.2%)          |         |
| 4                                    | 3 584 (3.5%)         | 99 (4.1%)            |         |
| Low-risk ACS                         | 15 530 (15.1%)       | 265 (10.9%)          |         |
| Intermediate-risk ACS                | 13 343 (13.0%)       | 331 (13.7%)          |         |
| High-risk ACS                        | 3 883 (3.8%)         | 155 (6.4%)           |         |
| Emergent                             | 2 569 (2.5%)         | 276 (11.4%)          |         |

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| 4  | Left ventricular ejection fraction, n        |                 |               |        |
| 5  | (%)  |                 |               | <0.001 |
| 6  | ≥ 50%  | 72 714 (70.8%)  | 1 464 (60.4%) |        |
| 7  | 35-49%                                       | 20 860 (20.3%)  | 552 (22.8%)   |        |
| 8  | 20-35%                                       | 7 847 (7.6%)    | 321 (13.3%)   |        |
| 9  | <20%   | 1 350 (1.3%)    | 85 (3.5%)     |        |
| 10 |  |                 |               |        |
| 11 |  |                 |               |        |
| 12 | NYHA classification, n (%)                   |                 |               | <0.001 |
| 13 | 1  | 72 445 (70.5%)  | 1 273 (52.6%) |        |
| 14 | 2  | 15 396 (15.0%)  | 350 (14.5%)   |        |
| 15 | 3  | 12 153 (11.8%)  | 532 (22.0%)   |        |
| 16 | 4  | 2 777 (2.7%)    | 267 (11.0%)   |        |
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| 19 | Heart failure, n (%)                         | 26 585 (25.9%)  | 1 455 (60.1%) | <0.001 |
| 20 | Valve disease, n (%)                         | 29 813 (29.0%)  | 1 184 (48.9%) | <0.001 |
| 21 |  |                 |               |        |
| 22 | Endocarditis, n (%)                          |                 |               | <0.001 |
| 23 | None   | 101 436 (98.7%) | 2 293 (94.7%) |        |
| 24 | Acute  | 938 (0.9%)      | 112 (4.6%)    |        |
| 25 | Subacute                                     | 397 (0.4%)      | 17 (0.7%)     |        |
| 26 |  |                 |               |        |
| 27 | Cerebrovascular disease, n (%)               | 9 948 (9.7%)    | 385 (15.9%)   | <0.001 |
| 28 | Peripheral arterial disease, n (%)           | 13 647 (13.3%)  | 502 (20.7%)   | <0.001 |
| 29 |  |                 |               |        |
| 30 | Smoking status, n (%)                        |                 |               | <0.001 |
| 31 | None   | 47 527 (46.2%)  | 1 185 (48.9%) |        |
| 32 | Current                                      | 19 889 (19.4%)  | 459 (19.0%)   |        |
| 33 | Former                                       | 35 355 (34.4%)  | 778 (32.1%)   |        |
| 34 |  |                 |               |        |
| 35 | COPD, n (%)                                  | 23 756 (23.1%)  | 833 (34.4%)   | <0.001 |
| 36 | Diabetes, n (%)                              | 29 816 (29.0%)  | 833 (34.4%)   | <0.001 |
| 37 |  |                 |               |        |
| 38 | GFR, Mean +/- SD, ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup>  | 74.05 (21.42)   | 58.78 (25.42) | <0.001 |
| 39 |  |                 |               |        |
| 40 | GFR, Median (IQR), ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> | 77 (61-90)      | 58 (41-79)    | <0.001 |
