

## Supplementary material

Development and validation of an early warning model for hospitalized COVID19 patients: A multi-center retrospective cohort study

### Appendix A: Predictor selection

We started with a set of candidate predictors identified by Knight and colleagues<sup>1</sup> as clinically important in COVID-19 cohorts (table 1). To effectively model the degree of supplemental oxygen ( $O_2$ ) a patient required, we added the need for  $O_2$  as a dichotomous predictor (assuming ‘yes’ if any  $O_2$  measurement was observed in the preceding eight hours of the moment of sampling) and as a continuous predictor ( $L/min$ ) to this set. Additionally, we added the  $SpO_2$  to  $O_2$  ratio ( $SpO_2/O_2$ ), constructed from the most recent pair of simultaneously measured values for  $SpO_2$  and  $O_2$ . Based on other findings in recent COVID-19 literature, we added 8 extra laboratory measures as candidate predictors. To correct for time dependency of some included predictors and model the effect of duration of the hospitalization on the prior deterioration risk, we added the current length of stay on the ward as a predictor. Finally, to model the dynamics in frequently measured vital signs, we added the signed difference (before normalization) between the first and second most recently measured value within the last 24 hours for frequently measured predictors ( $SpO_2$ , heart rate, systolic blood pressure, respiratory rate, temperature and  $SpO_2/O_2$ ) (if fewer than two values were available in the last 24 hours, we used the imputation strategy described in the next section). Table 1 shows the complete list of candidate predictors.

### Appendix B: Missing data

We imputed the two categorical predictors, i.e. sex and AVPU (Alert, Verbal, Pain, Unresponsive),<sup>2</sup> by fitting logistic regression models (L2 regularization,  $\lambda = 1$ ) with sex or AVPU as outcomes and using the remaining data as predictors (using median imputation as an initial imputation strategy). To impute the missing values among the remaining predictors, we used the ‘IterativeImputer’ function offered by scikit-learn in Python.<sup>3</sup> This algorithm is inspired by Multivariate Imputation by Chained Equations (MICE),<sup>4</sup> a widely used multiple imputation strategy, but returns a single imputation instead of multiple imputations. Likewise as MICE, it imputes each predictor with missing values in an iterated round-robin fashion (from the predictor with the fewest missing values to most). That is, at each step, a Bayesian ridge regressor is fitted to predictor one of the predictors based on the remaining predictors (in which missing values are imputed with median imputation as the initial imputation strategy). The missing values are then imputed by the value with the highest probability density in the posterior distribution. This is done for each predictor in an iterative fashion, and the whole process of imputing each predictor is repeated for ten rounds.

### Appendix C: Isotonic regression

A commonly used method to fit a calibrator is isotonic regression (IR).<sup>5</sup> In IR, it is assumed that the originally fitted model ranks observations correctly, leading to a non-decreasing mapping of the original predictions to the observed probabilities. The relationship between the predictions ( $p$ ) of the original model and the true labels  $y_i$  is described as follows:

$$y_i = m(p_i) + \epsilon_i \quad (1)$$

This mapping can be fitted using IR. Given a train set  $(p_i, y_i)$ , one should find the isotonic function  $m$  such that:

$$m = \operatorname{argmin}_z \sum (y_i - z(p_i))^2 \quad (2)$$

A stepwise constant function for  $z$  can be found by applying the pair-adjacent violators (PAV) algorithm.<sup>5</sup> To implement IR, we used the ‘CalibratedClassifierCV’ (with the `cv=‘prefit’` option) function offered by scikit-learn on Python.<sup>3</sup> When implementing IR, one needs to assign a part of the training set to the ‘calibration set’ (i.e. the data used to fit the calibrator).

Appendix D: Supplementary figures

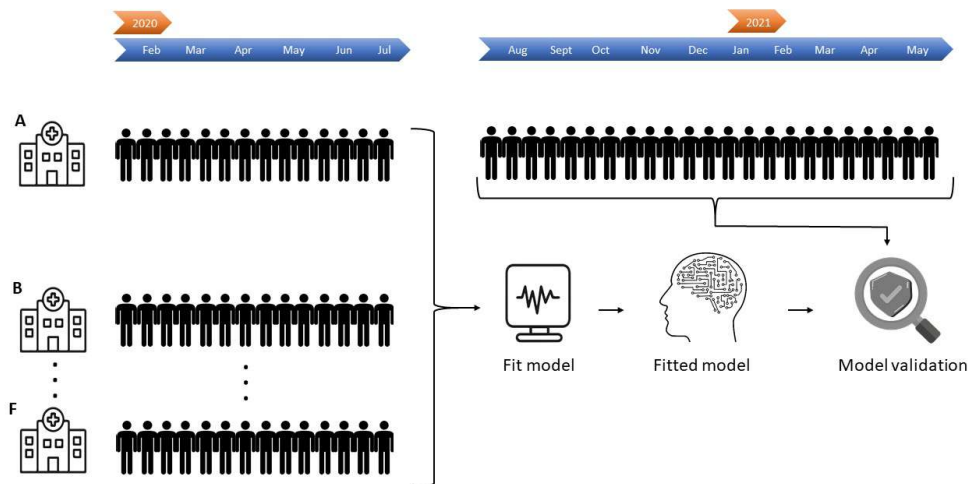


Figure 1: Schematic representation of the static models. The model is fitted on data of patients admitted before August 1, 2020, and validated for all patients admitted after this date.

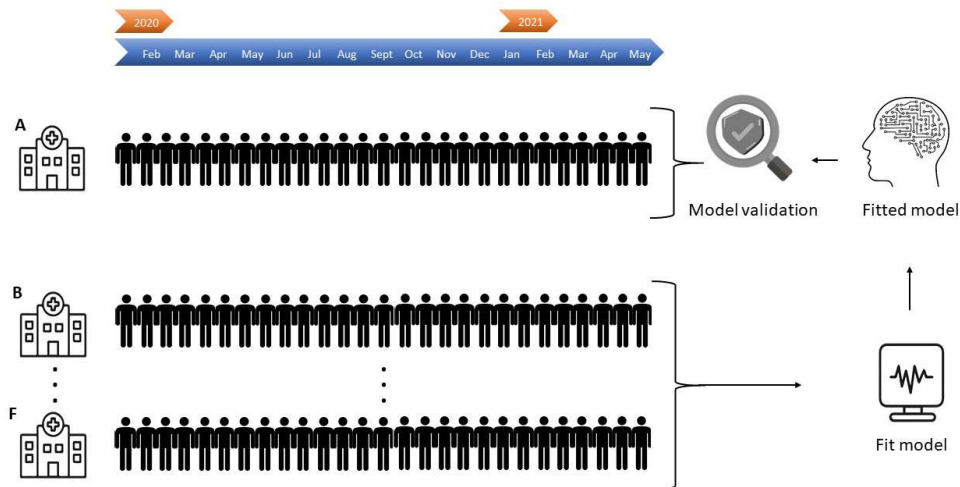


Figure 2: Schematic representation of the retrospective 'leave-one-hospital-out' validation procedure.

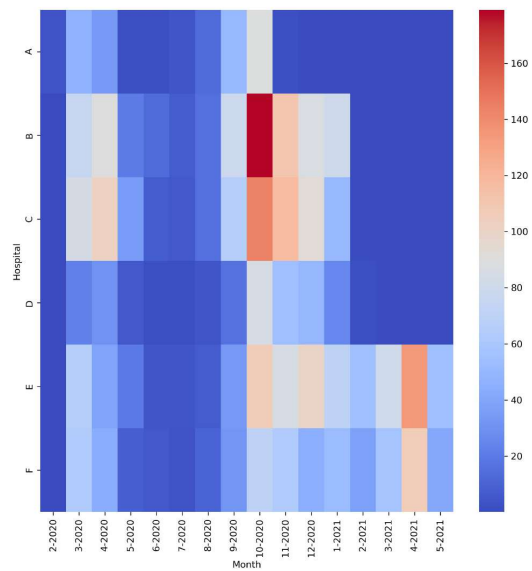


Figure 3: Heatmap describing the number of admissions per month for the different hospitals.

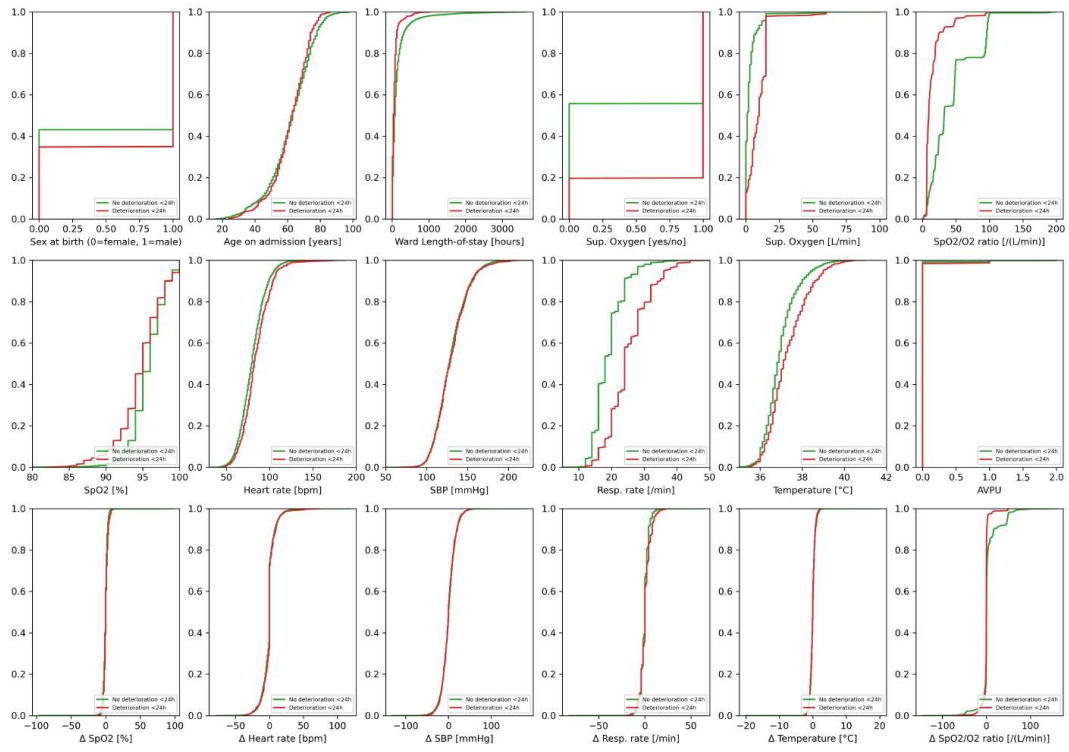


Figure 4: Cumulative distributions for the included predictors of positive (Deterioration <24 hours) and negative (No deterioration <24 hours) samples.

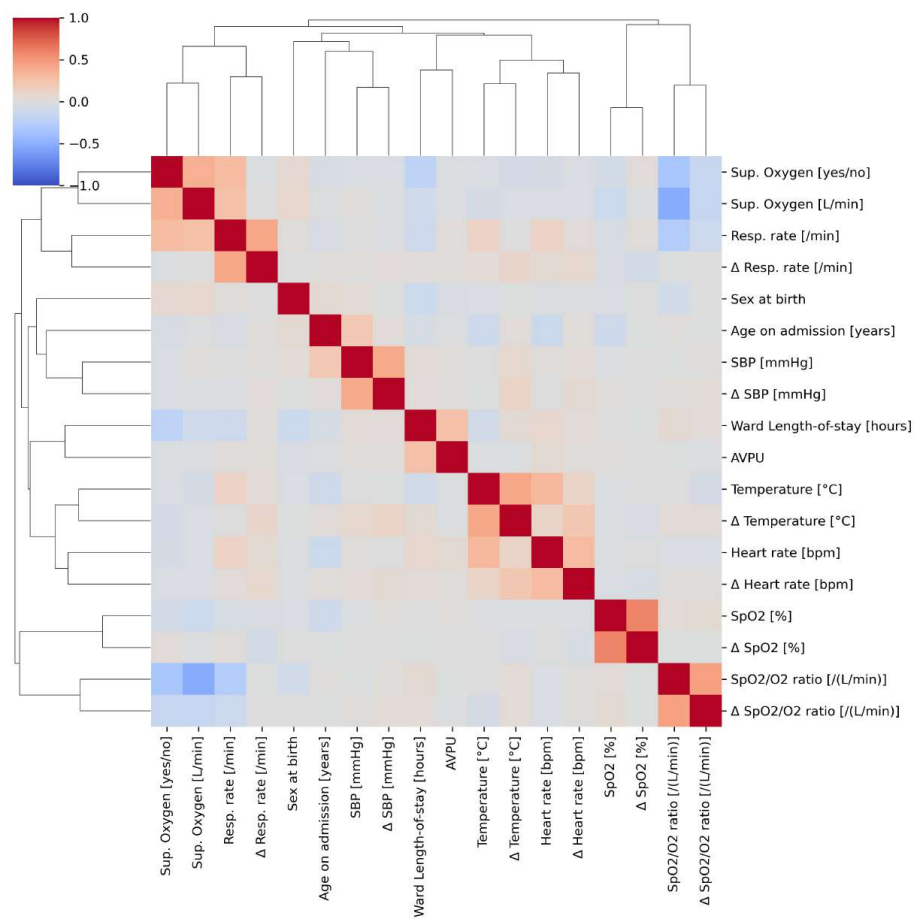


Figure 5: Clustered heatmap of the correlation matrix of all included model predictors.

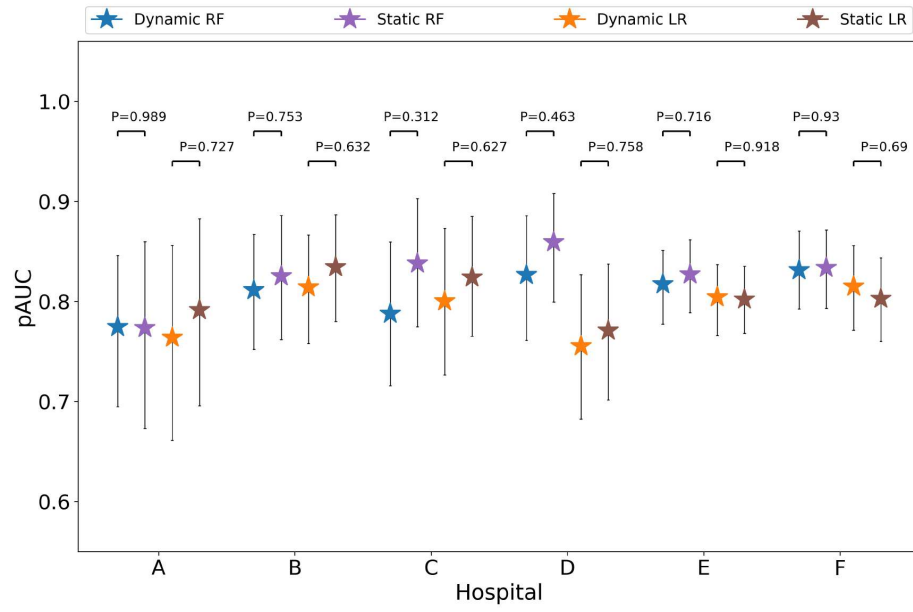
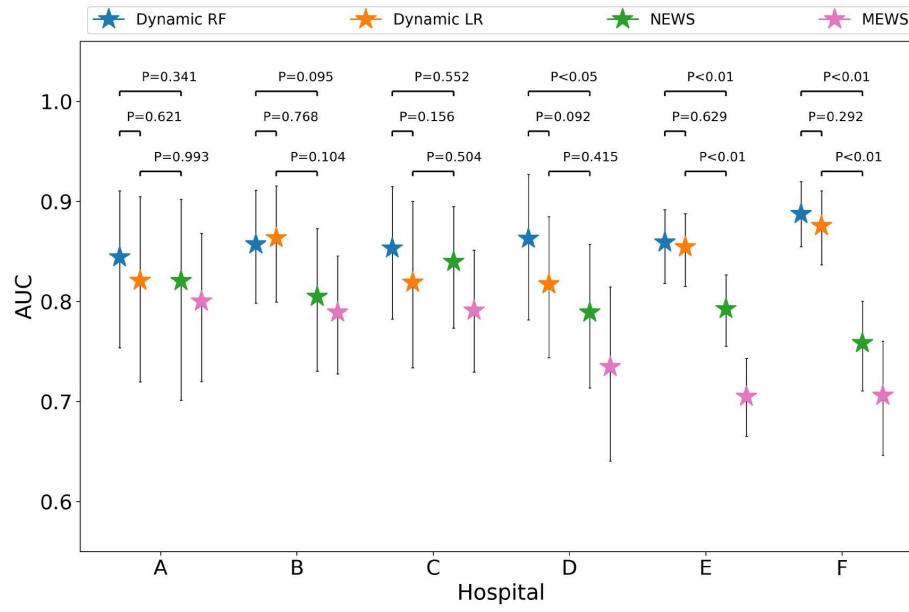
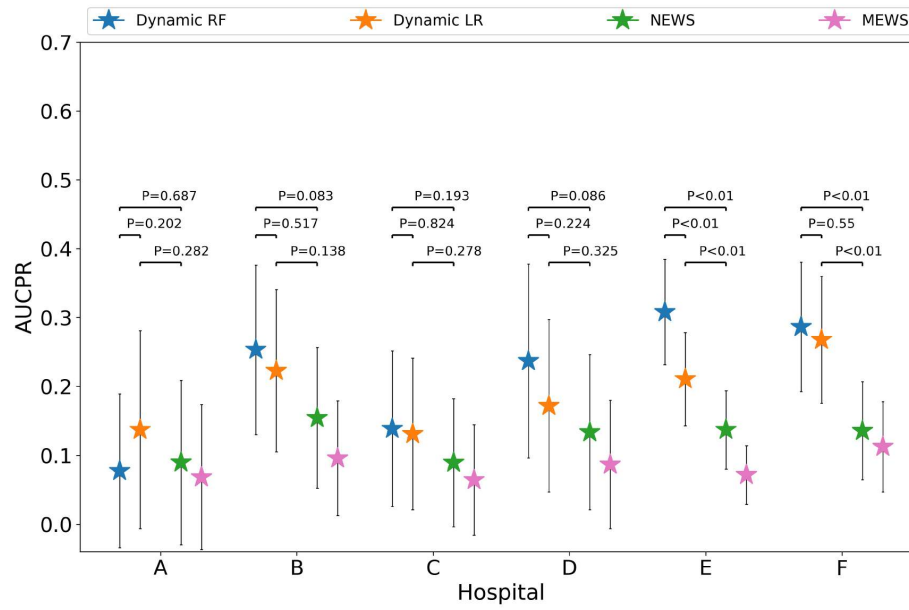


Figure 6: Discriminative performance of the static and dynamic random forest (RF) and logistic regression (LR) models in the temporal validation procedure in terms of partial area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (pAUC).



(a) AUC



(b) AUCPR

Figure 7: Discriminative performance of the random forest (RF) and logistic regression (LR) models in the temporal validation procedure in terms of area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC) and area under the precision-recall curve (AUCPR).