| 41 | Dialysis, n (%)                              | 2 070 (2.0%)    | 196 (8.1%)    | <0.001 |
| 42 | Anemia, n (%)                                | 10 170 (9.9%)   | 714 (29.5%)   | <0.001 |
| 43 |  |                 |               |        |
| 44 | Liver disease, n (%)                         | 977 (1.0%)      | 58 (2.4%)     | <0.001 |
| 45 | Dementia, n (%)                              | 1 296 (1.3%)    | 86 (3.6%)     | <0.001 |
| 46 |  |                 |               |        |
| 47 | Depression, n (%)                            | 1 359 (1.3%)    | 132 (5.5%)    | <0.001 |
| 48 | Psychosis, n (%)                             | 205 (0.2%)      | 9 (0.4%)      | 0.0631 |
| 49 |  |                 |               |        |
| 50 | Malignancy, n (%)                            | 5 207 (5.1%)    | 174 (7.2%)    | <0.001 |
| 51 | Paraplegia, n (%)                            | 294 (0.3%)      | 22 (0.9%)     | <0.001 |
| 52 |  |                 |               |        |
| 53 | Pulmonary circulatory disease, n (%)         | 2 279 (2.2%)    | 181 (7.5%)    | <0.001 |
| 54 |  |                 |               |        |
| 55 | Hospital frailty risk score *                |                 |               | <0.001 |
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|---------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------|
| High-risk, n (%)                      | 1 166 (1.1%)   | 557 (23.0%)     |        |
| Intermediate-risk, n (%)              | 16 474 (16.0%) | 1 511 (62.4%)   |        |
| Low-risk, n (%)                       | 85 131 (82.8%) | 354 (14.6%)     |        |
| <b>Operative characteristics</b>      |                |                 |        |
| Surgery type, n (%)                   |                |                 | <0.001 |
| CABG                                  | 67 703 (65.9%) | 839 (34.6%)     |        |
| Single valve                          | 14 964 (14.6%) | 383 (15.8%)     |        |
| Multiple valves                       | 1 745 (1.7%)   | 118 (4.9%)      |        |
| CABG + single valve                   | 10 034 (9.8%)  | 463 (19.1%)     |        |
| CABG + multiple valves                | 690 (0.7%)     | 70 (2.9%)       |        |
| Thoracic aorta                        | 7 635 (7.4%)   | 549 (22.7%)     |        |
| Redo-sternotomy, n (%)                | 2 800 (2.7%)   | 148 (6.1%)      | <0.001 |
| Cardiogenic shock, n (%)              | 427 (0.4%)     | 46 (1.9%)       | <0.001 |
| Operative priority, n (%)             |                |                 | <0.001 |
| Emergent                              | 5,379 (5.2%)   | 392 (16.2%)     |        |
| Urgent                                | 31 487 (30.6%) | 1 074 (44.3%)   |        |
| Semi-urgent                           | 26 072 (25.4%) | 397 (16.4%)     |        |
| Elective                              | 39 833 (38.8%) | 559 (23.1%)     |        |
| Surgery duration, mean (SD), min      | 279.59 (80.67) | 350.27 (126.11) | <0.001 |
| Surgery duration, median (IQR), min   | 268 (225-319)  | 327 (265-403)   | <0.001 |
| <b>Post-operative characteristics</b> |                |                 |        |
| Length of stay, mean (SD), d          | 7.47 (4.19)    | 58.02 (36.35)   | <0.001 |
| Length of stay, IQR (SD), d           | 6 (5-8)        | 46 (37-66)      | <0.001 |

Abbreviations: SD = standard deviation; IQR = interquartile range; BMI = body mass index; MI = myocardial infarction; CCS = Canadian Cardiovascular Society; ACS = acute coronary syndrome; LVEF = left ventricular ejection fraction; NYHA = New York Heart Association; COPD = chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; GFR = glomerular filtration rate; CABG = coronary artery bypass grafting.

\* Gilbert et al. (2018)

Table 2. Multivariable predictors of prolonged hospital length of stay of  $\geq 35$  days.

| Variable                         | $\beta$ -coefficient | Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI) | P Value |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Demographics</b>              |                      |                              |         |
| Age                              | 0.0205               | 1.02 (1.02-1.03)             | <0.001  |
| BMI, per 1 kg/m <sup>2</sup>     | -0.0380              | 0.96 (0.94-0.98)             | 0.0005  |
| Rural                            | -0.1848              | 0.83 (0.71-0.97)             | 0.0166  |
| <b>Co-morbidities</b>            |                      |                              |         |
| CCS classification               |                      |                              |         |
| 0                                | N/A                  | Reference                    | N/A     |
| 1                                | -0.1967              | 0.82 (0.67-1.01)             | 0.0603  |
| 2                                | -0.3822              | 0.68 (0.55-0.85)             | 0.0006  |
| 3                                | 0.0114               | 1.01 (0.84-1.22)             | 0.9064  |
| 4                                | 0.1511               | 1.16 (0.89-1.53)             | 0.2751  |
| Low risk ACS                     | -0.2074              | 0.81 (0.67-0.99)             | 0.0357  |
| Intermediate risk ACS            | -0.0392              | 0.96 (0.8-1.16)              | 0.6854  |
| High risk ACS                    | 0.4073               | 1.50 (1.18-1.91)             | 0.0009  |
| Emergent                         | 0.803                | 2.23 (1.79-2.78)             | <.0001  |
| LVEF                             |                      |                              |         |
| $\geq 50\%$                      | N/A                  | Reference                    | N/A     |
| 35-49%                           | 0.1052               | 1.11 (0.98-1.26)             | 0.1093  |
| 20-35%                           | 0.0506               | 1.05 (0.89-1.24)             | 0.5551  |
| <20%                             | 0.5591               | 1.75 (1.31-2.34)             | 0.0002  |
| Heart failure                    | 0.3731               | 1.45 (1.29-1.64)             | <0.001  |
| CVD                              | -0.2409              | 0.79 (0.68-0.91)             | 0.0009  |
| Diabetes (treated)               | 0.1497               | 1.16 (1.04-1.3)              | 0.0105  |
| eGFR                             | -0.00390             | 1.00 (0.99-1.00)             | 0.0007  |
| Anemia                           | -0.2997              | 0.74 (0.65-0.84)             | <0.001  |
| Depression                       | 0.3184               | 1.37 (1.08-1.75)             | 0.0100  |
| Malignancy                       | -0.2093              | 0.81 (0.66-0.99)             | 0.0399  |
| Valvular disease                 | -0.2247              | 0.80 (0.68-0.94)             | 0.0078  |
| Hospital frailty risk score *    |                      |                              |         |
| High-risk                        | 4.2723               | 71.69 (59.01-87.09)          | <0.001  |
| Intermediate-risk                | 2.6876               | 14.70 (12.75-16.94)          | <0.001  |
| Low-risk                         | N/A                  | Reference                    | N/A     |
| <b>Operative Characteristics</b> |                      |                              |         |
| Surgery type                     |                      |                              |         |
| CABG                             | N/A                  | Reference                    | N/A     |



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| 1  |                              |         |                     |        |
| 2  |                              |         |                     |        |
| 3  | Single valve                 | 0.7583  | 2.13 (1.71-2.66)    | <0.001 |
| 4  | Multivalve                   | 0.8855  | 2.42 (1.77-3.33)    | <0.001 |
| 5  | CABG + single valve          | 0.6876  | 1.99 (1.63-2.43)    | <0.001 |
| 6  | CABG + multivalve            | 1.0779  | 2.94 (2.06-4.19)    | <0.001 |
| 7  | Thoracic aorta               | 0.9391  | 2.56 (2.14-3.06)    | <0.001 |
| 8  | Surgery duration, per 10 min | 0.00393 | 1.040 (1.035-1.045) | <0.001 |
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Abbreviations: BMI = body mass index; CCS = Canadian Cardiovascular Society; LVEF = left ventricular ejection fraction; CVD = cerebrovascular disease; e GFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; CABG = coronary artery bypass grafting.

\* Gilbert et al. (2018)