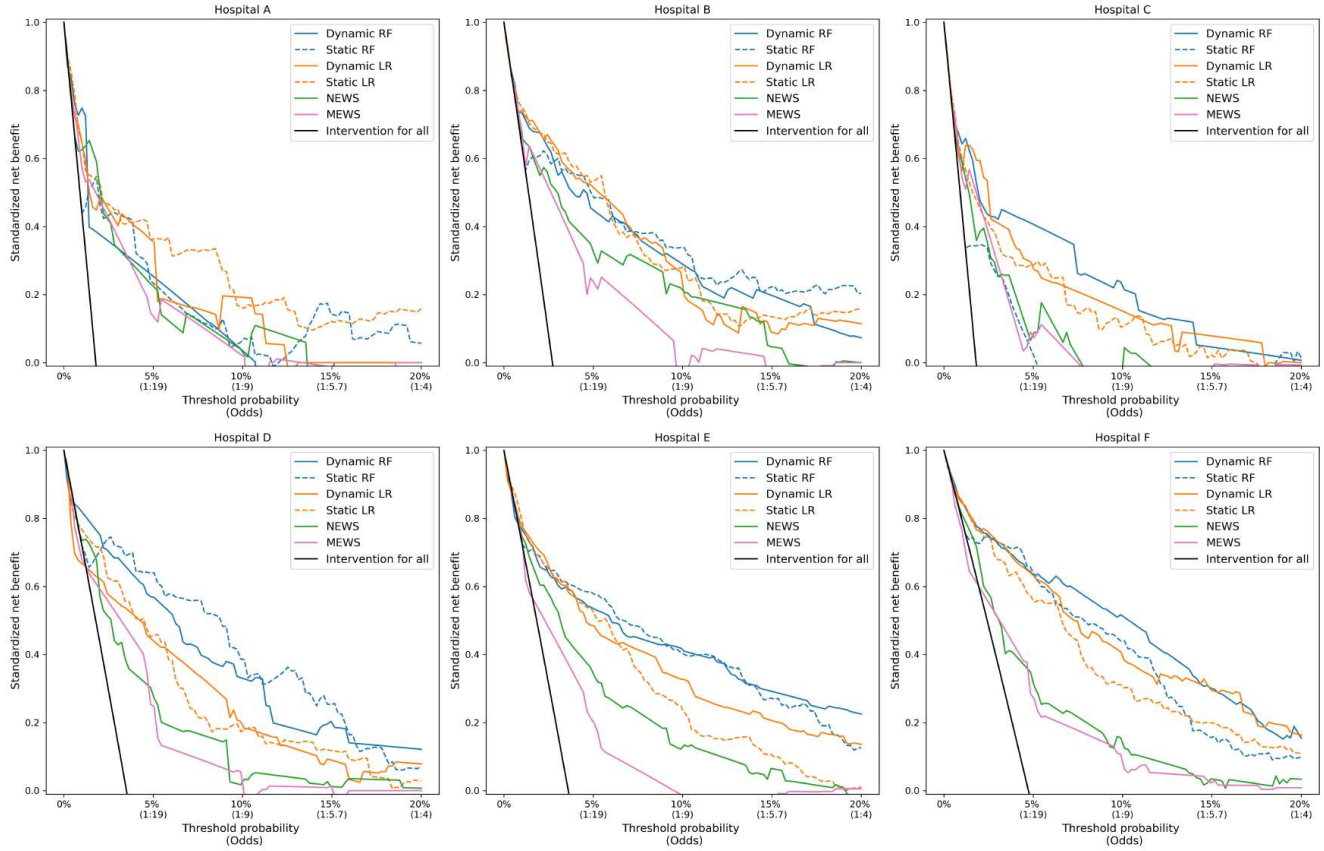
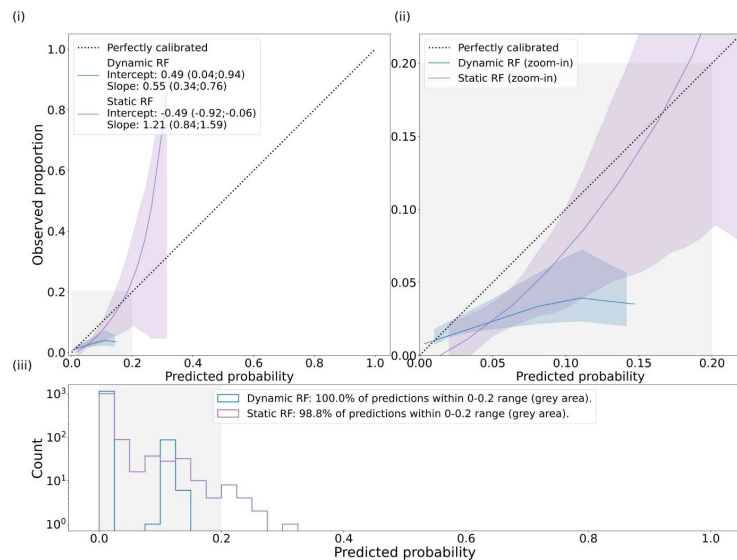
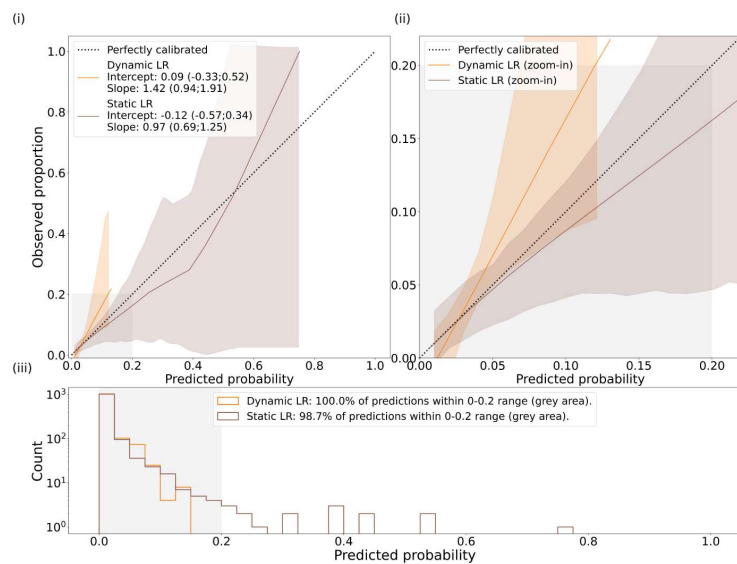


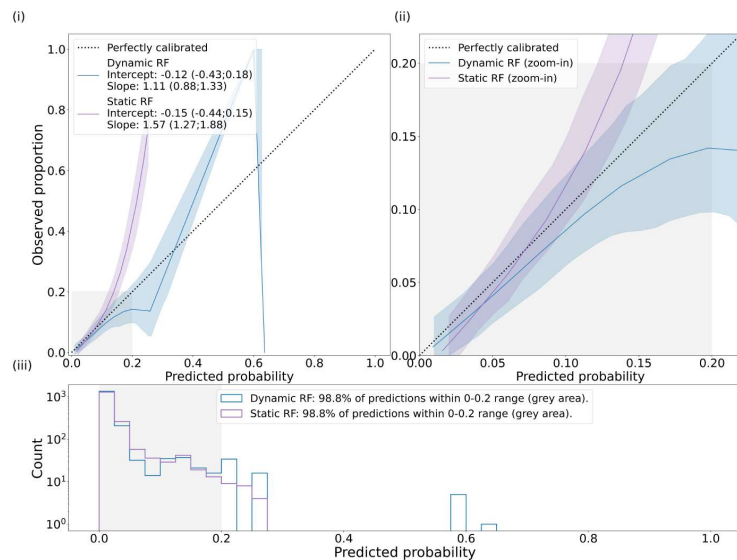
Figure 8: Hospital-specific decision curve analysis results in the temporal validation procedure. The standardized net benefits are plotted over a range of clinically relevant probability thresholds. The ‘Intervention for all’ lines indicate the net benefit (NB) if a response would always be triggered. RF=Random Forest, LR=Logistic Regression, MEWS=Modified Early Warning Score, NEWS=National Early Warning Score



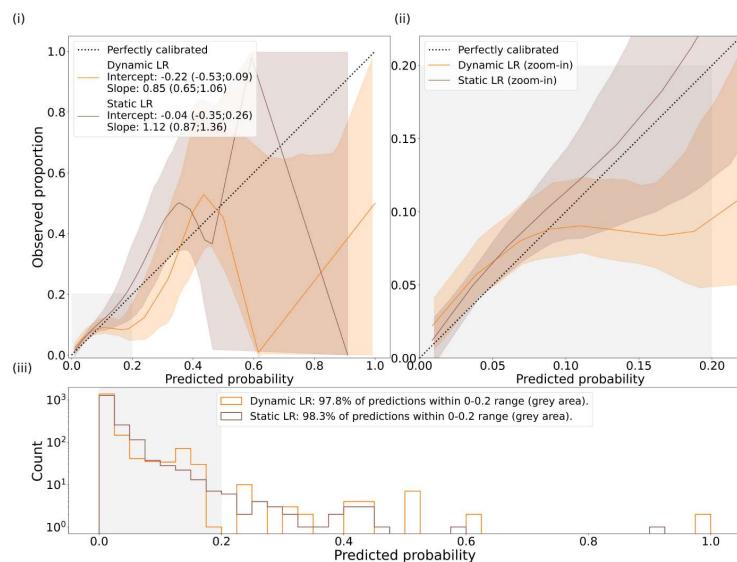
(a) RF hospital A.



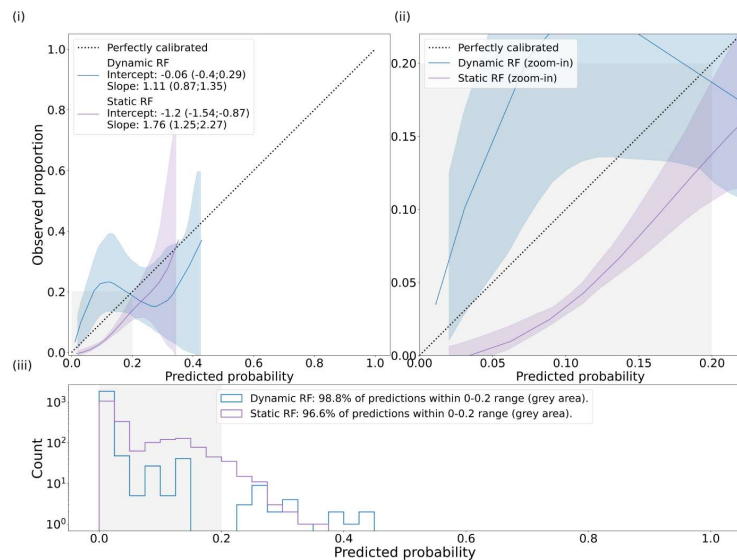
(b) LR hospital A.



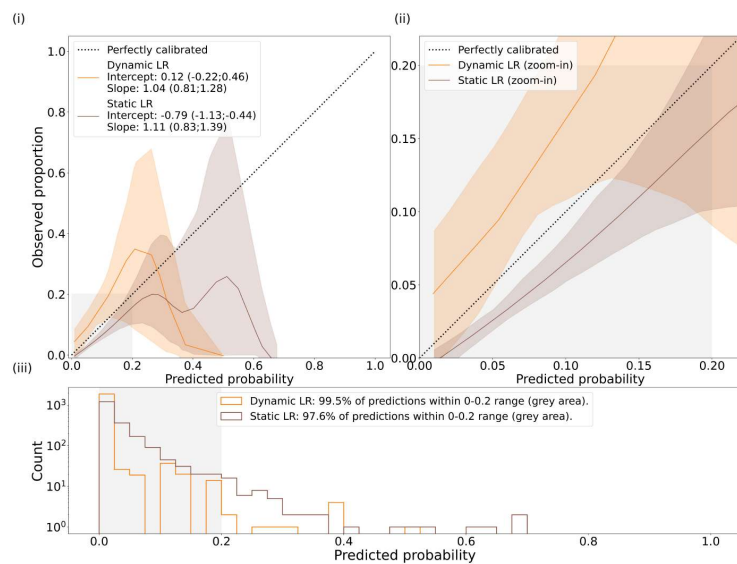
(c) RF hospital B.



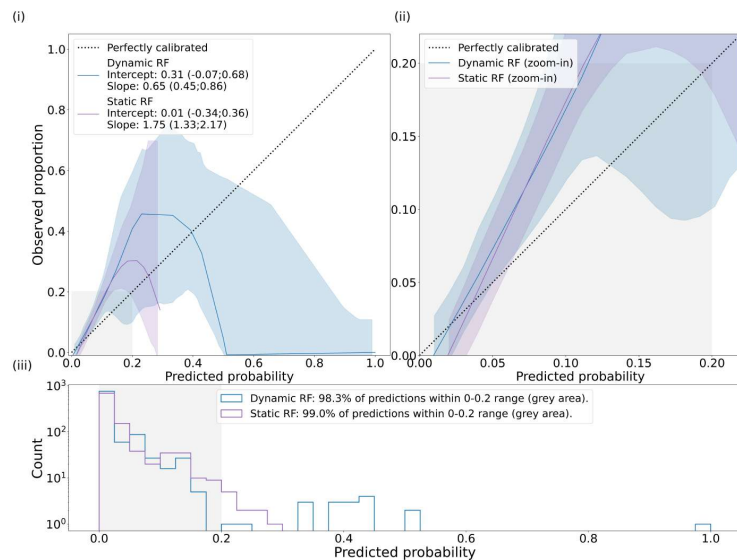
(d) LR hospital B.



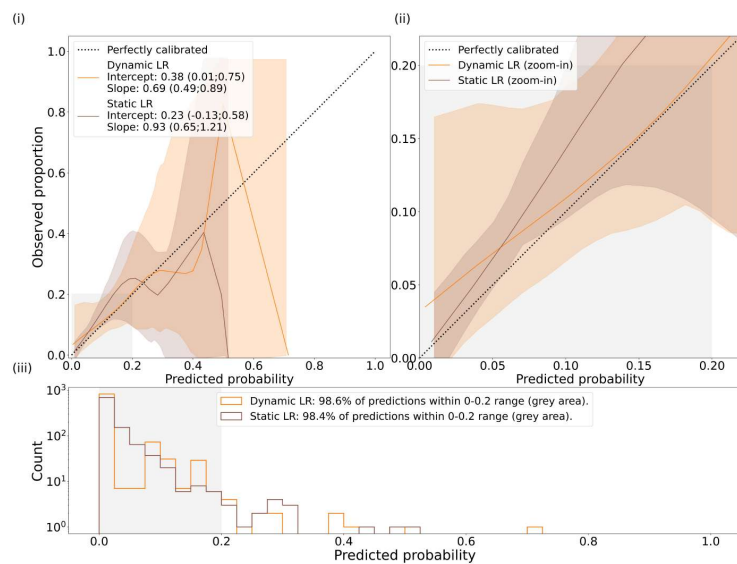
(e) RF hospital C.



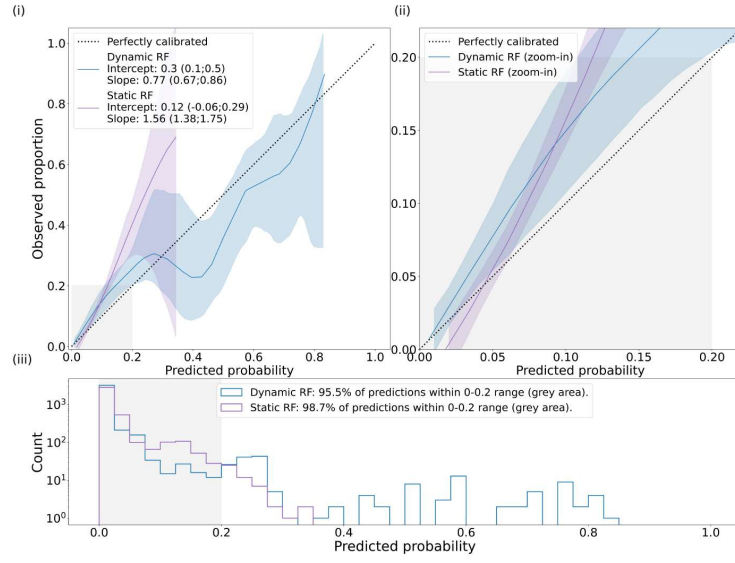
(f) LR hospital C.



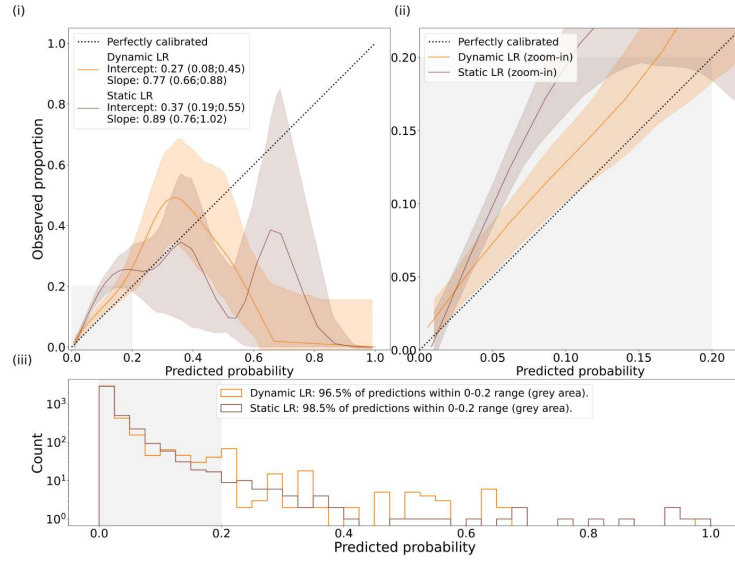
(g) RF hospital D.



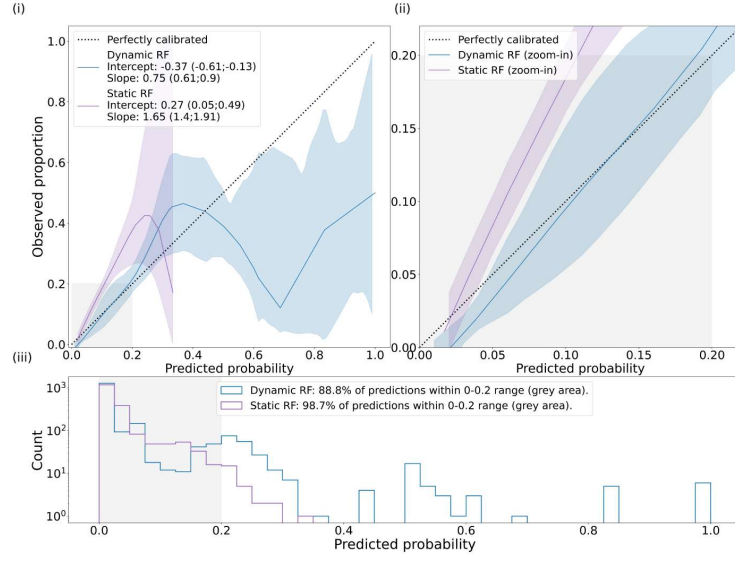
(h) LR hospital D.



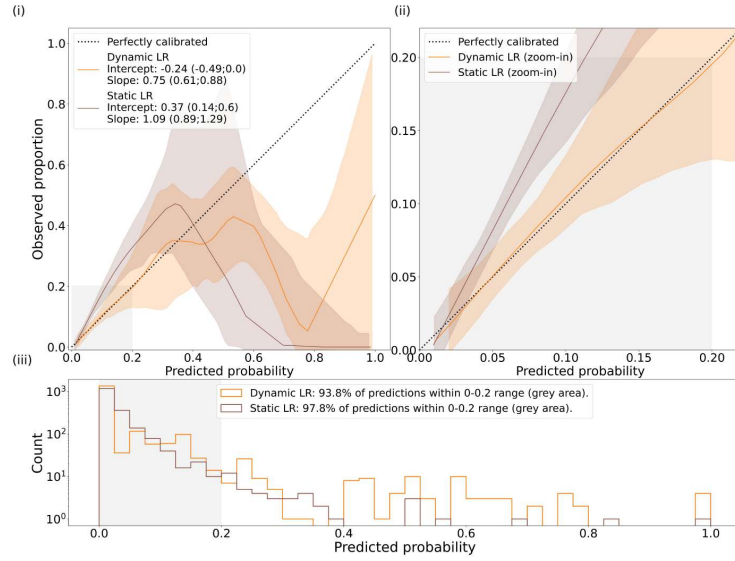
(i) RF hospital E.



(j) LR hospital E.

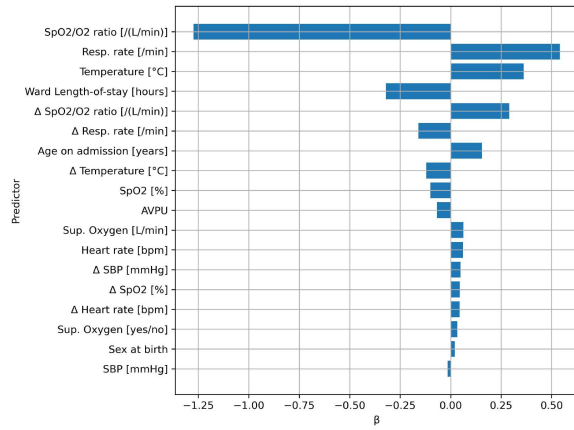


(k) RF hospital F.

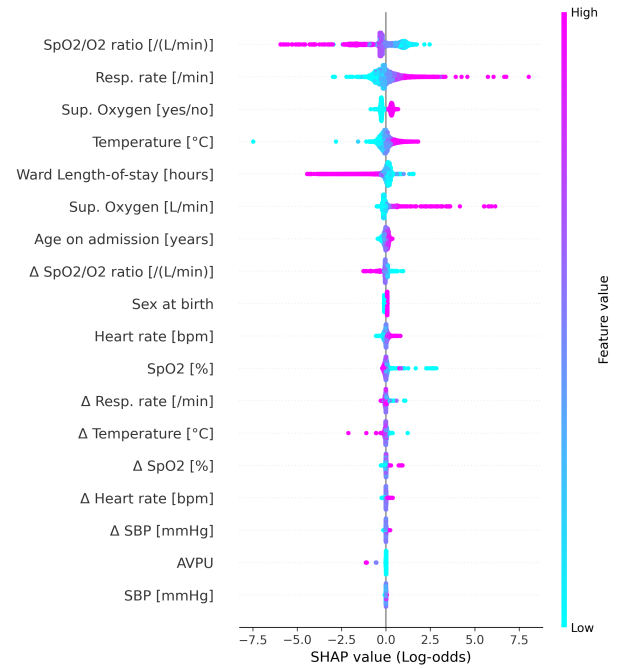


(l) LR hospital F.