Confidential

**Table 3. Multivariable predictors of a continuous model describing actual hospital length of stay in days.**

| Variable                     | $\beta$ -coefficient | Rate Ratio (95% CI) | P Value |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------|
| <b>Demographics</b>          |                      |                     |         |
| Age                          | 0.007500             | 1.01 (1.01-1.01)    | <0.001  |
| Sex, female                  | 0.077071             | 1.08 (1.07-1.09)    | <0.001  |
| BMI, per 1 kg/m <sup>2</sup> | -0.006353            | 0.994 (0.993-0.995) | <0.001  |
| Rural                        | -0.038102            | 0.96 (0.96-0.97)    | <0.001  |
| Community hospital           | 0.032697             | 1.03 (1.03-1.04)    | <0.001  |
| <b>Co-morbidities</b>        |                      |                     |         |
| Atrial fibrillation          | 0.023919             | 1.02 (1.01-1.04)    | <0.001  |
| <b>CCS</b>                   |                      |                     |         |
| 0                            | N/A                  | Reference           | N/A     |
| 1                            | -0.013390            | 0.99 (0.98-1.00)    | 0.0185  |
| 2                            | -0.011821            | 0.99 (0.98-1.00)    | 0.0228  |
| 3                            | 0.007720             | 1.01 (1.00-1.02)    | 0.1461  |
| 4                            | 0.023578             | 1.02 (1.01-1.04)    | 0.0061  |
| Low risk ACS                 | 0.004400             | 1.00 (0.99-1.02)    | 0.4320  |
| Intermediate risk ACS        | 0.039144             | 1.04 (1.03-1.05)    | <.001   |
| High risk ACS                | 0.038623             | 1.04 (1.02-1.06)    | 0.0013  |
| Emergent                     | 0.135774             | 1.15 (1.12-1.18)    | <.001   |
| <b>LVEF</b>                  |                      |                     |         |
| ≥ 50%                        | N/A                  | Reference           | N/A     |
| 35-49%                       | 0.014921             | 1.02 (1.01-1.02)    | <0.001  |
| 20-35%                       | 0.045719             | 1.05 (1.04-1.06)    | <0.001  |
| <20%                         | 0.115012             | 1.12 (1.10-1.15)    | <0.001  |
| <b>NHYA class</b>            |                      |                     |         |
| 1                            | N/A                  | Reference           | N/A     |
| 2                            | 0.011695             | 1.01 (1.00-1.02)    | 0.0111  |
| 3                            | 0.026415             | 1.03 (1.02-1.04)    | <0.001  |
| 4                            | 0.060932             | 1.06 (1.04-1.08)    | <0.001  |
| Heart Failure                | 0.072425             | 1.08 (1.07-1.08)    | <0.001  |
| <b>Endocarditis</b>          |                      |                     |         |
| Acute                        | 0.199950             | 1.22 (1.18-1.26)    | <0.001  |
| Subacute                     | 0.025726             | 1.03 (0.98-1.07)    | 0.2623  |
| CVD                          | 0.027025             | 1.03 (1.02-1.04)    | <0.001  |

|                               |           |                  |        |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------------------|--------|
| PAD                           | 0.018385  | 1.02 (1.01-1.03) | <0.001 |
| COPD                          | 0.037918  | 1.04 (1.03-1.05) | <0.001 |
| Diabetes (treated)            | 0.031403  | 1.03 (1.03-1.04) | <0.001 |
| eGFR                          | -0.001126 | 1.00 (1.00-1.00) | <0.001 |
| Anemia                        | 0.028545  | 1.03 (1.02-1.04) | <0.001 |
| Alcohol use                   | 0.033998  | 1.03 (1.01-1.06) | 0.0041 |
| Dementia                      | 0.046793  | 1.05 (1.02-1.07) | 0.0002 |
| Depression                    | 0.079752  | 1.08 (1.06-1.11) | <0.001 |
| Psychosis                     | 0.134990  | 1.14 (1.08-1.21) | <0.001 |
| Pulmonary circulatory disease | 0.078703  | 1.08 (1.06-1.10) | <0.001 |
| Valvular disease              | -0.014392 | 0.99 (0.98-1.00) | 0.0082 |
| Hospital frailty risk score * |           |                  |        |
| High-risk                     | 0.510984  | 1.67 (1.62-1.71) | <0.001 |
| Intermediate-risk             | 0.340613  | 1.41 (1.39-1.42) | <0.001 |
| Low-risk                      | N/A       | Reference        | N/A    |

#### Operative Characteristics

##### Surgery type

|                              |           |                       |        |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------|
| CABG                         | N/A       | Reference             | N/A    |
| Single valve                 | 0.125445  | 1.13 (1.12-1.15)      | <0.001 |
| Multiple valves              | 0.224929  | 1.25 (1.22-1.28)      | <0.001 |
| CABG + Valve                 | 0.131862  | 1.14 (1.13-1.16)      | <0.001 |
| CABG + Multivalve            | 0.174254  | 1.19 (1.15-1.23)      | <0.001 |
| Thoracic aorta               | 0.141773  | 1.15 (1.14-1.17)      | <0.001 |
| Redo sternotomy              | -0.031499 | 0.97 (0.95-0.98)      | <0.001 |
| Surgery duration, per 10 min | 0.000996  | 1.010 (1.0096-1.0104) | <0.001 |

##### Surgical priority

|             |          |                  |        |
|-------------|----------|------------------|--------|
| Emergent    | 0.047870 | 1.05 (1.03-1.07) | <0.001 |
| Urgent      | 0.002829 | 1.00 (0.99-1.01) | 0.5711 |
| Semi-urgent | 0.004538 | 1.00 (1.00-1.01) | 0.2277 |
| Elective    | N/A      | Reference        | N/A    |

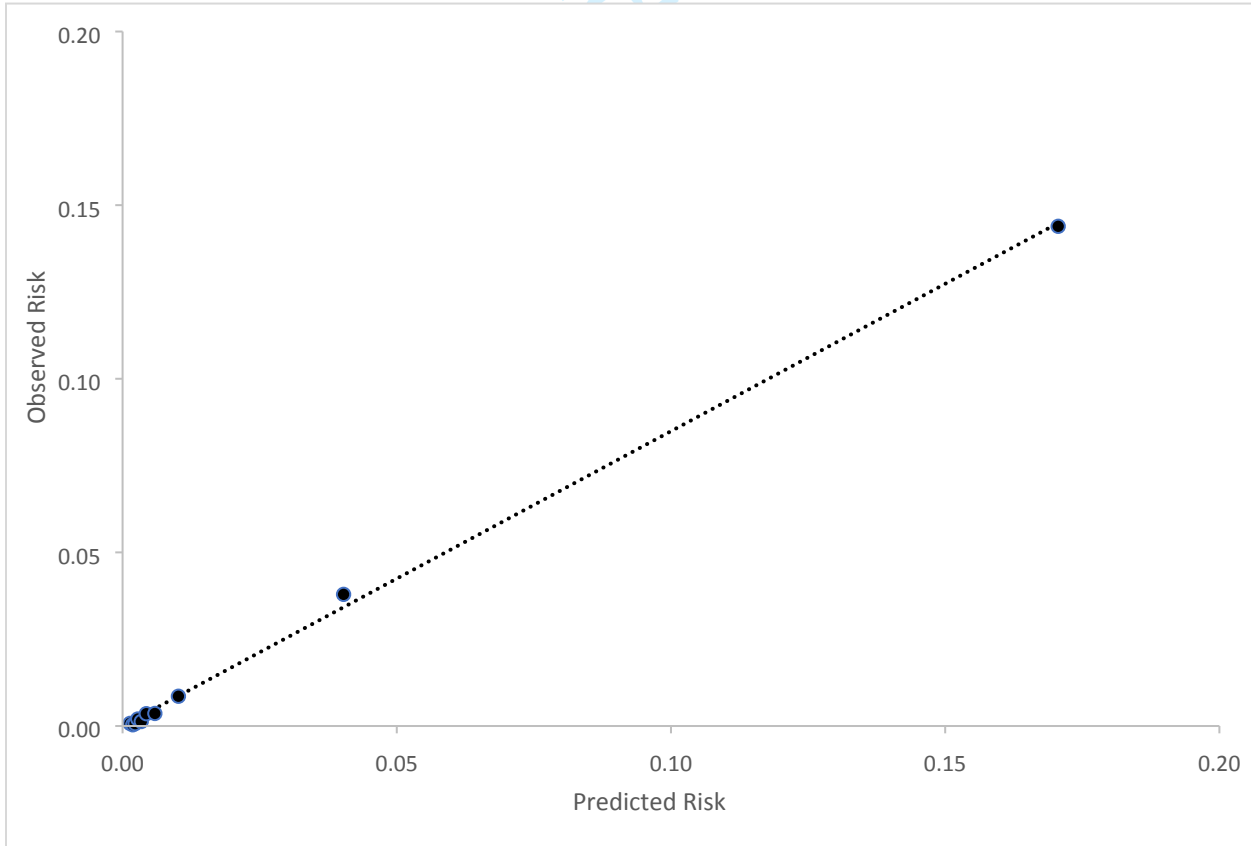
Abbreviations: BMI = body mass index; CCS = Canadian Cardiovascular Society; LVEF = left ventricular ejection fraction; NYHA = New York Heart Association; CVD = cerebrovascular disease; PAD = peripheral arterial disease; COPD = chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; CABG = coronary artery bypass grafting.

\* Gilbert et al. (2018)

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**FIGURES**

**Figure 1.** Calibration plot of observed vs. predicted risk of extremely prolonged postoperative hospital length of stay of  $\geq 35$  days, according to deciles of expected rate.



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**Figure 2.** Calibration plot of observed vs. predicted average lengths of hospital stay in days, within each decile of expected length of stay.