Figure 9: Hospital-specific calibration curves of the static and dynamic random forest (RF) models and logistic regression (LR) models. (i) Smoothed flexible calibration curves. (ii) Zoom-in of the calibration curve in the 0-0.2 probability range (grey area). Shaded areas around the curves represent the 95% CIs. (iii) Histogram of the predictions (log scale).



(a) Bar chart of model coefficients ( $\beta$ s). Model intercept = -4.01151618



(b) Distribution of SHapley Additive exPlanations (SHAP) values of the included predictors (based on mean SHAP magnitude) for the logistic regression model. For each predictor, each dot represents the impact of that predictor for a single prediction. The colors of the dots correspond with the value for the specific predictor. Thus, pink dots with positive SHAP values indicate that high values of the predictor are associated with a high risk of clinical deterioration. Conversely, blue dots with positive SHAP values indicate that low values of the predictor are associated with a high risk of clinical deterioration.

Figure 10: Model interpretability for the logistic regression model fitted using the complete patient cohort.

## Appendix E: Supplementary tables

|                                          | Unit              | Evidence                                  | Included | Reason for Exclusion | Entry density |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Patient Demographics:</b>             |                   |                                           |          |                      |               |
| Age on admission                         | years             | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                | ✓        | -                    | -             |
| Sex at Birth                             | -                 | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                | ✓        | -                    | -             |
| <b>Clinical Signs:</b>                   |                   |                                           |          |                      |               |
| Respiratory Rate                         | breaths/min       | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                | ✓        | -                    | 0.90          |
| Peripheral oxygen saturation ( $SpO_2$ ) | %                 | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                | ✓        | -                    | 0.92          |
| Systolic blood pressure                  | mmHg              | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                | ✓        | -                    | 0.92          |
| Temperature                              | °C                | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                | ✓        | -                    | 0.88          |
| Heart Rate                               | bpm               | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                | ✓        | -                    | 0.84          |
| Glasgow Coma Score                       | -                 | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Not available        | -             |
| AVPU                                     | -                 | National Early Warning Score <sup>7</sup> | ✓        | -                    | 0.50          |
| Supplemental Oxygen                      | yes/no            | National Early Warning Score <sup>7</sup> | ✓        | -                    | -             |
| $O_2$                                    | L/min             | -                                         | ✓        | -                    | -             |
| $SpO_2/O_2$                              | $\frac{1}{L/min}$ | -                                         | ✓        | -                    | 0.63          |
| <b>Bedside investigations:</b>           |                   |                                           |          |                      |               |
| pH                                       | -                 | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.17          |
| Glucose                                  | mmol/L            | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.33          |
| Infiltrates on chest radiograph          | -                 | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Not available        | -             |
| <b>Laboratory measures:</b>              |                   |                                           |          |                      |               |
| Haemoglobin                              | mmol/L            | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.46          |
| Haematocrit                              | L/L               | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.38          |
| White cell count                         | $10^9/L$          | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.41          |
| Neutrophil count                         | $10^9/L$          | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.14          |
| Lymphocyte count                         | $10^9/L$          | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.23          |
| Eosinophil count                         | $10^9/L$          | Xie et al. <sup>8</sup>                   |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.22          |
| Monocyte count                           | $10^9/L$          | Linssen et al. <sup>9</sup>               |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.17          |
| Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio           | -                 | Liu et al. <sup>10</sup>                  |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.20          |
| Platelet count                           | $10^9/L$          | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.39          |
| Prothrombin                              | seconds           | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Not available        | -             |
| APTT                                     | seconds           | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.05          |
| Sodium                                   | mmol/L            | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.45          |
| Potassium                                | mmol/L            | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.45          |
| Total Bilirubin                          | mg/dL             | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.28          |
| ALAT                                     | IU/L              | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.32          |
| ASAT                                     | IU/L              | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.32          |
| Albumin                                  | g/L               | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.17          |
| Lactate dehydrogenase                    | IU/L              | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.31          |
| Urea                                     | mmol/L            | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.38          |
| Creatinine                               | $\mu mol/L$       | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.46          |
| C-reactive protein                       | mg/L              | Knight et al. <sup>6</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.34          |
| RDW                                      | %                 | Foy et al. <sup>11</sup>                  |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.30          |
| D-dimer                                  | mg/L              | Yu et al. <sup>12</sup>                   |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.17          |
| IL-6                                     | pg/mL             | Coomes et al. <sup>13</sup>               |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.002         |
| Ferritin                                 | $\mu g/L$         | Dahan et al. <sup>14</sup>                |          | Entry density <0.50  | 0.17          |
| <b>Dynamics of clinical signs</b>        |                   |                                           |          |                      |               |
| $\Delta$ Respiratory Rate                | breaths/min       | -                                         | ✓        | -                    | 0.84          |
| $\Delta$ Peripheral oxygen saturation    | %                 | -                                         | ✓        | -                    | 0.87          |
| $\Delta$ Systolic blood pressure         | mmHg              | -                                         | ✓        | -                    | 0.86          |
| $\Delta$ Temperature                     | °C                | -                                         | ✓        | -                    | 0.79          |
| $\Delta$ Heart Rate                      | bpm               | -                                         | ✓        | -                    | 0.81          |
| $\Delta$ $SpO_2/O_2$                     | $\frac{1}{L/min}$ | -                                         | ✓        | -                    | 0.54          |
| <b>Other</b>                             |                   |                                           |          |                      |               |
| Length of stay on ward                   | hours             | -                                         | ✓        | -                    | -             |

Table 1: Candidate predictors evaluated for potential inclusion in the prediction model, based on evidence in literature and availability. APPT = Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time.  $\Delta$  = signed difference between first and second most recent measurement.

| Model               | Hyperparameter  | Search Space                                                         |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Logistic Regression | $\lambda$       | $[10^{-4}, \dots, 10^4]$ evenly spaced on log scale with 20 steps    |
| Random Forest       | max features    | $[p, \sqrt{p}, \log_2 p]$ where p is the total number of predictors. |
| Random Forest       | max three depth | $[2, 3]$                                                             |

Table 2: Search spaces used in the grid-search for model hyperparameters optimization.

| Hospital | Period                          | N patients | Discharged alive (N, %) | Unplanned ICU admission (N,%) | Unexpected death (N,%) | Hospital transfer (N,%) | Still admitted (N,%) |
|----------|---------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| A        | Admission before August 1, 2020 | 91         | 71 (78.0)               | 18, (19.8)                    | 0, (0.0)               | 2, (2.2)                | 0, (0.0)             |
|          | Admission after August 1, 2020  | 155        | 130 (83.9)              | 22, (14.2)                    | 0, (0.0)               | 3, (1.9)                | 0, (0.0)             |
|          | Complete study period           | 246        | 201 (81.7)              | 40, (16.3)                    | 0, (0.0)               | 5, (2.0)                | 0, (0.0)             |
| B        | Admission before August 1, 2020 | 205        | 167 (81.5)              | 38, (18.5)                    | 0, (0.0)               | 0, (0.0)                | 0, (0.0)             |
|          | Admission after August 1, 2020  | 550        | 389 (70.7)              | 48, (8.7)                     | 0, (0.0)               | 113, (20.5)             | 0, (0.0)             |
|          | Complete study period           | 755        | 556 (73.6)              | 86, (11.4)                    | 0, (0.0)               | 113, (15.0)             | 0, (0.0)             |
| C        | Admission before August 1, 2020 | 233        | 190 (81.5)              | 41, (17.6)                    | 0, (0.0)               | 2, (0.9)                | 0, (0.0)             |
|          | Admission after August 1, 2020  | 486        | 329 (67.7)              | 36, (7.4)                     | 0, (0.0)               | 121, (24.9)             | 0, (0.0)             |
|          | Complete study period           | 719        | 519 (72.2)              | 77, (10.7)                    | 0, (0.0)               | 123, (17.1)             | 0, (0.0)             |
| D        | Admission before August 1, 2020 | 61         | 42 (68.9)               | 19, (31.1)                    | 0, (0.0)               | 0, (0.0)                | 0, (0.0)             |
|          | Admission after August 1, 2020  | 236        | 174 (73.7)              | 35, (14.8)                    | 0, (0.0)               | 27, (11.4)              | 0, (0.0)             |
|          | Complete study period           | 297        | 216 (72.7)              | 54, (18.2)                    | 0, (0.0)               | 27, (9.1)               | 0, (0.0)             |
| E        | Admission before August 1, 2020 | 132        | 109 (82.6)              | 21, (15.9)                    | 0, (0.0)               | 2, (1.5)                | 0, (0.0)             |
|          | Admission after August 1, 2020  | 714        | 449 (62.9)              | 138, (19.3)                   | 2, (0.3)               | 111, (15.5)             | 14, (2.0)            |
|          | Complete study period           | 846        | 558 (66.0)              | 159, (18.8)                   | 2, (0.2)               | 113, (13.4)             | 14, (1.7)            |
| F        | Admission before August 1, 2020 | 123        | 88 (71.5)               | 34, (27.6)                    | 0, (0.0)               | 1, (0.8)                | 0, (0.0)             |
|          | Admission after August 1, 2020  | 512        | 318 (62.1)              | 89, (17.4)                    | 0, (0.0)               | 103, (20.1)             | 2, (0.4)             |
|          | Complete study period           | 635        | 406 (63.9)              | 123, (19.4)                   | 0, (0.0)               | 104, (16.4)             | 2, (0.3)             |

Table 3: Occurrence of different patient outcomes across the different hospitals over the whole study period and for patients admitted before and after August, 2020, separately.

| Model      | pAUC                | AUC                 | AUCPR               |
|------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| MEWS       | 0.67 [0.65 to 0.69] | 0.74 [0.72 to 0.77] | 0.08 [0.05 to 0.11] |
| NEWS       | 0.72 [0.69 to 0.74] | 0.72 [0.69 to 0.74] | 0.12 [0.08 to 0.15] |
| Static RF  | 0.81 [0.79 to 0.83] | 0.86 [0.84 to 0.88] | 0.23 [0.19 to 0.27] |
| Static LR  | 0.80 [0.78 to 0.82] | 0.86 [0.84 to 0.88] | 0.18 [0.14 to 0.22] |
| Dynamic RF | 0.82 [0.80 to 0.84] | 0.86 [0.84 to 0.88] | 0.26 [0.21 to 0.30] |
| Dynamic LR | 0.81 [0.79 to 0.83] | 0.85 [0.83 to 0.87] | 0.21 [0.17 to 0.25] |

Table 4: Overall discriminative performance (based on the full test set) in terms of pAUC, AUC and AUCPR yielded by the different models. pAUC=partial area under the receiver operating characteristic curve, AUC=area under the receiver operating characteristic curve, AUCPR=area under the precision-recall curve.

|                    | DA (N=667)          | ICU (N=171)         | Died (N=0) | Transfer (N=7)      | SA (N=0) | Total (N=845)       |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Sex                |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| male , %           | 54.9                | 62.6                | -          | 57.1                | -        | 56.4                |
| female , %         | 43.3                | 37.4                | -          | 42.9                | -        | 42.1                |
| unknown , %        | 1.8                 | 0.0                 | -          | 0.0                 | -        | 1.4                 |
| Age, years         |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 59.0 (51.0-68.2)    | 62.0 (54.0-70.0)    | -          | 58.0 (45.5-63.5)    | -        | 59.0 (51.0-69.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 58.6 (13.7)         | 61.1 (12.0)         | -          | 54.4 (14.2)         | -        | 59.1 (13.5)         |
| Ward LOS, days     |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 4.2 (2.7-7.4)       | 2.2 (1.3-3.9)       | -          | 3.3 (2.7-6.6)       | -        | 3.8 (2.1-6.8)       |
| mean (SD)          | 6.0 (8.9)           | 3.3 (4.1)           | -          | 5.1 (3.8)           | -        | 5.5 (8.2)           |
| RR, breaths/min    |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 18.0 (16.0-22.0)    | 20.0 (18.0-24.0)    | -          | 22.0 (19.0-25.0)    | -        | 20.0 (16.0-24.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 19.3 (5.1)          | 22.2 (5.9)          | -          | 22.0 (4.5)          | -        | 19.9 (5.4)          |
| SpO2, %            |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 96.0 (95.0-98.0)    | 95.0 (94.0-97.0)    | -          | 97.0 (95.0-98.0)    | -        | 96.0 (95.0-97.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 96.0 (4.2)          | 95.4 (2.4)          | -          | 96.6 (1.4)          | -        | 95.9 (3.9)          |
| SBP, mmHg          |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 125.0 (113.0-137.0) | 125.0 (112.8-137.0) | -          | 126.0 (105.0-132.0) | -        | 125.0 (113.0-137.0) |
| mean (SD)          | 126.8 (18.0)        | 125.9 (17.0)        | -          | 123.8 (20.7)        | -        | 126.6 (17.8)        |
| T, °C              |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 37.5 (36.9-38.3)    | 37.9 (37.2-38.5)    | -          | 37.2 (37.0-37.6)    | -        | 37.6 (36.9-38.3)    |
| mean (SD)          | 37.6 (0.9)          | 37.9 (0.9)          | -          | 37.2 (0.5)          | -        | 37.6 (0.9)          |
| HR, bpm            |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 83.0 (74.0-93.0)    | 87.0 (79.0-95.0)    | -          | 81.0 (81.0-85.0)    | -        | 84.0 (75.0-94.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 84.0 (13.8)         | 87.1 (13.9)         | -          | 82.8 (4.4)          | -        | 84.6 (13.8)         |
| O2, yes/no, %      | 52.3                | 72.5                | -          | 42.9                | -        | 56.3                |
| O2, L/min          |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 3.0 (2.0-4.0)       | 5.0 (3.0-10.0)      | -          | 3.0 (2.5-3.5)       | -        | 3.0 (2.0-5.0)       |
| mean (SD)          | 3.5 (2.9)           | 6.6 (4.6)           | -          | 3.0 (0.8)           | -        | 4.3 (3.7)           |
| SpO2/O2, %/(L/min) |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 33.0 (23.5-49.0)    | 18.4 (9.6-31.7)     | -          | 33.0 (28.4-41.0)    | -        | 31.7 (18.8-48.5)    |
| mean (SD)          | 42.7 (27.5)         | 26.3 (23.8)         | -          | 35.2 (10.4)         | -        | 38.3 (27.4)         |

Table 5: Pathway and population characteristics of the patients admitted before August 1, 2020, measured within the first 24 hours of hospital admission. med = median, IQR = inter-quartile range, SD = standard deviation, LOS = length-of-stay, RR = respiratory rate, SpO2 = Peripheral oxygen saturation, SBP = Systolic blood pressure, T = Temperature, HR = Heart rate, O2 = Supplemental oxygen, SpO2/O2 = SpO2-to-O2 ratio..

|                    | DA (N=1805)         | ICU (N=368)         | Died (N=2)          | Transfer (N=478)    | SA (N=16)           | Total (N=2669)      |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Sex                |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| male , %           | 55.5                | 65.8                | 100.0               | 56.9                | 56.2                | 57.2                |
| female , %         | 43.0                | 33.7                | 0.0                 | 39.7                | 43.8                | 41.1                |
| unknown , %        | 1.5                 | 0.5                 | 0.0                 | 3.3                 | 0.0                 | 1.7                 |
| Age, years         |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 61.0 (51.0-71.0)    | 63.0 (56.0-70.0)    | 76.0 (74.5-77.5)    | 60.0 (53.5-69.0)    | 66.5 (55.0-75.5)    | 61.0 (52.0-70.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 60.0 (14.3)         | 61.8 (11.5)         | 76.0 (3.0)          | 59.9 (11.8)         | 64.5 (11.6)         | 60.3 (13.5)         |
| Ward LOS, days     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 3.5 (1.8-5.9)       | 2.3 (1.0-3.9)       | 7.6 (7.2-7.9)       | 1.1 (0.8-2.0)       | 4.7 (1.2-14.5)      | 2.7 (1.3-5.0)       |
| mean (SD)          | 5.0 (5.8)           | 3.4 (4.6)           | 7.6 (0.7)           | 1.8 (2.2)           | 8.6 (8.9)           | 4.2 (5.3)           |
| RR, breaths/min    |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 18.0 (16.0-22.0)    | 24.0 (20.0-26.0)    | 20.0 (20.0-20.0)    | 20.0 (16.8-24.0)    | 18.0 (16.0-23.5)    | 20.0 (16.0-24.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 19.3 (5.0)          | 23.3 (6.0)          | 20.0 (0.0)          | 20.8 (5.1)          | 20.7 (6.2)          | 20.2 (5.3)          |
| SpO2, %            |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 96.0 (95.0-98.0)    | 95.0 (94.0-97.0)    | 95.5 (95.2-95.8)    | 95.0 (94.0-97.0)    | 95.0 (93.5-97.0)    | 96.0 (94.0-97.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 96.0 (3.1)          | 95.0 (5.5)          | 95.5 (0.5)          | 95.5 (2.2)          | 94.5 (3.4)          | 95.8 (3.4)          |
| SBP, mmHg          |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 125.0 (113.0-137.0) | 125.0 (114.0-137.0) | 137.5 (136.8-138.2) | 122.5 (113.0-133.8) | 119.0 (107.2-126.8) | 124.0 (113.0-136.0) |
| mean (SD)          | 126.2 (19.1)        | 128.1 (20.3)        | 137.5 (1.5)         | 124.1 (16.5)        | 120.0 (17.3)        | 126.1 (18.8)        |
| T, °C              |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 37.0 (36.5-37.5)    | 37.0 (36.6-37.6)    | 37.0 (37.0-37.1)    | 37.0 (36.6-37.7)    | 36.8 (36.2-37.0)    | 37.0 (36.5-37.6)    |
| mean (SD)          | 37.1 (0.9)          | 37.2 (0.9)          | 37.0 (0.1)          | 37.2 (0.9)          | 36.8 (0.7)          | 37.1 (0.9)          |
| HR, bpm            |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 80.0 (71.0-90.0)    | 81.0 (72.0-90.0)    | 91.0 (84.0-98.0)    | 81.0 (72.0-90.0)    | 80.0 (73.8-84.8)    | 80.0 (71.0-90.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 81.2 (15.6)         | 81.8 (15.5)         | 91.0 (14.0)         | 81.6 (13.7)         | 81.2 (13.6)         | 81.4 (15.2)         |
| O2, yes/no, %      | 59.3                | 78.3                | 0.0                 | 83.1                | 68.8                | 66.2                |
| O2, L/min          |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 3.0 (2.0-4.0)       | 6.0 (4.0-12.0)      | -                   | 4.0 (2.0-5.0)       | 3.0 (2.0-7.5)       | 3.0 (2.0-5.0)       |
| mean (SD)          | 3.7 (3.1)           | 8.0 (5.7)           | -                   | 4.4 (3.0)           | 5.5 (5.1)           | 4.5 (3.9)           |
| SpO2/O2, l/(L/min) |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 32.7 (23.5-48.5)    | 15.5 (8.0-23.8)     | -                   | 24.2 (18.6-47.0)    | 30.7 (14.1-48.5)    | 31.3 (18.4-48.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 41.1 (26.1)         | 21.5 (20.0)         | -                   | 32.4 (21.2)         | 35.0 (24.1)         | 35.9 (25.2)         |

Table 6: Pathway and population characteristics of the patients admitted after August 1, 2020, measured within the first 24 hours of hospital admission. med = median, IQR = inter-quartile range, SD = standard deviation, LOS = length-of-stay, RR = respiratory rate, SpO2 = Peripheral oxygen saturation, SBP = Systolic blood pressure, T = Temperature, HR = Heart rate, O2 = Supplemental oxygen, SpO2/O2 = SpO2-to-O2 ratio.

|                    | DA (N=201)          | ICU (N=40)          | Died (N=0) | Transfer (N=5)      | SA (N=0) | Total (N=246)       |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Sex                |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| male , %           | 51.2                | 50.0                | -          | 40.0                | -        | 50.8                |
| female , %         | 48.8                | 50.0                | -          | 60.0                | -        | 49.2                |
| unknown , %        | 0.0                 | 0.0                 | -          | 0.0                 | -        | 0.0                 |
| Age, years         |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 60.0 (48.0-69.0)    | 66.5 (50.8-73.0)    | -          | 59.5 (56.2-63.8)    | -        | 60.0 (50.0-70.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 56.3 (16.4)         | 61.6 (14.5)         | -          | 60.5 (5.7)          | -        | 57.3 (16.1)         |
| Ward LOS, days     |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 6.8 (3.8-10.9)      | 2.2 (1.1-4.1)       | -          | 5.2 (5.1-7.2)       | -        | 5.7 (3.0-10.3)      |
| mean (SD)          | 9.9 (14.9)          | 4.3 (7.0)           | -          | 5.9 (1.5)           | -        | 8.9 (14.0)          |
| RR, breaths/min    |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 16.0 (14.0-20.0)    | 20.0 (17.0-25.0)    | -          | 15.0 (13.5-16.5)    | -        | 16.5 (14.0-20.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 18.2 (5.5)          | 21.8 (7.2)          | -          | 15.0 (3.0)          | -        | 18.8 (6.0)          |
| SpO2, %            |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 96.0 (94.5-97.0)    | 95.0 (93.0-96.0)    | -          | 96.0 (96.0-96.0)    | -        | 96.0 (94.0-97.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 95.9 (2.1)          | 94.5 (2.8)          | -          | 96.0 (0.0)          | -        | 95.6 (2.3)          |
| SBP, mmHg          |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 124.0 (115.0-135.0) | 132.0 (116.0-138.5) | -          | 124.5 (119.8-129.2) | -        | 125.0 (115.0-136.0) |
| mean (SD)          | 125.7 (17.9)        | 131.6 (23.4)        | -          | 124.5 (9.5)         | -        | 126.8 (19.1)        |
| T, °C              |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 38.0 (37.0-38.0)    | 38.0 (37.2-38.8)    | -          | -                   | -        | 38.0 (37.0-38.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 37.6 (1.0)          | 38.2 (1.1)          | -          | -                   | -        | 37.7 (1.0)          |
| HR, bpm            |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 85.5 (73.8-97.2)    | 84.5 (75.0-88.8)    | -          | 88.0 (79.0-97.0)    | -        | 85.0 (73.2-97.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 86.3 (16.6)         | 83.0 (15.3)         | -          | 88.0 (18.0)         | -        | 85.7 (16.5)         |
| O2, yes/no, %      | 23.9                | 35.0                | -          | 40.0                | -        | 26.0                |
| O2, L/min          |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 3.0 (2.0-4.0)       | 5.0 (3.0-15.0)      | -          | 10.0 (7.5-12.5)     | -        | 4.0 (2.0-5.0)       |
| mean (SD)          | 4.3 (3.7)           | 7.5 (5.4)           | -          | 10.0 (5.0)          | -        | 5.1 (4.4)           |
| SpO2/O2, l/(L/min) |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 31.3 (23.3-48.0)    | 18.2 (6.6-31.0)     | -          | 12.8 (9.6-16.0)     | -        | 24.0 (18.2-47.5)    |
| mean (SD)          | 36.2 (24.9)         | 25.6 (24.7)         | -          | 12.8 (6.4)          | -        | 33.2 (25.2)         |

Table 7: Pathway and population characteristics of the patients in hospital A measured within the first 24 hours of hospital admission. med = median, IQR = inter-quartile range, SD = standard deviation, LOS = length-of-stay, RR = respiratory rate, SpO2 = Peripheral oxygen saturation, SBP = Systolic blood pressure, T = Temperature, HR = Heart rate, O2 = Supplemental oxygen, SpO2/O2 = SpO2-to-O2 ratio.

|                    | DA (N=556)          | ICU (N=68)          | Died (N=0) | Transfer (N=113)    | SA (N=0) | Total (N=755)       |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Sex                |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| male , %           | 52.0                | 73.3                | -          | 54.9                | -        | 54.8                |
| female , %         | 43.0                | 26.7                | -          | 34.5                | -        | 39.9                |
| unknown , %        | 5.0                 | 0.0                 | -          | 10.6                | -        | 5.3                 |
| Age, years         |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 59.0 (49.0-68.0)    | 58.0 (50.0-66.5)    | -          | 59.0 (53.0-68.0)    | -        | 59.0 (50.0-68.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 58.0 (13.6)         | 57.2 (13.2)         | -          | 58.6 (11.7)         | -        | 58.0 (13.3)         |
| Ward LOS, days     |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 2.9 (1.6-4.9)       | 1.6 (1.0-2.8)       | -          | 1.1 (0.9-1.7)       | -        | 2.2 (1.1-4.3)       |
| mean (SD)          | 4.0 (4.7)           | 2.3 (2.1)           | -          | 1.7 (3.0)           | -        | 3.5 (4.3)           |
| RR, breaths/min    |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 16.5 (16.0-20.0)    | 20.0 (18.0-24.0)    | -          | 20.0 (16.0-24.0)    | -        | 18.0 (16.0-20.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 18.0 (4.1)          | 22.5 (6.6)          | -          | 20.1 (4.9)          | -        | 18.8 (4.9)          |
| SpO2, %            |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 97.0 (95.0-98.0)    | 97.0 (95.0-98.0)    | -          | 96.0 (95.0-97.0)    | -        | 97.0 (95.0-98.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 96.6 (4.5)          | 96.6 (2.1)          | -          | 95.9 (2.4)          | -        | 96.5 (4.1)          |
| SBP, mmHg          |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 126.0 (113.0-138.0) | 124.5 (114.0-136.0) | -          | 125.0 (113.0-133.0) | -        | 125.0 (113.0-137.0) |
| mean (SD)          | 128.2 (19.9)        | 126.1 (17.7)        | -          | 124.9 (17.8)        | -        | 127.4 (19.4)        |
| T, °C              |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 37.3 (36.8-38.0)    | 37.8 (37.2-38.6)    | -          | 37.5 (37.1-38.0)    | -        | 37.4 (36.8-38.1)    |
| mean (SD)          | 37.4 (0.9)          | 37.9 (1.0)          | -          | 37.6 (0.9)          | -        | 37.5 (0.9)          |
| HR, bpm            |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 83.0 (74.0-93.0)    | 89.5 (79.0-100.8)   | -          | 85.0 (76.0-96.0)    | -        | 84.0 (75.0-94.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 83.7 (14.7)         | 90.0 (16.8)         | -          | 86.2 (14.6)         | -        | 84.8 (15.1)         |
| O2, yes/no, %      | 41.9                | 67.4                | -          | 61.9                | -        | 47.8                |
| O2, L/min          |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 2.0 (2.0-4.0)       | 6.0 (4.0-10.0)      | -          | 4.0 (2.1-5.0)       | -        | 3.0 (2.0-5.0)       |
| mean (SD)          | 3.4 (2.7)           | 7.9 (7.9)           | -          | 4.6 (3.0)           | -        | 4.4 (4.4)           |
| SpO2/O2, l/(L/min) |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 40.5 (24.0-49.0)    | 15.9 (9.6-23.7)     | -          | 24.0 (19.0-47.0)    | -        | 31.7 (19.2-48.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 41.4 (25.9)         | 20.5 (15.2)         | -          | 29.6 (18.2)         | -        | 35.6 (24.4)         |

Table 8: Pathway and population characteristics of the patients in hospital B measured within the first 24 hours of hospital admission. med = median, IQR = inter-quartile range, SD = standard deviation, LOS = length-of-stay, RR = respiratory rate, SpO2 = Peripheral oxygen saturation, SBP = Systolic blood pressure, T = Temperature, HR = Heart rate, O2 = Supplemental oxygen, SpO2/O2 = SpO2-to-O2 ratio.

|                    | DA (N=519)          | ICU (N=77)          | Died (N=0) | Transfer (N=123)    | SA (N=0) | Total (N=719)       |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Sex                |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| male , %           | 60.3                | 70.1                | -          | 65.0                | -        | 62.2                |
| female , %         | 39.1                | 29.9                | -          | 34.1                | -        | 37.3                |
| unknown , %        | 0.6                 | 0.0                 | -          | 0.8                 | -        | 0.6                 |
| Age, years         |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 59.0 (49.0-68.0)    | 63.0 (57.0-69.0)    | -          | 60.0 (53.0-65.8)    | -        | 60.0 (51.0-68.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 58.4 (14.7)         | 62.3 (9.3)          | -          | 59.0 (11.2)         | -        | 58.9 (13.7)         |
| Ward LOS, days     |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 3.0 (1.8-5.8)       | 3.2 (1.8-4.4)       | -          | 1.0 (0.7-2.5)       | -        | 2.8 (1.5-4.9)       |
| mean (SD)          | 4.8 (5.1)           | 3.9 (3.6)           | -          | 1.8 (1.6)           | -        | 4.2 (4.7)           |
| RR, breaths/min    |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 18.0 (16.0-22.0)    | 23.0 (18.0-28.0)    | -          | 20.0 (16.0-24.0)    | -        | 20.0 (16.0-24.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 19.5 (5.1)          | 23.1 (6.0)          | -          | 20.2 (4.8)          | -        | 20.0 (5.3)          |
| SpO2, %            |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 96.0 (95.0-97.0)    | 95.0 (94.0-96.0)    | -          | 95.0 (94.0-96.0)    | -        | 96.0 (94.0-97.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 95.7 (4.6)          | 93.5 (10.7)         | -          | 94.9 (2.2)          | -        | 95.3 (5.4)          |
| SBP, mmHg          |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 125.0 (114.0-138.0) | 120.0 (114.0-133.0) | -          | 124.0 (114.5-135.0) | -        | 124.0 (114.0-136.0) |
| mean (SD)          | 127.0 (17.9)        | 123.7 (16.5)        | -          | 125.3 (17.7)        | -        | 126.3 (17.7)        |
| T, °C              |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 37.3 (36.7-38.0)    | 37.4 (36.8-38.3)    | -          | 37.0 (36.5-37.6)    | -        | 37.2 (36.6-38.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 37.3 (1.0)          | 37.5 (0.9)          | -          | 37.1 (0.9)          | -        | 37.3 (1.0)          |
| HR, bpm            |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 82.0 (73.0-92.0)    | 84.0 (75.0-90.0)    | -          | 82.0 (75.5-90.0)    | -        | 82.0 (73.0-91.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 83.1 (14.3)         | 83.3 (12.4)         | -          | 82.3 (11.8)         | -        | 83.0 (13.7)         |
| O2, yes/no, %      | 63.2                | 83.1                | -          | 88.6                | -        | 69.7                |
| O2, L/min          |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 3.0 (2.0-5.0)       | 9.0 (4.0-15.0)      | -          | 4.0 (2.0-6.0)       | -        | 3.0 (2.0-6.0)       |
| mean (SD)          | 4.3 (3.9)           | 9.1 (5.4)           | -          | 5.1 (3.9)           | -        | 5.1 (4.4)           |
| SpO2/O2, l/(L/min) |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 32.0 (18.8-48.5)    | 10.7 (6.3-23.5)     | -          | 23.8 (15.7-47.0)    | -        | 31.0 (15.8-48.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 39.7 (27.7)         | 20.5 (23.1)         | -          | 31.7 (24.4)         | -        | 35.5 (27.3)         |

Table 9: Pathway and population characteristics of the patients in hospital C measured within the first 24 hours of hospital admission. med = median, IQR = inter-quartile range, SD = standard deviation, LOS = length-of-stay, RR = respiratory rate, SpO2 = Peripheral oxygen saturation, SBP = Systolic blood pressure, T = Temperature, HR = Heart rate, O2 = Supplemental oxygen, SpO2/O2 = SpO2-to-O2 ratio.

|                    | DA (N=216)          | ICU (N=54)          | Died (N=0) | Transfer (N=27)     | SA (N=0) | Total (N=297)       |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Sex                |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| male , %           | 60.2                | 57.4                | -          | 40.7                | -        | 57.9                |
| female , %         | 39.8                | 42.6                | -          | 59.3                | -        | 42.1                |
| unknown , %        | 0.0                 | 0.0                 | -          | 0.0                 | -        | 0.0                 |
| Age, years         |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 62.0 (54.0-71.0)    | 65.0 (58.5-72.0)    | -          | 60.0 (53.5-71.5)    | -        | 63.0 (54.0-71.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 61.3 (12.9)         | 64.5 (10.3)         | -          | 61.3 (12.8)         | -        | 61.9 (12.5)         |
| Ward LOS, days     |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 3.9 (2.6-6.0)       | 2.3 (1.4-4.0)       | -          | 1.3 (1.0-2.0)       | -        | 3.4 (1.9-5.2)       |
| mean (SD)          | 4.8 (4.3)           | 3.7 (4.9)           | -          | 1.8 (1.2)           | -        | 4.4 (4.3)           |
| RR, breaths/min    |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 20.0 (16.0-22.0)    | 24.0 (20.0-28.0)    | -          | 23.0 (20.0-25.8)    | -        | 20.0 (16.0-24.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 19.6 (4.9)          | 24.4 (7.5)          | -          | 22.5 (5.5)          | -        | 20.8 (5.9)          |
| SpO2, %            |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 97.0 (96.0-99.0)    | 96.0 (95.0-97.0)    | -          | 97.0 (96.0-98.0)    | -        | 97.0 (96.0-98.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 97.2 (2.2)          | 96.1 (2.2)          | -          | 96.7 (1.7)          | -        | 96.9 (2.2)          |
| SBP, mmHg          |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 130.0 (118.0-141.0) | 124.5 (115.2-138.2) | -          | 121.5 (117.5-133.8) | -        | 128.0 (117.0-140.0) |
| mean (SD)          | 130.7 (19.4)        | 129.3 (22.3)        | -          | 125.3 (12.8)        | -        | 130.0 (19.5)        |
| T, °C              |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 37.0 (36.6-37.7)    | 37.3 (36.6-37.9)    | -          | 37.1 (36.7-37.7)    | -        | 37.1 (36.7-37.7)    |
| mean (SD)          | 37.2 (0.9)          | 37.4 (0.9)          | -          | 37.4 (0.9)          | -        | 37.2 (0.9)          |
| HR, bpm            |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 88.0 (87.0-89.0)    | 103.0 (103.0-103.0) | -          | 97.0 (97.0-97.0)    | -        | 93.5 (89.0-98.5)    |
| mean (SD)          | 88.0 (2.0)          | 103.0 (0.0)         | -          | 97.0 (0.0)          | -        | 94.0 (6.5)          |
| O2, yes/no, %      | 76.4                | 92.6                | -          | 85.2                | -        | 80.1                |
| O2, L/min          |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 3.0 (2.0-4.0)       | 6.0 (4.0-10.0)      | -          | 5.0 (3.0-6.5)       | -        | 3.0 (2.0-5.4)       |
| mean (SD)          | 3.5 (2.3)           | 7.4 (4.5)           | -          | 5.4 (3.3)           | -        | 4.5 (3.4)           |
| SpO2/O2, l/(L/min) |                     |                     |            |                     |          |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 32.7 (24.2-48.5)    | 15.9 (9.4-23.8)     | -          | 19.4 (15.1-32.3)    | -        | 31.7 (18.3-48.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 39.6 (23.6)         | 22.1 (21.5)         | -          | 24.4 (12.5)         | -        | 34.4 (23.6)         |

Table 10: Pathway and population characteristics of the patients in hospital D measured within the first 24 hours of hospital admission. med = median, IQR = inter-quartile range, SD = standard deviation, LOS = length-of-stay, RR = respiratory rate, SpO2 = Peripheral oxygen saturation, SBP = Systolic blood pressure, T = Temperature, HR = Heart rate, O2 = Supplemental oxygen, SpO2/O2 = SpO2-to-O2 ratio.

|                    | DA (N=572)          | ICU (N=159)         | Died (N=2)          | Transfer (N=113)    | SA (N=14)           | Total (N=860)       |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Sex                |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| male , %           | 57.7                | 62.9                | 100.0               | 59.3                | 64.3                | 59.1                |
| female , %         | 42.3                | 37.1                | 0.0                 | 40.7                | 35.7                | 40.9                |
| unknown , %        | 0.0                 | 0.0                 | 0.0                 | 0.0                 | 0.0                 | 0.0                 |
| Age, years         |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 64.0 (54.0-73.0)    | 63.0 (55.2-69.0)    | 76.0 (74.5-77.5)    | 61.0 (55.0-71.5)    | 67.0 (55.0-76.5)    | 64.0 (55.0-72.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 62.6 (13.6)         | 62.1 (10.4)         | 76.0 (3.0)          | 61.4 (11.6)         | 64.9 (12.3)         | 62.4 (12.8)         |
| Ward LOS, days     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 4.5 (2.2-7.8)       | 2.5 (1.1-4.2)       | 7.6 (7.2-7.9)       | 1.4 (0.9-2.7)       | 5.8 (1.2-15.4)      | 3.4 (1.7-6.6)       |
| mean (SD)          | 6.1 (6.7)           | 3.9 (5.3)           | 7.6 (0.7)           | 2.3 (2.7)           | 9.3 (9.2)           | 5.2 (6.3)           |
| RR, breaths/min    |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 20.0 (16.0-22.0)    | 22.0 (18.0-24.0)    | 20.0 (20.0-20.0)    | 20.0 (18.0-24.0)    | 18.0 (16.0-23.0)    | 20.0 (17.0-24.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 20.2 (5.9)          | 22.6 (5.4)          | 20.0 (0.0)          | 20.9 (4.7)          | 19.9 (6.0)          | 20.7 (5.7)          |
| SpO2, %            |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 96.0 (94.0-97.0)    | 95.0 (94.0-96.0)    | 95.5 (95.2-95.8)    | 95.0 (94.0-97.0)    | 95.0 (92.5-96.8)    | 95.0 (94.0-97.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 95.6 (2.1)          | 94.9 (2.2)          | 95.5 (0.5)          | 95.3 (2.1)          | 94.4 (3.5)          | 95.4 (2.1)          |
| SBP, mmHg          |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 123.0 (112.0-135.0) | 128.0 (116.0-143.5) | 137.5 (136.8-138.2) | 124.0 (114.0-132.0) | 119.0 (109.0-124.0) | 124.0 (113.0-136.0) |
| mean (SD)          | 124.6 (18.6)        | 130.6 (21.2)        | 137.5 (1.5)         | 124.5 (15.2)        | 119.1 (14.7)        | 125.6 (18.8)        |
| T, °C              |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 36.8 (36.3-37.4)    | 36.9 (36.5-37.5)    | 37.0 (37.0-37.1)    | 36.8 (36.3-37.4)    | 36.8 (36.3-37.0)    | 36.8 (36.3-37.4)    |
| mean (SD)          | 36.9 (0.9)          | 37.0 (0.8)          | 37.0 (0.1)          | 36.9 (0.9)          | 36.8 (0.8)          | 36.9 (0.8)          |
| HR, bpm            |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 79.0 (70.0-90.0)    | 79.0 (70.5-88.0)    | 91.0 (84.0-98.0)    | 78.0 (70.0-87.0)    | 80.0 (76.8-83.5)    | 79.0 (70.0-89.8)    |
| mean (SD)          | 80.9 (16.1)         | 80.0 (13.5)         | 91.0 (14.0)         | 79.1 (14.5)         | 81.1 (13.4)         | 80.5 (15.4)         |
| O2, yes/no, %      | 64.9                | 81.8                | 0.0                 | 92.9                | 64.3                | 71.5                |
| O2, L/min          |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 3.0 (2.0-4.0)       | 5.0 (3.0-12.0)      | -                   | 3.0 (2.0-5.0)       | 2.0 (2.0-3.0)       | 3.0 (2.0-5.0)       |
| mean (SD)          | 3.5 (2.6)           | 7.2 (4.9)           | -                   | 3.8 (2.4)           | 3.9 (4.1)           | 4.3 (3.6)           |
| SpO2/O2, l/(L/min) |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 32.3 (23.5-48.0)    | 18.2 (8.1-31.4)     | -                   | 31.0 (19.0-47.5)    | 47.5 (30.0-49.0)    | 31.7 (18.8-48.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 41.1 (25.6)         | 23.4 (19.8)         | -                   | 35.5 (22.6)         | 41.1 (22.5)         | 36.5 (24.9)         |

Table 11: Pathway and population characteristics of the patients in hospital E measured within the first 24 hours of hospital admission. med = median, IQR = inter-quartile range, SD = standard deviation, LOS = length-of-stay, RR = respiratory rate, SpO2 = Peripheral oxygen saturation, SBP = Systolic blood pressure, T = Temperature, HR = Heart rate, O2 = Supplemental oxygen, SpO2/O2 = SpO2-to-O2 ratio.

|                    | DA (N=408)          | ICU (N=123)         | Died (N=0) | Transfer (N=104)    | SA (N=2)            | Total (N=637)       |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Sex                |                     |                     |            |                     |                     |                     |
| male , %           | 49.8                | 65.9                | -          | 51.9                | 0.0                 | 53.1                |
| female , %         | 48.3                | 32.5                | -          | 45.2                | 100.0               | 44.9                |
| unknown , %        | 2.0                 | 1.6                 | -          | 2.9                 | 0.0                 | 2.0                 |
| Age, years         |                     |                     |            |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 61.0 (52.0-70.0)    | 64.0 (55.0-71.0)    | -          | 61.0 (52.0-69.0)    | 62.0 (60.0-64.0)    | 61.0 (52.0-70.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 59.9 (13.4)         | 62.0 (12.1)         | -          | 59.7 (12.9)         | 62.0 (4.0)          | 60.3 (13.1)         |
| Ward LOS, days     |                     |                     |            |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 3.4 (1.9-5.5)       | 2.1 (1.0-3.7)       | -          | 0.9 (0.7-1.4)       | 3.8 (2.5-5.1)       | 2.7 (1.3-4.6)       |
| mean (SD)          | 4.4 (3.8)           | 2.8 (3.2)           | -          | 1.4 (1.5)           | 3.8 (2.5)           | 3.6 (3.6)           |
| RR, breaths/min    |                     |                     |            |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 20.0 (16.0-24.0)    | 24.0 (20.0-26.0)    | -          | 20.0 (20.0-24.0)    | 26.0 (24.0-28.0)    | 20.0 (18.0-24.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 20.0 (4.2)          | 23.0 (4.8)          | -          | 21.8 (5.4)          | 26.0 (4.0)          | 20.9 (4.7)          |
| SpO2, %            |                     |                     |            |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 96.0 (94.0-97.0)    | 95.0 (94.0-97.0)    | -          | 95.5 (95.0-97.0)    | 95.5 (94.8-96.2)    | 96.0 (94.0-97.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 95.7 (2.0)          | 95.2 (2.5)          | -          | 95.8 (2.0)          | 95.5 (1.5)          | 95.6 (2.1)          |
| SBP, mmHg          |                     |                     |            |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 123.0 (110.0-134.0) | 124.0 (113.0-135.0) | -          | 119.0 (109.8-132.2) | 126.0 (111.5-140.5) | 122.0 (110.0-134.0) |
| mean (SD)          | 123.8 (17.9)        | 125.0 (16.1)        | -          | 121.3 (15.9)        | 126.0 (29.0)        | 123.6 (17.4)        |
| T, °C              |                     |                     |            |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 37.0 (36.6-37.7)    | 37.2 (36.7-38.0)    | -          | 36.9 (36.6-37.3)    | 36.7 (36.4-36.9)    | 37.0 (36.6-37.7)    |
| mean (SD)          | 37.2 (0.8)          | 37.3 (0.9)          | -          | 37.0 (0.7)          | 36.7 (0.4)          | 37.2 (0.8)          |
| HR, bpm            |                     |                     |            |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 78.0 (69.0-88.0)    | 82.0 (73.0-92.0)    | -          | 77.0 (69.8-87.2)    | 81.5 (74.2-88.8)    | 78.0 (70.0-89.0)    |
| mean (SD)          | 78.9 (14.3)         | 83.2 (16.0)         | -          | 78.5 (12.0)         | 81.5 (14.5)         | 79.6 (14.4)         |
| O2, yes/no, %      | 67.4                | 78.0                | -          | 87.5                | 100.0               | 72.8                |
| O2, L/min          |                     |                     |            |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 2.0 (2.0-4.0)       | 6.0 (3.0-10.0)      | -          | 3.0 (2.0-4.0)       | 12.5 (11.2-13.8)    | 3.0 (2.0-5.0)       |
| mean (SD)          | 3.2 (2.6)           | 6.7 (4.4)           | -          | 3.4 (1.5)           | 12.5 (2.5)          | 4.0 (3.3)           |
| SpO2/O2, 1/(L/min) |                     |                     |            |                     |                     |                     |
| med (IQR)          | 47.0 (23.8-49.0)    | 15.8 (9.4-32.0)     | -          | 31.7 (23.5-47.0)    | 7.9 (7.2-8.7)       | 32.0 (19.0-48.5)    |
| mean (SD)          | 46.2 (27.8)         | 25.8 (24.0)         | -          | 34.1 (17.6)         | 7.9 (1.5)           | 39.5 (26.7)         |

Table 12: Pathway and population characteristics of the patients in hospital F measured within the first 24 hours of hospital admission. med = median, IQR = inter-quartile range, SD = standard deviation, LOS = length-of-stay, RR = respiratory rate, SpO2 = Peripheral oxygen saturation, SBP = Systolic blood pressure, T = Temperature, HR = Heart rate, O2 = Supplemental oxygen, SpO2/O2 = SpO2-to-O2 ratio.

## Appendix F: Evaluation metrics

### Appendix F.1: Model discrimination

To quantify the discriminative performance of the different models, we use three different metrics:

- The partial area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (pAUC) between a false positive rate (FPR) of 0 and 0.33.
- The (complete) area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC).
- The area under the precision-recall (PR)-curve (AUCPR).

### Appendix F.2: Partial and complete area under the ROC curve

As discussed by McClish,<sup>15</sup> normalization of the partial area under the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve (pAUC) is needed. For example, consider an area underneath an ROC curve between false-positive rates (FPRs) 0.7 and 0.9 of 0.18. The maximum value this area could attain is 0.2 and the minimum is 0.16. An area of 0.18 between FPRs 0.3 and 0.5 would have the same maximum of 0.2, but a minimum value of 0.08 (figure 11a). As we want to be able to distinguish between these two cases, the pAUC is normalized such that the minimum value is equal to 0.5 (just like the minimum value of the complete AUC). This normalization is defined as follows:

$$pAUC_{norm} = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{pAUC - pAUC_{min}}{pAUC_{max} - pAUC_{min}} \right) \quad (3)$$

In this study, we considered the pAUC between 0 and 0.33 FPR (figure 11b).



(a) The maximum pAUC between FPR 0.7 and 0.9 and between 0.3 and 0.5 is both 0.2, whereas the minimum areas are 0.16 and 0.08, respectively.

(b) The shaded area denotes the pAUC between FPR 0 and 0.33.

Figure 11: Partial area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (pAUC).

Thus, the pAUC is normalized as follows:

$$pAUC_{norm} = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{pAUC - 0.05445}{0.33 - 0.05445} \right) \quad (4)$$

The normalized pAUC was implemented using the ‘roc auc score’ function offered by scikit-learn in Python,<sup>3</sup> setting ‘max fpr’ to 0.33. For the complete area under the ROC curve (AUC), we used the same function with default parameters. For both pAUC and AUC, we calculated the bootstrap percentile confidence intervals as described by Qin et al.,<sup>16</sup> using 1000 bootstrap replications, each stratified for positive and negative samples.

### Appendix F.3: Area under the precision-recall (PR)-curve

The area under the precision-recall (PR) curve (AUCPR) is a useful performance metric for imbalanced data settings where finding the true positives is important. In this study, a true positives outweighs a false positive and we are dealing with imbalanced data. In their work on the AUCPR, Boyd and colleagues<sup>17</sup> recommend to use the average precision (AP) as a point estimate for the AUCPR. Using the AP is preferred over, for instance, computing the AUCPR with the trapezoidal rule, as calculating the AP does not require interpolation that could lead to too optimistic estimates. The AP summarizes a PR-curve as the weighted mean of precisions (PPVs) achieved at each model threshold, with the increase in recall from the previous threshold used as the weight. It is defined as follows:

$$AP = \sum_n (R_n - R_{n-1}) P_n \quad (5)$$

where  $R_n$  and  $P_n$  are the recall (or sensitivity) and precision (or PPV) at the  $n^{th}$  model threshold. To calculate the AP, we used the ‘average precision score’ function offered by scikit-learn in Python.<sup>3</sup> To calculate uncertainty around this metric, we used the binomial confidence interval (CI) as it showed good coverage for 95% CIs in previous work<sup>17</sup> and does not require any additional calculations compared to, for instance, a bootstrapping method. The binomial 95% CI is defined as follows:

$$AP \pm 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{AP(1 - AP)}{n}} \quad (6)$$

where  $n$  is the number of positive samples. The number of positive samples specifies the maximum number of unique recall (sensitivity) values.

### Appendix F.4: Comparing performances

Because we want to compare the performances of the new model to the performance of existing EWSs, we need to compare these models based on different performance metrics. Therefore, we conducted a test statistic ( $Z$ ) described by McClish<sup>15</sup> to compare each of the three area-based performance metrics for model discrimination (pAUC, AUPRC and AUC), which is described as follows:

$$Z = \frac{A_1 - A_2}{\sqrt{Var(A_1 - A_2)}} \quad (7)$$

where  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are the two areas to be compared, and  $Var(A_1 - A_2)$  is the variance of the differences between the areas, approximated from the bootstrap differences in a 1000 sample stratified bootstrapping procedure.  $Z$  is compared to the normal distribution to determine the corresponding P-value.

## Appendix F.5: Net Benefit

The net benefit (NB) is a metric that can be used for evaluating the clinical implications of medical prediction models. The metric is defined by Vickers and colleagues<sup>18</sup> as follows:

$$NB = \text{benefit} - \text{harm} \times \text{exchange rate} \quad (8)$$

where the ‘benefit’ is defined as the number of true positives (as a fraction of the total observations) and the ‘harm’ as the number of false positives (also as a fraction of the total observations). The ‘exchange rate’ is a clinical judgement of the relative values of benefits (finding cases) and harms (causing false alarms). It can be derived by asking what is the maximum number of triggers (or alarms) one is willing to invest to find one case. For example, a physician may say that, to find one patient who is deteriorating, no more than 20 patients should be checked. This implies that we want to ‘weight’ finding a case as nineteen times more important than avoiding one false alarm. Assuming a perfectly calibrated model, the model threshold ( $\mathbb{P}_{deterioration}$ ) corresponding to this exchange rate is 5%.

In this study, we considered early detection of a deteriorating patient as at least four times more important than preventing an unnecessary response (false alarm) and therefore, we plotted the DCA results up to 0.2 deterioration probability. The NB is normalized as the fraction of the maximum NB (i.e. the number of true positives as a fraction of the total observations). So, the normalized NB is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Standardized NB} = \frac{\frac{TP}{N} - \frac{FP}{N} \times \frac{\mathbb{P}_{deterioration}}{(1 - \mathbb{P}_{deterioration})}}{\frac{TP}{N}} \quad (9)$$

Here,  $N$  is the total number of samples and  $\mathbb{P}_{deterioration}$  the probability threshold used to trigger a certain action. In the context of early warning, this could be either an urgent clinical response or emergency clinical response.

## Appendix F.6: Model calibration

To quantify the calibration performance of medical prediction models, Van Calster and colleagues<sup>19</sup> distinguish increasingly stringent levels of calibration. We evaluated calibration in the weak and moderate sense. To evaluate calibration in the weak sense, we calculated the calibration intercept and calibration slope (which are not the intercept and slopes of calibration curves in the probability domain). They were first introduced by Cox in 1958,<sup>20</sup> and result from regressing the predictions in the log-odds domain to the observed posteriors. The calibration slope evaluates the spread of the estimated risks and has a target value of 1. A slope  $< 1$  suggests that estimated risks are too extreme, while a slope  $> 1$  suggests that risk estimates are too moderate. The calibration intercept is an assessment of calibration-in-the-large and has a target value of 0. Negative values suggest overestimation, whereas positive values suggest underestimation. We evaluated calibration in the moderate sense by plotting smoothed calibration curves.

## Appendix G: Dynamic model updating

### Appendix G.1: Different model updating strategies

For model updating, we examined different strategies consisting of model fitting, model recalibration or both. In each of these strategies, models are updated each month from August 2020 until May 2021, by either fitting the model based all data available up to that moment (i.e., the ‘Refit strategy’, figure 12a), or by splitting the available data in one part used to fit the model and another part to fit an extra mapping function (i.e. a calibrator) using isotonic regression (IR)<sup>21</sup> that is used to re-map the predictions of fitted model. We experimented with three different strategies of splitting the training set into a training and calibration set:

- **Isotonic regression (IR):** Each month, one calibrator is fitted using IR based on the data collected from the four most recent months of all hospitals. The remaining data is used to refit the model and the calibrator, resulting in one ‘model-calibrator pair’. The calibrator is used to re-map the predictions of the fitted model (figure 12b).
- **Hospital-specific isotonic regression (HS-IR):** Each month, a separate calibrator is fitted for each hospital using IR based on all the data collected in that specific hospital and a model is fitted using the remaining data, resulting in six

‘model-calibrator pairs’. The calibrators are used to re-map the predictions of the corresponding fitted models (figure 12c).

- **Moving, hospital-specific isotonic regression (Moving HS-IR):** Each month, a separate calibrator is fitted for each hospital using IR based on data collected in the four most recent months from that specific hospital and a model is fitted using the remaining data, resulting in six ‘model-calibrator pairs’. The calibrators are used to re-map the predictions of the paired fitted models (figure 12d).

We applied each of the strategies and evaluated these by assessing the overall (i.e., based on the full test set) and hospital-specific calibration performances (in the weak and moderate sense).

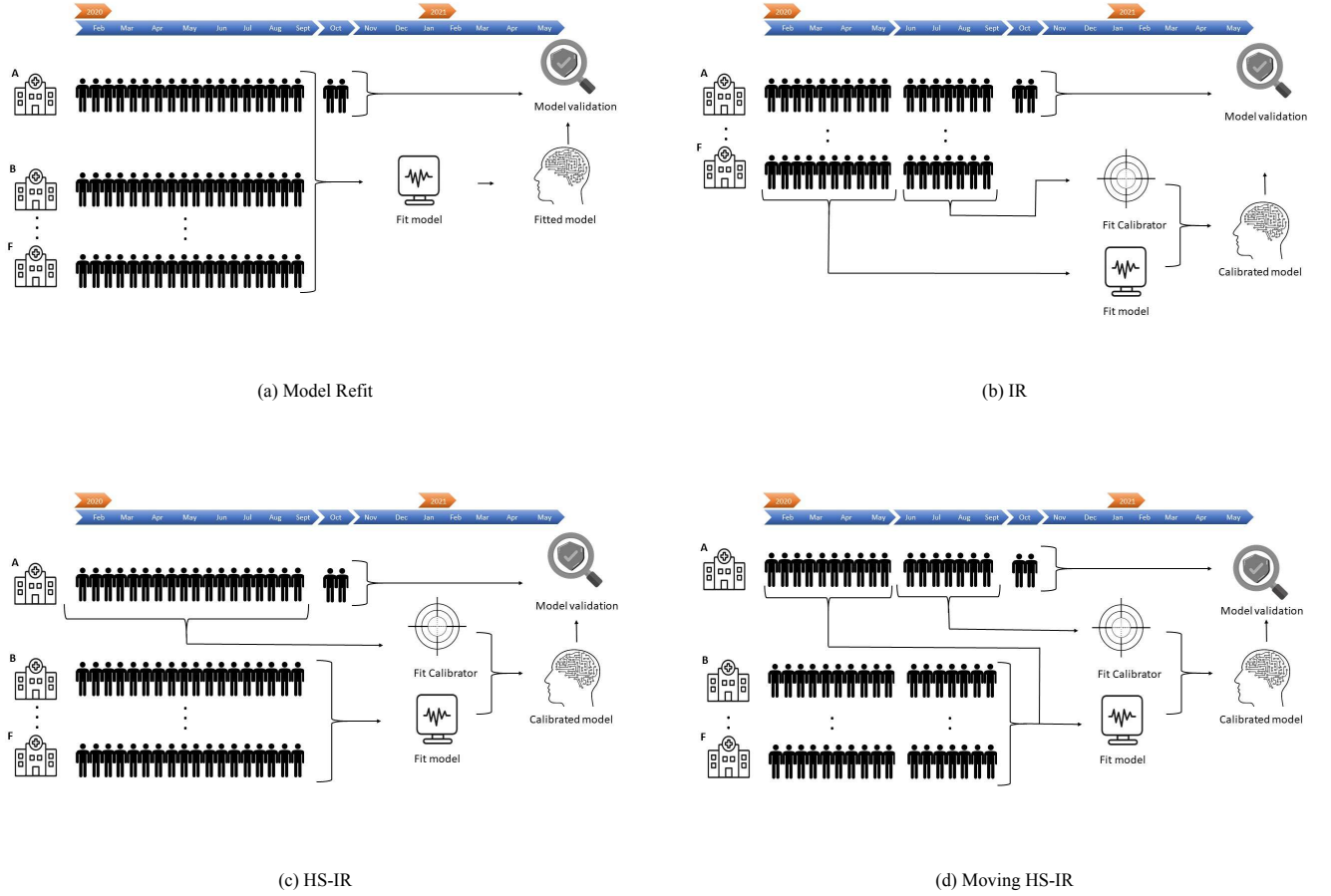


Figure 12: Schematic overview of how models would predict deterioration among patients admitted in October, 2020, according to the different dynamic model updating strategies. These procedures are repeated each month, from August 2020 until May 2021.

## Appendix G.2: Results

Figure 13 shows the overall calibration intercepts and slopes (95% CI), as well as the corresponding partial areas under the receiver operating characteristic curves (pAUCs) yielded by the different model updating strategies for the LR and RF model. Figure 14 shows the corresponding flexible calibration curves. Figures 15 - 26 show the hospital-specific calibration intercepts, slopes, pAUCs and the corresponding flexible calibration curves yielded by the different model updating strategies applied to the RF and LR models. For all figures showing flexible calibration curves, we zoom in to the domain between 0 and 0.2 probability, because the majority of the predictions are in this range.

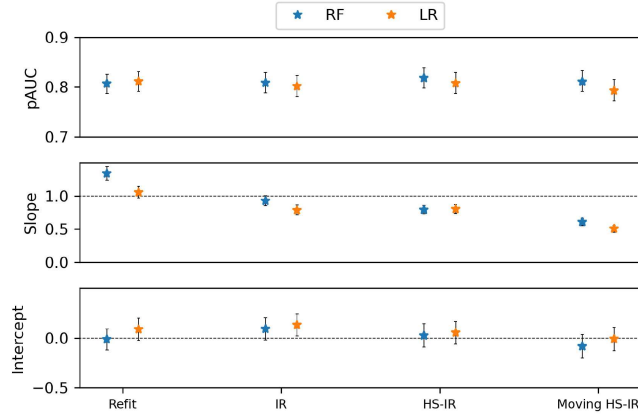
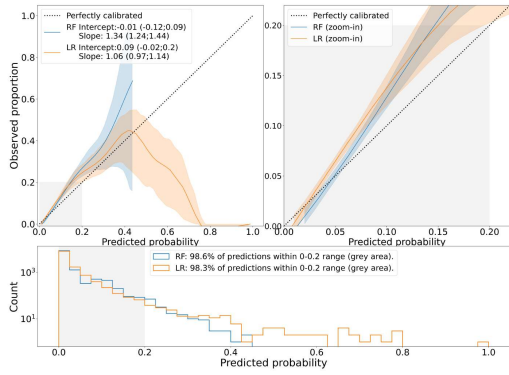
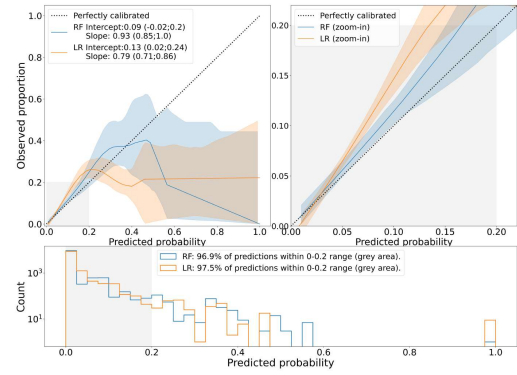


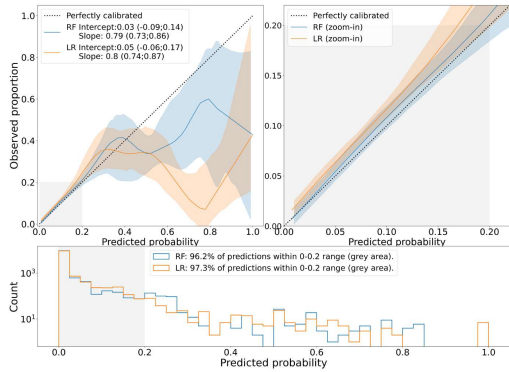
Figure 13: Overall pAUCs (based on full test set), calibration intercepts and slopes yielded by the different dynamic model updating strategies. pAUC=partial area under the receiver operating characteristic curve, RF=random forest, LR=logistic regression.



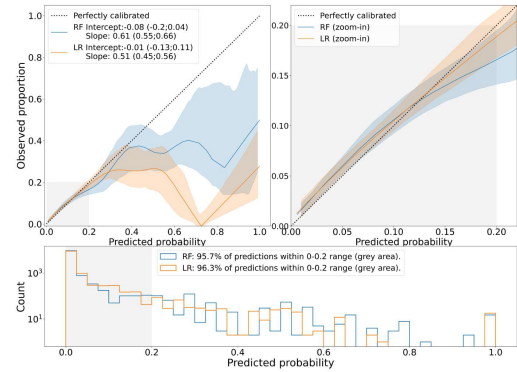
(a) Refit



(b) IR



(c) HS-IR



(d) Moving HS-IR

Figure 14: Overall model calibration curves resulting from the different dynamic model updating strategies. (i) Smoothed flexible calibration curves. (ii) Zoom-in of the calibration curve in the 0-0.2 probability range (grey area). Shaded areas around the curves represent the 95% CIs. (iii) Histogram of the predictions (log scale).

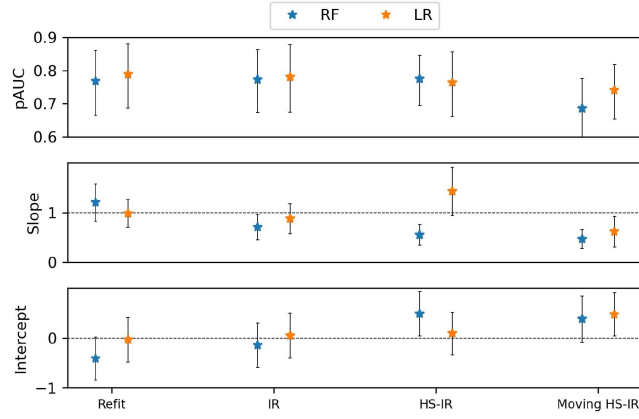
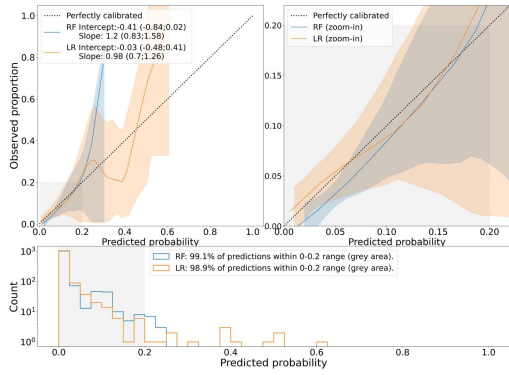
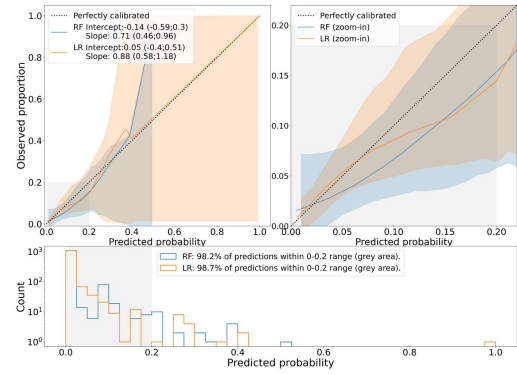


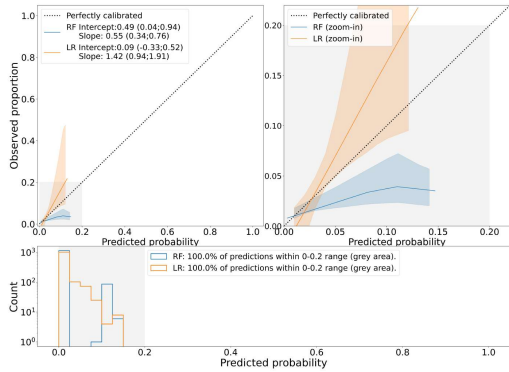
Figure 15: pAUCs, calibration intercepts and slopes yielded by the different dynamic model updating strategies in hospital A. pAUC=partial area under the receiver operating characteristic curve, RF=random forest, LR=logistic regression.



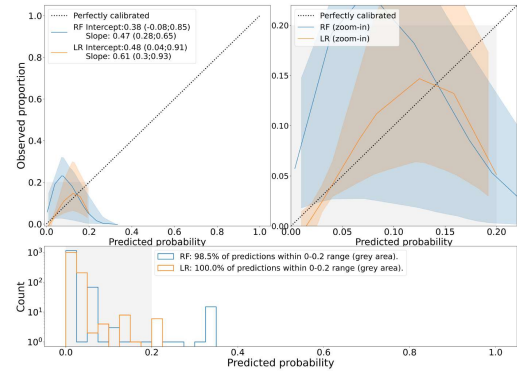
(a) Refit



(b) IR



(c) HS-IR



(d) Moving HS-IR

Figure 16: Model calibration curves yielded in hospital A by the different dynamic model updating strategies. (i) Smoothed flexible calibration curves. (ii) Zoom-in of the calibration curve in the 0-0.2 probability range (grey area). Shaded areas around the curves represent the 95% CIs. (iii) Histogram of the predictions (log scale).

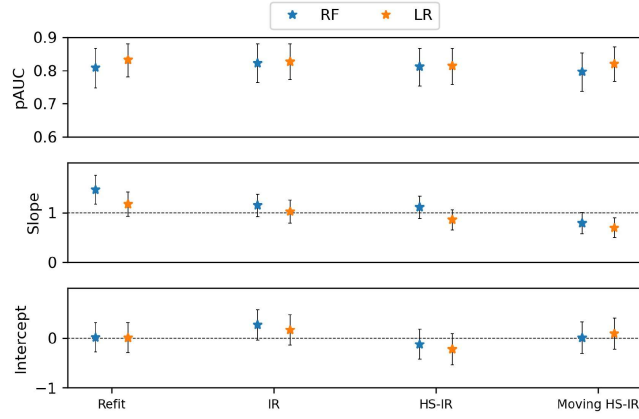
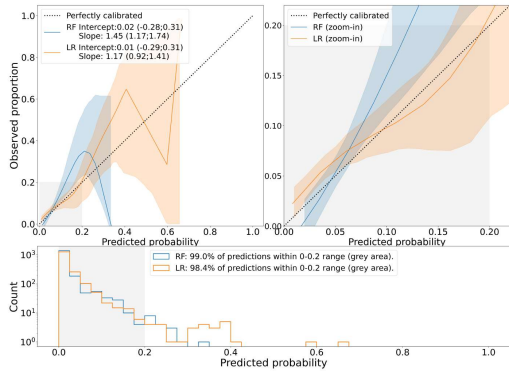
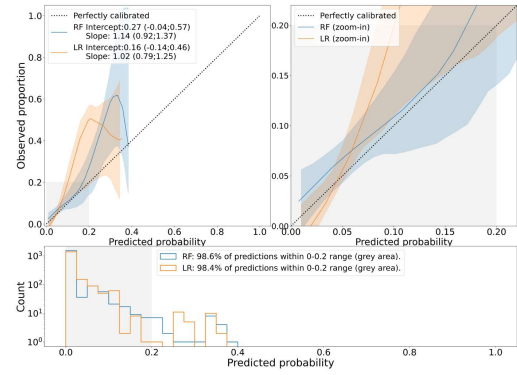


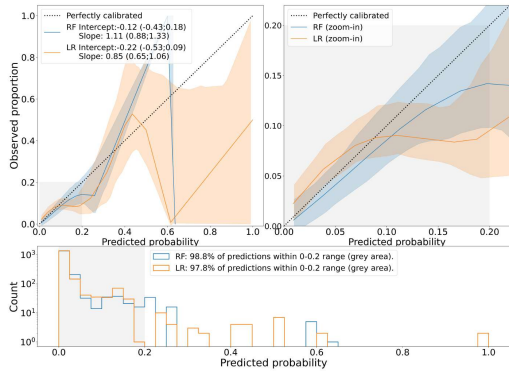
Figure 17: pAUCs, calibration intercepts and slopes yielded by the different dynamic model updating strategies in hospital B. pAUC=partial area under the receiver operating characteristic curve, RF=random forest, LR=logistic regression.



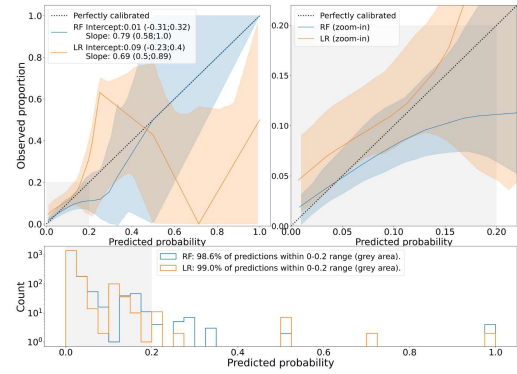
(a) Refit



(b) IR



(c) HS-IR



(d) Moving HS-IR

Figure 18: Model calibration curves yielded in hospital B by the different dynamic model updating strategies. (i) Smoothed flexible calibration curves. (ii) Zoom-in of the calibration curve in the 0-0.2 probability range (grey area). Shaded areas around the curves represent the 95% CIs. (iii) Histogram of the predictions (log scale).

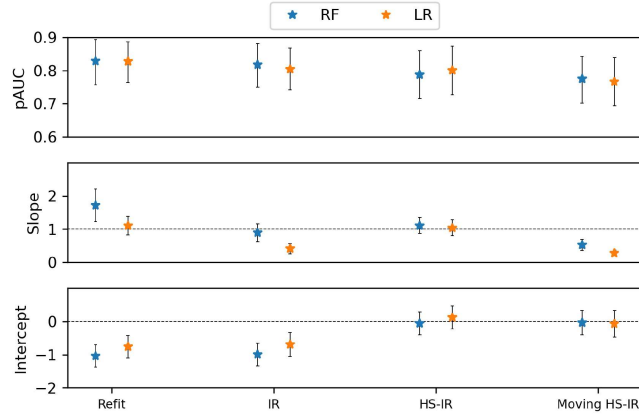
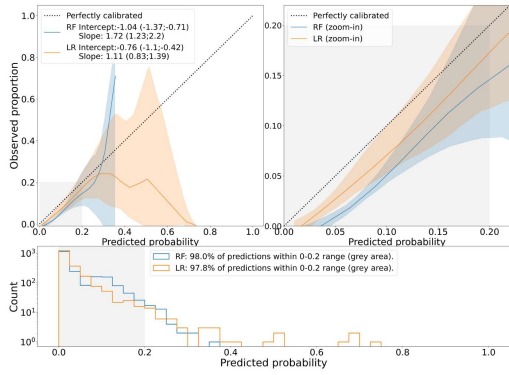
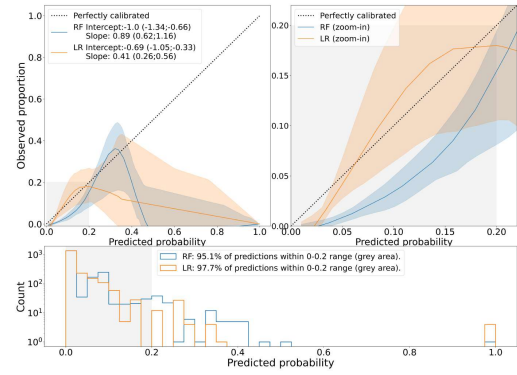


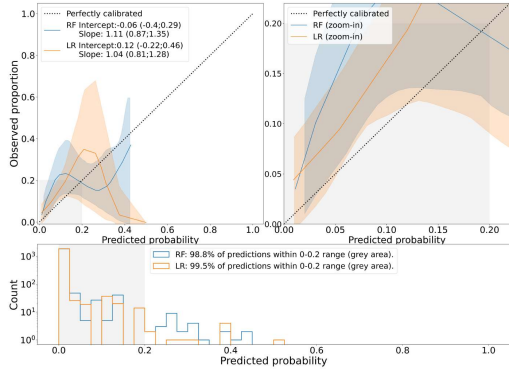
Figure 19: pAUCs, calibration intercepts and slopes yielded by the different dynamic model updating strategies in hospital C. pAUC=partial area under the receiver operating characteristic curve, RF=random forest, LR=logistic regression.



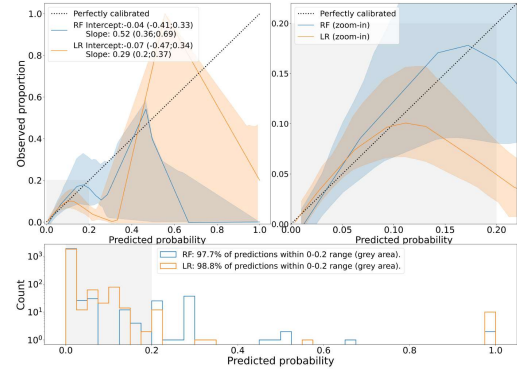
(a) Refit



(b) IR



(c) HS-IR



(d) Moving HS-IR

Figure 20: Model calibration curves yielded in hospital C by the different dynamic model updating strategies. (i) Smoothed flexible calibration curves. (ii) Zoom-in of the calibration curve in the 0-0.2 probability range (grey area). Shaded areas around the curves represent the 95% CIs. (iii) Histogram of the predictions (log scale).

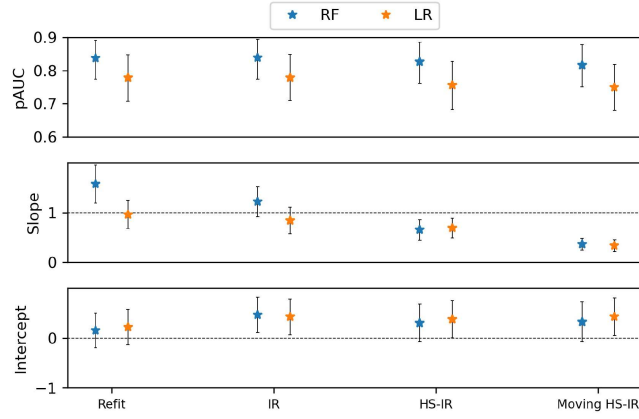
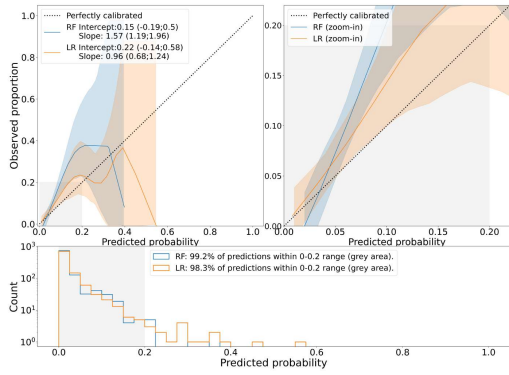
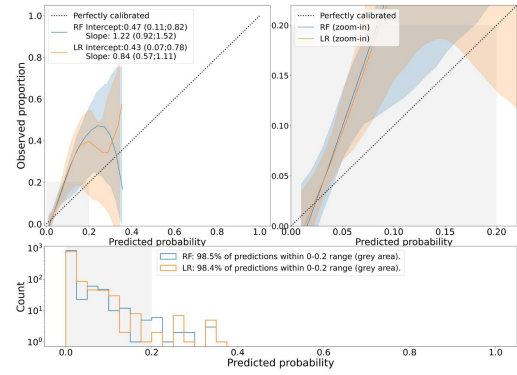


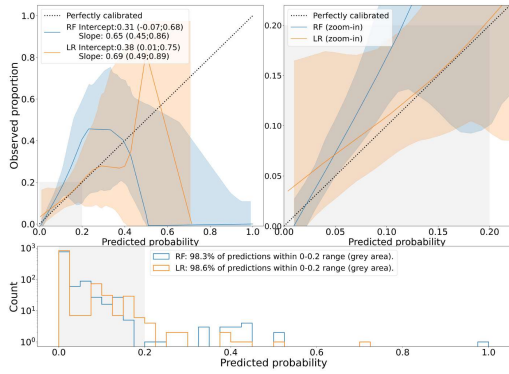
Figure 21: pAUCs, calibration intercepts and slopes yielded by the different dynamic model updating strategies in hospital D. pAUC=partial area under the receiver operating characteristic curve, RF=random forest, LR=logistic regression.



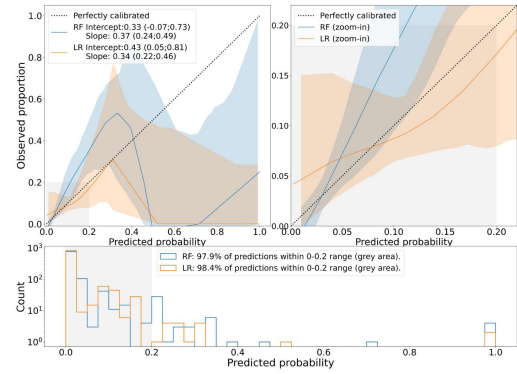
(a) Refit



(b) IR



(c) HS-IR



(d) Moving HS-IR

Figure 22: Model calibration curves yielded in hospital D by the different dynamic model updating strategies. (i) Smoothed flexible calibration curves. (ii) Zoom-in of the calibration curve in the 0-0.2 probability range (grey area). Shaded areas around the curves represent the 95% CIs. (iii) Histogram of the predictions (log scale).

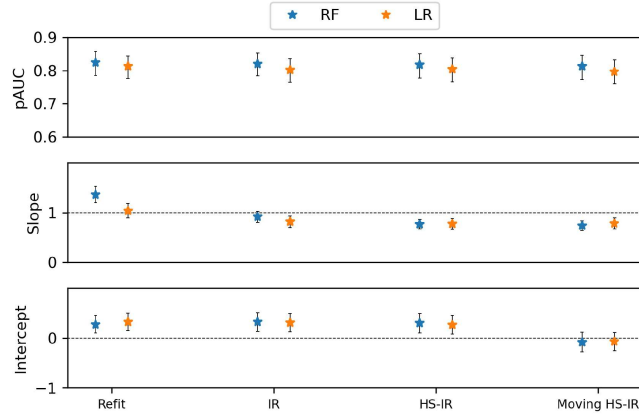
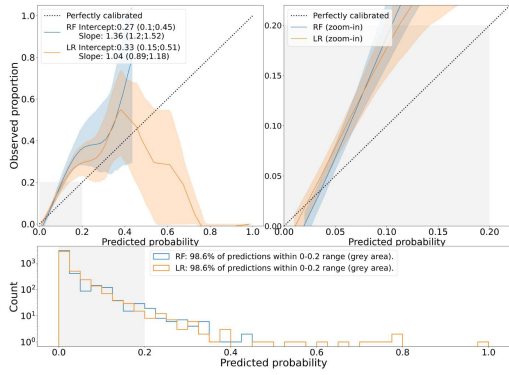
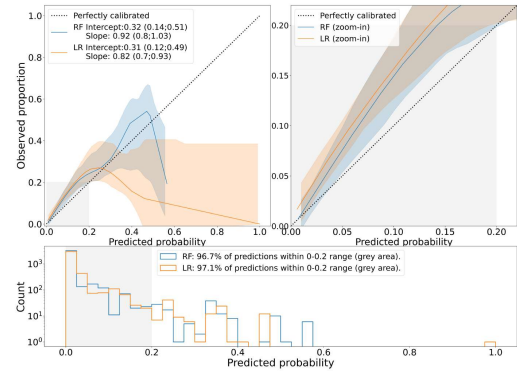


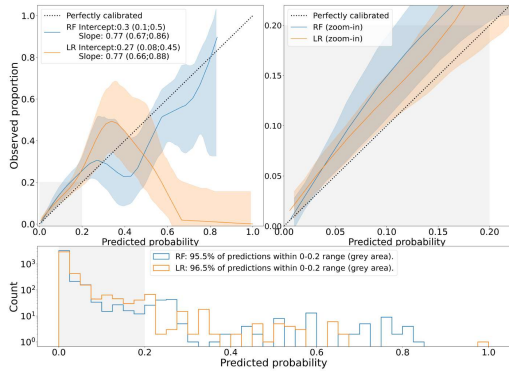
Figure 23: pAUCs, calibration intercepts and slopes yielded by the different dynamic model updating strategies in hospital E. pAUC=partial area under the receiver operating characteristic curve, RF=random forest, LR=logistic regression.



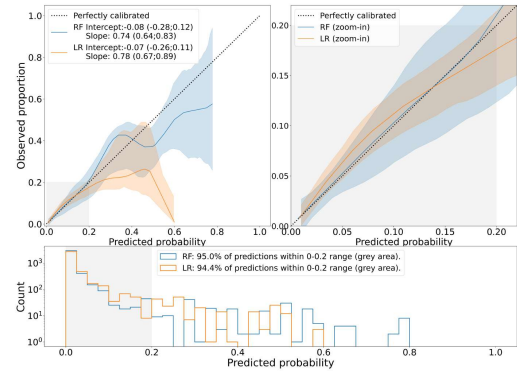
(a) Refit



(b) IR



(c) HS-IR



(d) Moving HS-IR

Figure 24: Model calibration curves yielded in hospital E by the different dynamic model updating strategies. (i) Smoothed flexible calibration curves. (ii) Zoom-in of the calibration curve in the 0-0.2 probability range (grey area). Shaded areas around the curves represent the 95% CIs. (iii) Histogram of the predictions (log scale).

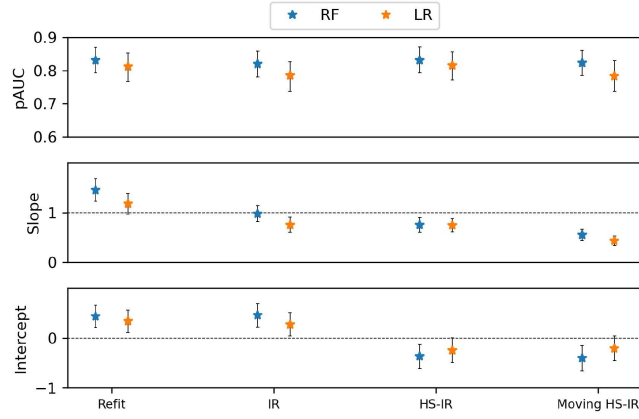
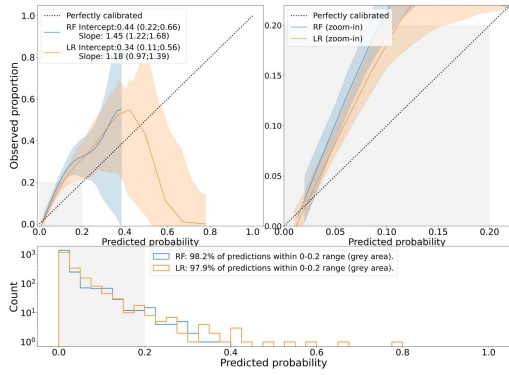
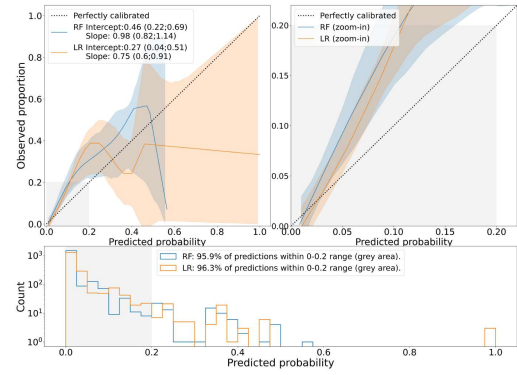


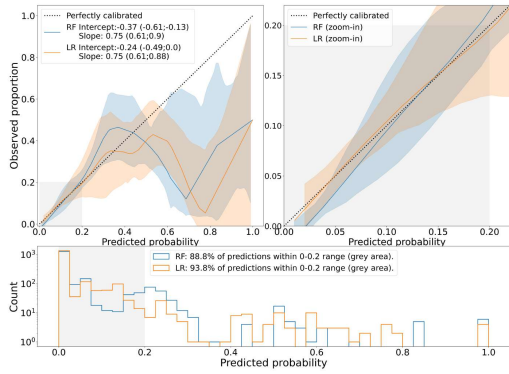
Figure 25: pAUCs, calibration intercepts and slopes yielded by the different dynamic model updating strategies in hospital F. pAUC=partial area under the receiver operating characteristic curve, RF=random forest, LR=logistic regression.



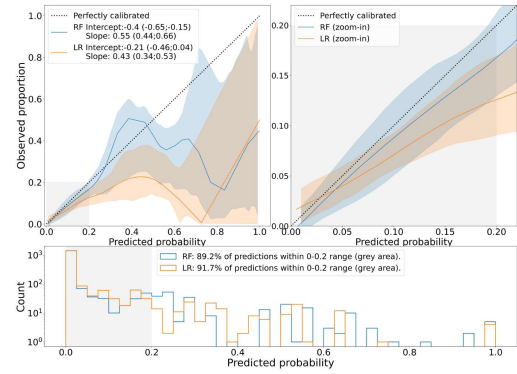
(a) Refit



(b) IR



(c) HS-IR



(d) Moving HS-IR

Figure 26: Model calibration curves yielded in hospital F by the different dynamic model updating strategies. (i) Smoothed flexible calibration curves. (ii) Zoom-in of the calibration curve in the 0-0.2 probability range (grey area). Shaded areas around the curves represent the 95% CIs. (iii) Histogram of the predictions (log scale).

### Appendix G.3: Evaluation

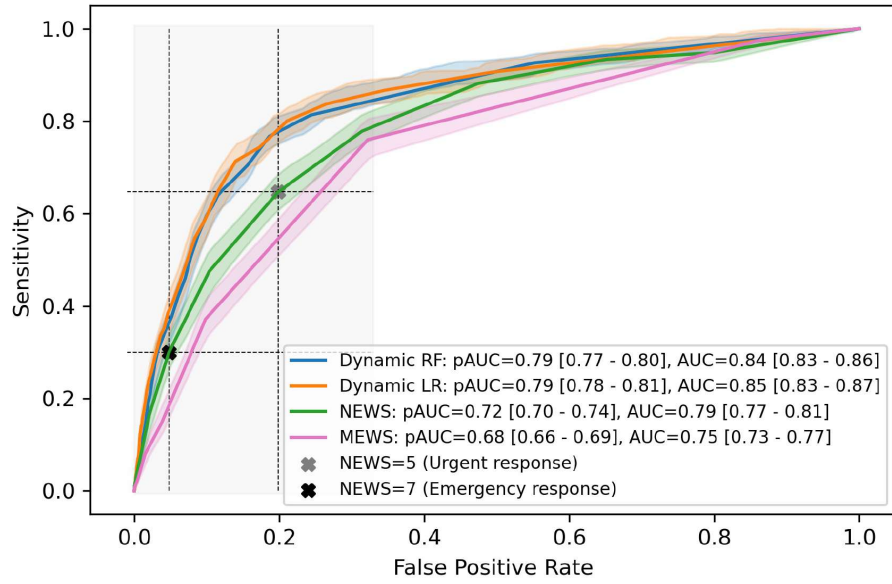
The discriminative performance (pAUCs) varies marginally for the different strategies (figure 13), whereas the model calibration shows notable differences. According to the hierarchy described by Van Calster and colleagues,<sup>19</sup> calibration in the moderate sense (i.e. the calibration curves) is a more stringent level of calibration than calibration in the weak sense (i.e. the calibration intercept and slope). Therefore, we put most weight in the resulting flexible calibration curves when evaluating the model calibration resulting from the different strategies. In these calibration curves, we focus mainly on the zoomed-in region (between probability 0 and 0.2) that covers the majority of the predictions. Also, we put more weight in the overall than the hospital-specific calibration curves, as they are based on more datapoints and therefore paint a more reliable picture of the model calibration. Finally, as the RF model yielded higher net benefit than the LR model, we put most weight in the calibration of the RF models.

The HS-IR and moving HS-IR strategies both yielded clearly better overall calibration curves compared to the Refit and the IR strategy (figure 14). The hospital-specific calibration curves for these strategies show comparable deviations from the diagonal and which strategy yielded a better calibration curve varies per hospital. For example, the moving HS-IR strategy yielded the best calibration curve in hospital C (figure 20d), whereas in hospital B, the HS-IR strategy yielded the best calibration curve (figure 18c). Thus, solely based on the calibration curves, it is hard to tell which strategy resulted in the best model calibration. We used the overall calibration in the weak sense as a tie breaker. The overall calibration intercepts are very similar, but the overall calibration slopes are closer to target value 1 for the HS-IR strategy (figure 13). Therefore, we chose the HS-IR strategy to show the results of in the main text.

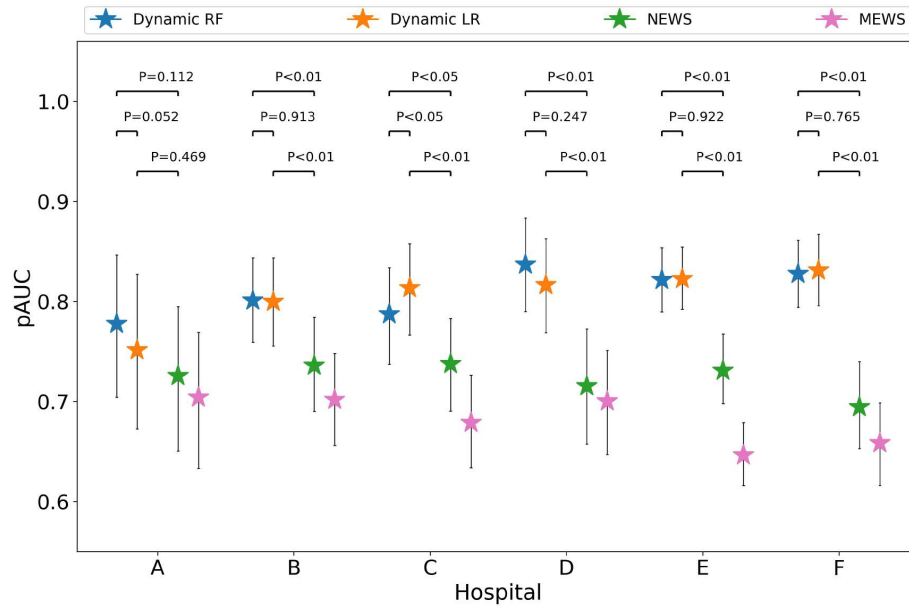
### Appendix H: Retrospective validation

We validated the models retrospectively in a ‘leave-one-hospital-out’ cross-validation procedure. That is, in each iteration, five hospitals formed the development set and the remaining hospital the test set. We repeated this process until each hospital formed the test set once, resulting in six RF and six LR models.

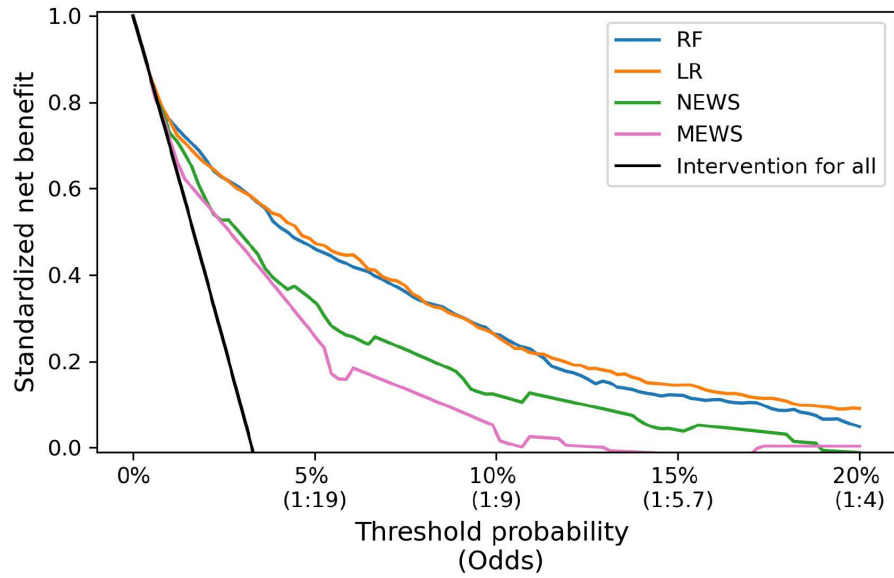
The RF models showed significantly improved ( $P < 0.001$ ) discriminative performance compared to the NEWS, with an overall (based on the full test set) pAUC of 0.78 [0.77 to 0.80] versus 0.72 [0.70 to 0.74] (figure 27a). The LR models performed comparable to the RF models (pAUC=0.79 [0.78 to 0.81]) and the MEWS performed worse than all other models (pAUC=0.68 [0.66 to 0.69]). Figure 27b shows the pAUCs yielded by RF and LR models and the NEWS in the individual hospitals. The RF and LR models show comparable overall performance in the decision curve analysis (DCA) and both show a clear improvement in net benefit (NB) compared to the existing EWSs (figure 27c). Both models yielded good calibration, with calibration curves close to the diagonal (figure 27d).



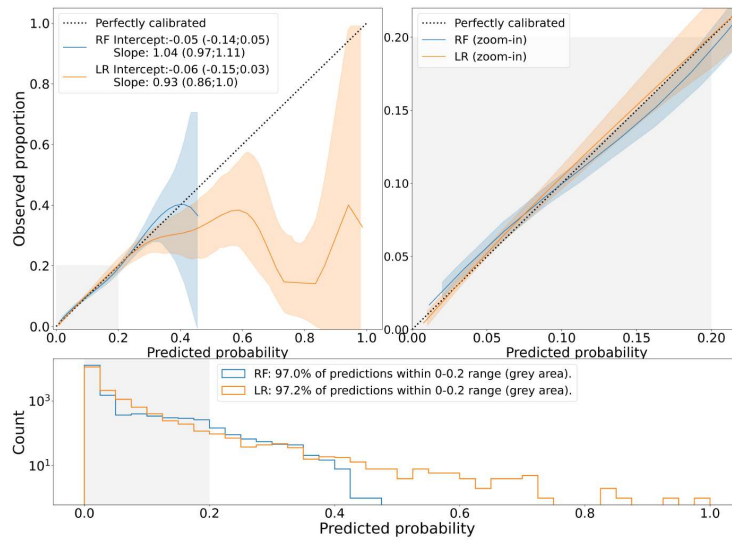
(a) Overall receiver operating characteristic curves for the RF and LR models and the NEWS. We placed two landmarks for a NEWS score of 5 and 7, i.e. the recommended trigger thresholds for an urgent and emergency response. We calculated both the pAUC between a false positive rate of 0 and 0.33 (grey area) and the complete AUC.



(b) Hospital-specific pAUCs. P values are shown resulting from significance tests for the difference in pAUC between the RF models and NEWS (upper bar), between the RF and LR models (middle bar) and between the LR models and NEWS (lower bar).



(c) Overall decision curve analysis results. The standardized net benefit is plotted over a range of clinically relevant probability thresholds with corresponding odds. The ‘Intervention for all’ line indicates the net benefit if a (urgent or emergency) response would always be triggered.



(d) Overall model calibration of the RF model and LR model. (i) Smoothed flexible calibration curves. (ii) Zoom-in of the calibration curve in the 0-0.2 probability range (grey area). Shaded areas around the curves represent the 95% CIs. (iii) Histogram of the predictions (log scale).

Figure 27: Results of the retrospective (Leave-one-hospital-out) validation procedure.

RF=Random Forest, LR=Logistic Regression, MEWS=Modified Early Warning Score, NEWS=National Early Warning Score

## Appendix I: Sensitivity analysis

### Appendix I.1: Predictive modeling vs aggregate-weighted early warning scores

To examine the added value of predictive modeling compared with aggregate-weighted early warning scores, we compared the performance of RF and LR models fitted only using the predictors required to calculate the MEWS and the NEWS (see table 13) with the corresponding aggregate-weighted EWSs. Figure 28 shows the discriminative performance of the aggregate-weighted scores (i.e. the MEWS and NEWS) and the RF and LR models. The RF and LR models fitted with the MEWS predictor

set outperformed the MEWS, while for the NEWS predictor set, the RF and LR models only show marginal improvement compared to the NEWS.

| Predictor set                           | Included predictors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | pAUC                                         | Calibration intercept                           | Calibration slope                            |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Entry density $\geq 0.5$ (main text)    | RR, SpO <sub>2</sub> , SBP, Temp, HR, O <sub>2</sub> (yes/no), AVPU, Age, Sex, LOS, O <sub>2</sub> (L/min), SpO <sub>2</sub> /O <sub>2</sub> , $\Delta$ RR, $\Delta$ SpO <sub>2</sub> , $\Delta$ SBP, $\Delta$ Temp, $\Delta$ HR, $\Delta$ SpO <sub>2</sub> /O <sub>2</sub>                                                                                                                | RF: 0.82 [0.80;0.84]<br>LR: 0.81 [0.79;0.83] | RF: 0.03 [-0.09;0.14]<br>LR: 0.05 [-0.06;0.17]  | RF: 0.79 [0.73;0.86]<br>LR: 0.80 [0.74;0.87] |
| Required to calculate MEWS              | RR, SBP, Temp, HR, AVPU                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | RF: 0.71 [0.69;0.73]<br>LR: 0.70 [0.67;0.72] | RF: 0.12 [0.01;0.23]<br>LR: 0.49 [0.38;0.61]    | RF: 0.60 [0.53;0.68]<br>LR: 0.39 [0.34;0.45] |
| Required to calculate NEWS              | RR, SpO <sub>2</sub> , SBP, Temp, HR, O <sub>2</sub> (yes/no), AVPU                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | RF: 0.72 [0.70;0.75]<br>LR: 0.72 [0.70;0.75] | RF: 0.14 [0.03;0.25]<br>LR: 0.43 [0.31;0.54]    | RF: 0.55 [0.48;0.62]<br>LR: 0.43 [0.38;0.49] |
| Entry density $\geq 0.4$                | RR, SpO <sub>2</sub> , SBP, Temp, HR, O <sub>2</sub> (yes/no), AVPU, Age, Sex, LOS, O <sub>2</sub> (L/min), SpO <sub>2</sub> /O <sub>2</sub> , $\Delta$ RR, $\Delta$ SpO <sub>2</sub> , $\Delta$ SBP, $\Delta$ Temp, $\Delta$ HR, $\Delta$ SpO <sub>2</sub> /O <sub>2</sub> , Haemoglobin, WBC, Sodium, Potassium, Creatinine,                                                             | RF: 0.81 [0.79;0.83]<br>LR: 0.80 [0.78;0.82] | RF: -0.03 [-0.15;0.08]<br>LR: 0.05 [-0.06;0.16] | RF: 0.78 [0.72;0.84]<br>LR: 0.82 [0.75;0.89] |
| Entry density $\geq 0.3$                | RR, SpO <sub>2</sub> , SBP, Temp, HR, O <sub>2</sub> (yes/no), AVPU, Age, Sex, LOS, O <sub>2</sub> (L/min), SpO <sub>2</sub> /O <sub>2</sub> , $\Delta$ RR, $\Delta$ SpO <sub>2</sub> , $\Delta$ SBP, $\Delta$ Temp, $\Delta$ HR, $\Delta$ SpO <sub>2</sub> /O <sub>2</sub> , Haemoglobin, WBC, Sodium, Potassium, Creatinine, Haematocrit, Platelet count, ALAT, ASAT, LD, Urea, CRP, RDW | RF: 0.82 [0.80;0.84]<br>LR: 0.79 [0.77;0.81] | RF: -0.02 [-0.14;0.09]<br>LR: 0.02 [-0.09;0.14] | RF: 0.74 [0.67;0.80]<br>LR: 0.78 [0.72;0.85] |
| Top 5 predictors                        | SpO <sub>2</sub> /O <sub>2</sub> , RR, Temp, LOS, O <sub>2</sub> (L/min)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | RF: 0.82 [0.80;0.84]<br>LR: 0.81 [0.79;0.83] | RF: 0.01 [-0.11;0.12]<br>LR: 0.13 [0.02;0.25]   | RF: 0.71 [0.65;0.77]<br>LR: 0.70 [0.64;0.76] |
| NEWS + SpO <sub>2</sub> /O <sub>2</sub> | RR, SpO <sub>2</sub> , SBP, Temp, HR, O <sub>2</sub> (yes/no), AVPU, SpO <sub>2</sub> /O <sub>2</sub>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | RF: 0.82 [0.80;0.84]<br>LR: 0.79 [0.77;0.81] | RF: 0.02 [-0.10;0.13]<br>LR: 0.17 [0.05;0.28]   | RF: 0.78 [0.71;0.84]<br>LR: 0.70 [0.64;0.77] |

Table 13: Model performance for different included predictor sets.

pAUC= partial area under the receiver operating characteristic curve, RR= respiratory rate, SBP= Systolic blood pressure, Temp= Temperature, HR= Heart rate, WBC= White blood cell count, LD= Lactate dehydrogenase, CRP= C reactive protein, RDW= Red cell distribution width, LOS= ward length-of-stay

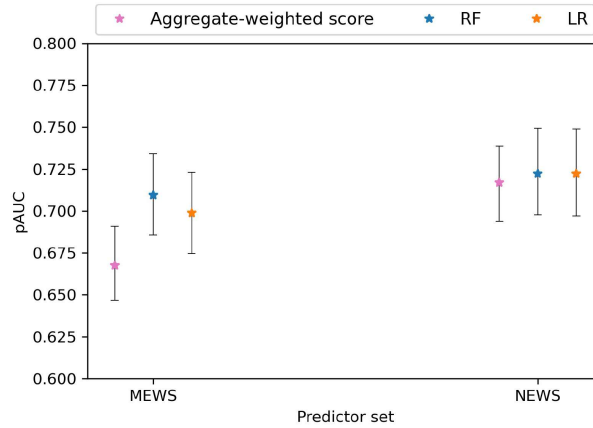
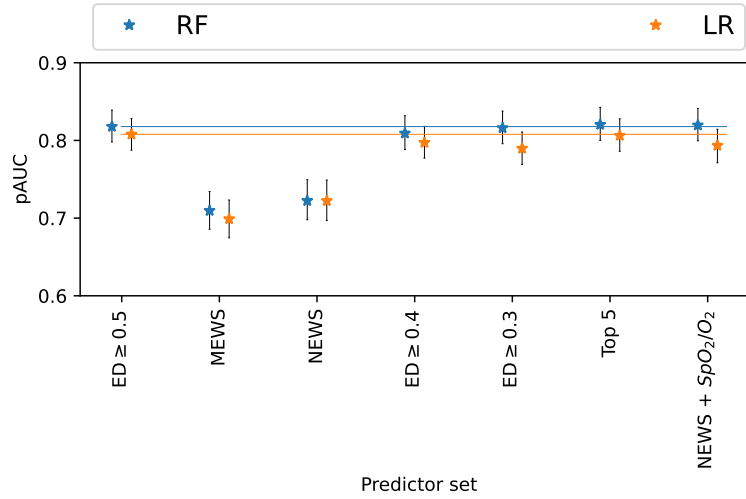


Figure 28: Overall (based on complete test set) pAUCs yielded by the Modified Early Warning Score, the National Early Warning Score and the dynamic RF and LR models fitted using only the predictors required to calculate these aggregate-weighted scores, in the temporal validation.

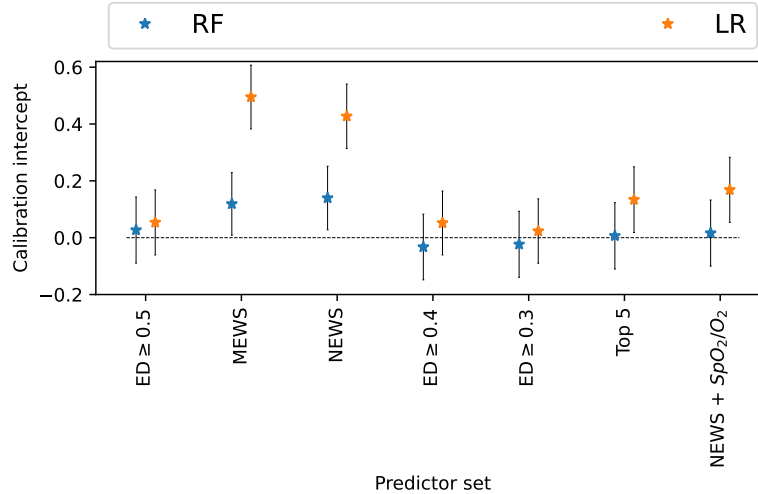
## Appendix I.2: Influence of included predictors on model performance

To examine the influence of the included predictors on the model performance, we compared RF and LR models fitted with seven different predictor sets (table 13: predictors with an entry density (ED)  $\geq 0.5$  (the models presented in the main text), the MEWS/NEWS predictors, predictors with an ED  $\geq 0.4$  and  $0.3$ , the top five predictors based on the mean SHAP magnitude, and the NEWS predictors supplemented with the  $SpO_2/O_2$ . For all these models, we performed the temporal validation including monthly model updating as described in the main text.

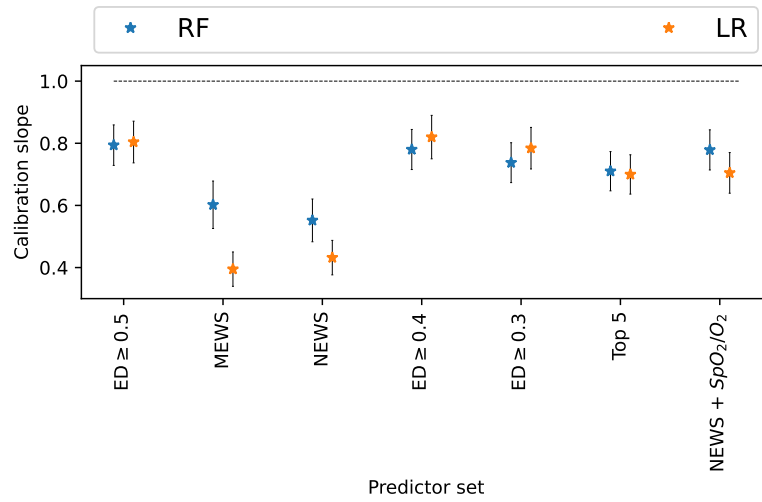
Figure 29 shows the pAUCs, calibration intercepts and slopes yielded by the different models. Figure 30 shows all the flexible calibration curves resulting from the different models. The models fitted with the predictors required to calculate the MEWS and NEWS yielded significantly lower pAUCs and show bad calibration curves compared to the other models. The models fitted with more predictors (ED  $\geq 0.4$  and  $0.3$ ) show little difference in pAUC and calibration curves compared to the original models (ED  $\geq 0.5$ ), only the calibration curve of the ED  $\geq 0.4$  model shows more deviation from the diagonal. The models fitted with fewer predictors (top 5) and the models fitted with the NEWS predictor supplemented with  $SpO_2/O_2$  show little difference in pAUC and in the calibration curves compared to the original models (ED  $\geq 0.5$ ).



(a) pAUC

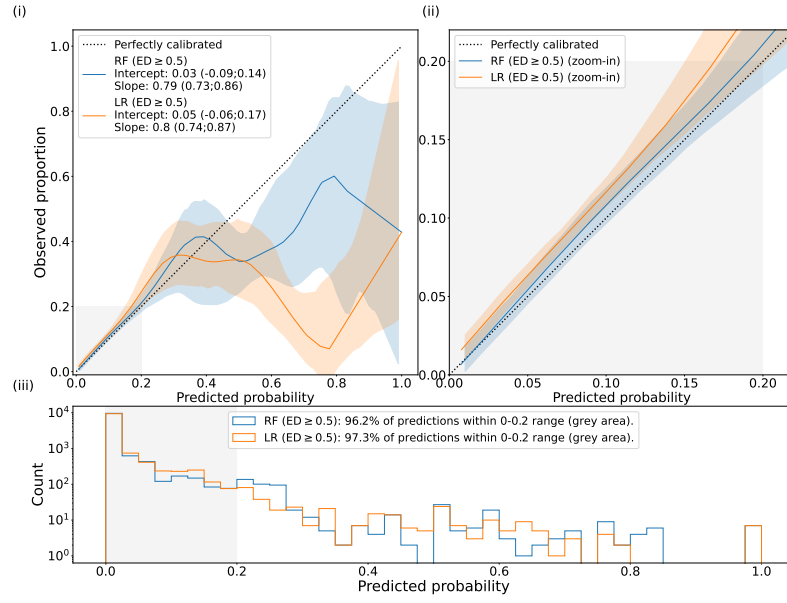


(b) Calibration intercept

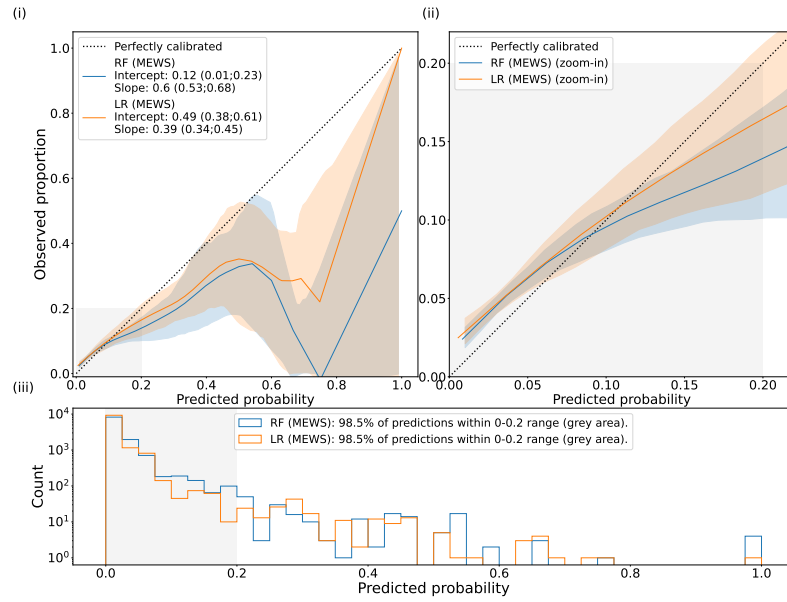


(c) Calibration slope

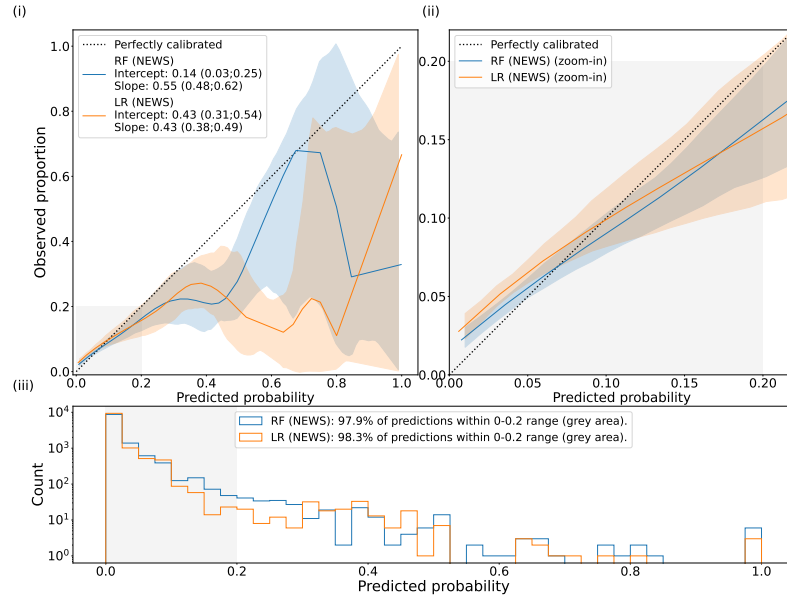
Figure 29: The discrimination (pAUC) and calibration in the weak sense (intercepts and slopes) yielded by the the LR and RF models fitted with the different predictor sets: ED  $\geq$  0.5 (main text), ED  $\geq$  0.4, ED  $\geq$  0.3, MEWS, NEWS and Top 5. ED=entry density, MEWS=Modified Early Warning Score, NEWS=National Early Warning Score.



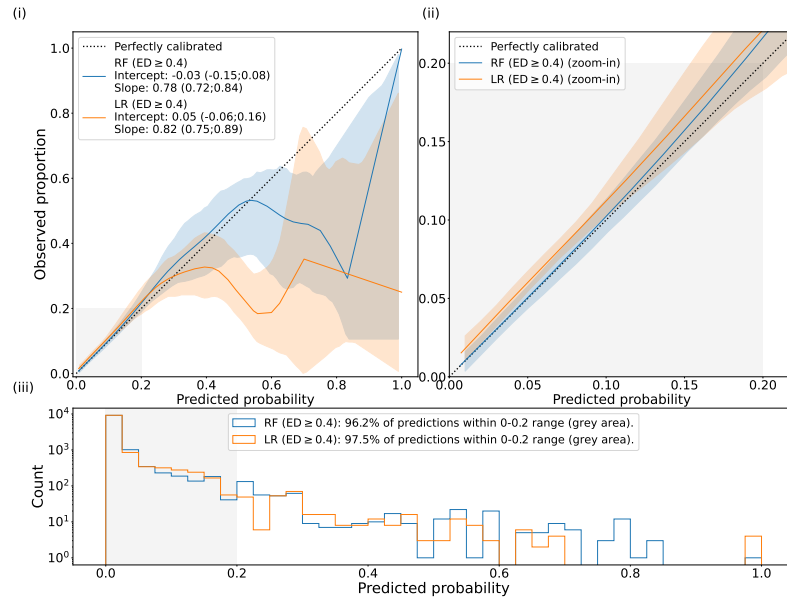
(a)  $ED \geq 0.5$  (main text)



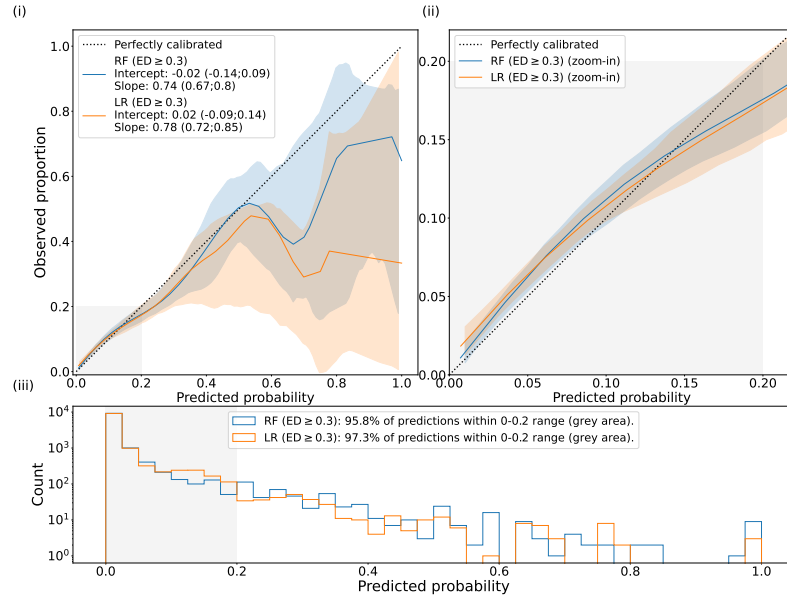
(b) MEWS



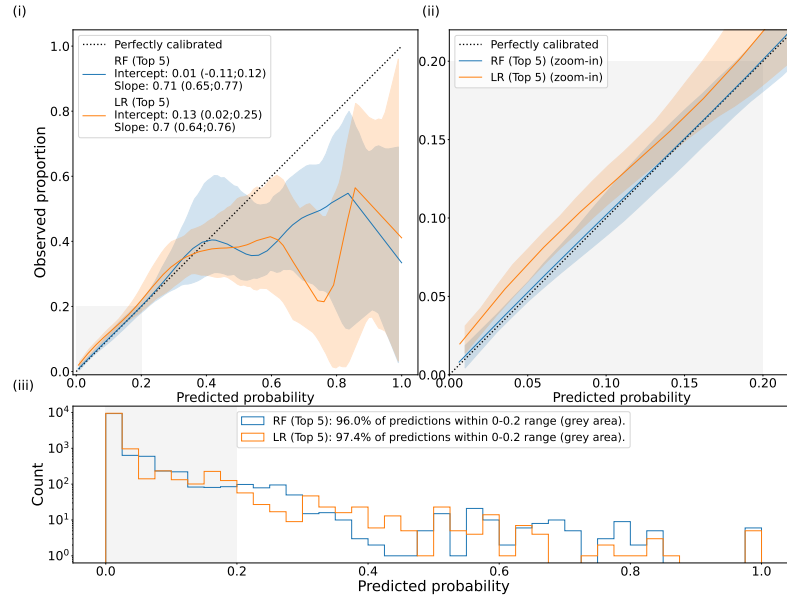
(c) NEWS



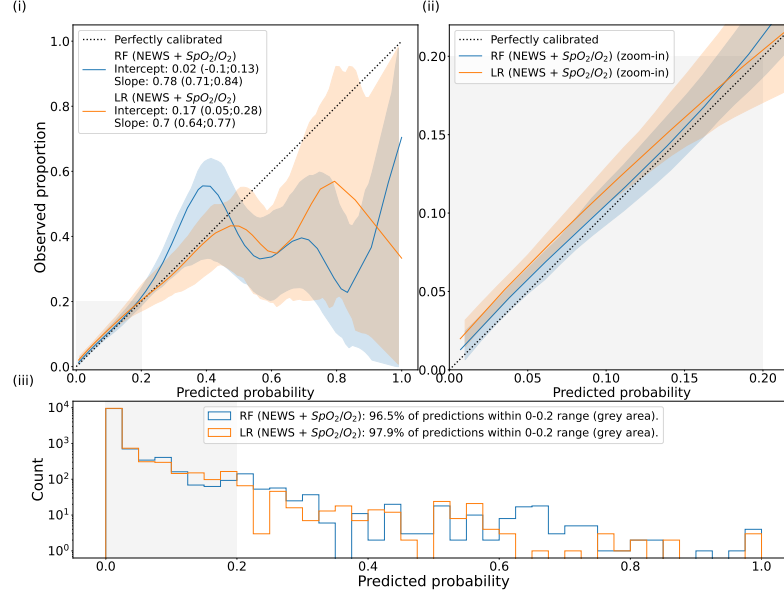
(d) ED  $\geq 0.4$



(e)  $ED \geq 0.3$



(f) Top 5



(g) NEWS + SpO<sub>2</sub>/O<sub>2</sub>

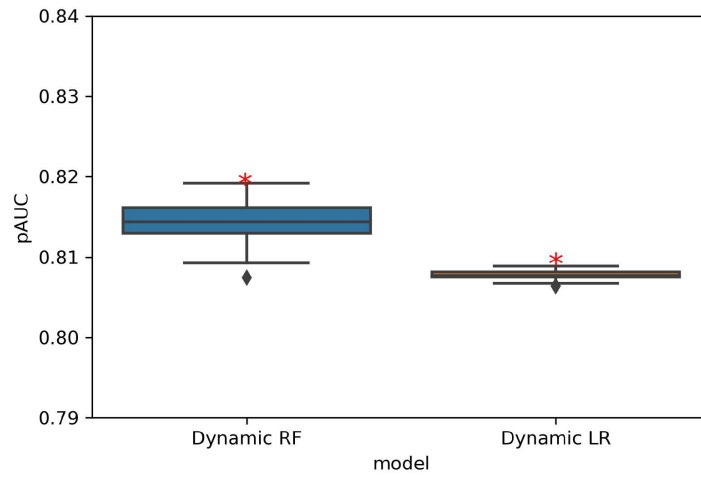
Figure 30: Hospital-specific loess smoothed flexible calibration curves yielded by the LR and RF models fitted with the different predictor sets: ED  $\geq 0.5$  (main text), ED  $\geq 0.4$ , ED  $\geq 0.3$ , MEWS, NEWS and Top 5. Shaded areas around the curves represent the 95% CIs.)

RF=random forest, LR=logistic regression, MEWS=Modified Early Warning Score, NEWS=National Early Warning Score

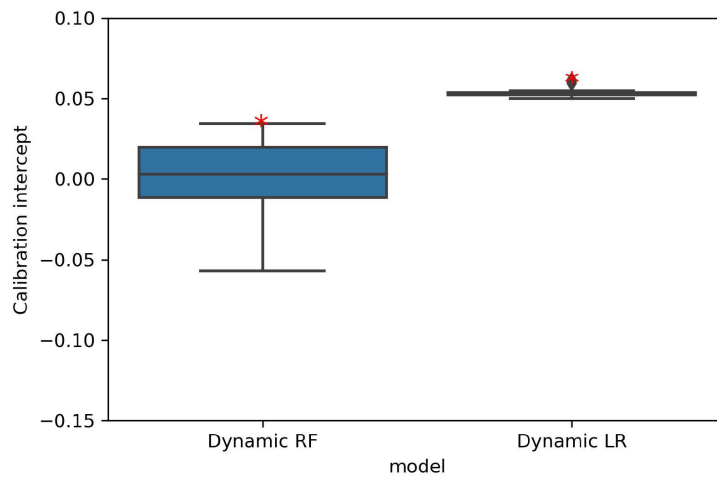
### Appendix I.3: Influence of imputation on model performance

To examine the influence of imputation on the model performance, we repeated the temporal validation with 50 imputation rounds. That is, in each round, the missing values are imputed by random sampling from the posterior distributions with a different random seed. The resulting model performance in terms of discrimination (pAUCs) and calibration (calibration intercepts and slopes) over the 50 repetitions are visualized as boxplots in figure 31.

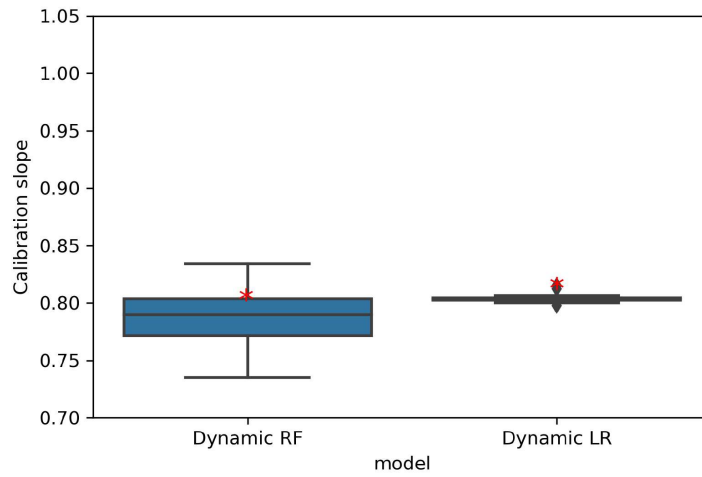
All the performance metrics show very little spread, only the spread of the calibration intercepts of the RF models is relatively large. The red stars represent the performances yielded by the models with a single imputation round (imputing values with the highest probability density), as reported in the main text.



(a) pAUC



(b) Calibration intercept



(c) Calibration slope

Figure 31: Boxplots visualizing the distributions of the point estimates of different performance metrics resulting from 50 imputation rounds. Red stars represent the point estimates resulting from the single imputation round presented in the main text. pAUC = partial area under the receiver operating characteristic curve, RF=random forest, LR=logistic regression.

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