

# Study protocol

Based on the HARPER template

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## Table of contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Title page</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Abstract</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Amendments and updates</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Rationale and background</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Research question and objectives</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Research methods</b>	<b>5</b>
7.1	Study design . . . . .	5
7.2	Study design diagram . . . . .	5
7.3	Setting . . . . .	5
7.3.1	Context and rationale for definition of time 0 (and other primary time anchors) for entry to the study population . . . . .	5
7.3.2	Context and rationale for study inclusion criteria . . . . .	5

7.3.3	Context and rationale for study exclusion criteria . . . . .	7
7.4	Variables . . . . .	7
7.4.1	Context and rationale for exposure(s) of interest . . . . .	7
7.4.2	Context and rationale for outcome(s) of interest . . . . .	7
7.4.3	Context and rationale for follow up . . . . .	7
7.4.4	Context and rationale for covariates (confounding variables and effect modifiers, e.g. risk factors, comorbidities, comedICATIONS) . . . . .	8
7.5	Data analysis . . . . .	8
7.5.1	Context and rationale for analysis plan . . . . .	8
7.6	Data sources . . . . .	9
7.6.1	Context and rationale for data sources . . . . .	9
7.7	Data management . . . . .	11
7.8	Quality control . . . . .	11
7.9	Study size and feasibility . . . . .	11
<b>8</b>	<b>Limitation of the methods</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Protection of human subjects</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Reporting of adverse events</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Appendices</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Change log</b>	<b>11</b>

# 1 Title page

This protocol is based on the *HARmonized Protocol Template to Enhance Reproducibility (HARPER) of Hypothesis Evaluating Real-World Evidence Studies on Treatment Effects: A Good Practices Report of a Joint ISPE/ISPOR Task Force (HARPER)* protocol by Wang SV et al.<sup>1</sup>

**Title**

**Research question and objectives**

**Protocol version**

**Contributors**

**Primary investigator contact information:**

**Contributor names:**

**Study registration**

**Site:**

**Identifier:**

**Sponsor**

**Organization:**

**Contact:**

**Conflict of interest**

## 2 Abstract

## 3 Amendments and updates

Version date	Version number	Section of protocol
<Date of the protocol version change>	<Number or other identifier for the protocol version>	<Brief text description of which sections of

## 4 Milestones

Table 2: Milestones

Milestone	Date
<Milestone description>	<Date>
<Milestone description>	<Date>
<Milestone description>	<Date>

## 5 Rationale and background

What is known about the condition:

What is known about the exposure of interest:

Gaps in knowledge:

What is the expected contribution of this study?

The purpose of this protocol is to describe the emulation of trial INSERT TRIAL NAME. The primary trial estimate targeted for emulation is INSERT. Market availability of EXPOSURE began DATE.

## 6 Research question and objectives

## 7 Research methods

### 7.1 Study design

Research design (e.g. cohort, case-control, etc.):

Rationale for study design choice:

### 7.2 Study design diagram

### 7.3 Setting

#### 7.3.1 Context and rationale for definition of time 0 (and other primary time anchors) for entry to the study population

Table 6: Operational Definition of Time 0 (index date)

Study population name(s)	Time Anchor Description (e.g. time 0)	Number of entries	Type of entry	Washout window	Care setting	C
<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<

#### 7.3.2 Context and rationale for study inclusion criteria

Table 7: Operational Definitions of Inclusion Criteria

Criterion	Details	Order of application	Assessment window	Care settings	Code Type	Diagnosis position	Applied to study population
<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>

Table 3: Research questions and objectives

(a) Primary research question and objective

Study element	Specification
Objective:	<Text>
Hypothesis:	<Text>
Population (mention key inclusion-exclusion criteria):	<Text>
Exposure:	<Text>
Comparator:	<Text>
Outcome:	<Text>
Time (when follow up begins and ends):	<Text>
Setting:	<Text>
Main measure of effect:	<Text>

(a) Secondary research question and objective

Study element	Specification
Objective:	<Text>
Hypothesis:	<Text>
Population (mention key inclusion-exclusion criteria):	<Text>
Exposure:	<Text>
Comparator:	<Text>
Outcome:	<Text>
Time (when follow up begins and ends):	<Text>
Setting:	<Text>
Main measure of effect:	<Text>

### 7.3.3 Context and rationale for study exclusion criteria

Table 8: Operational Definitions of Exclusion Criteria

Criterion	Details	Order of application	Assessment window	Care settings	Code Type	Diagnosis position	Applied to study population
<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>

## 7.4 Variables

### 7.4.1 Context and rationale for exposure(s) of interest

Algorithm to define duration of exposure effect:

Table 9: Operational Definitions of Exposure

Exposure group name(s)	Details	Washout window	Assessment window	Care settings	Code Type	Diagnosis position	Applied to study population
<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>

### 7.4.2 Context and rationale for outcome(s) of interest

Table 10: Operational Definitions of Outcome

Outcome name	Details	Primary outcome?	Type of outcome	Washout window	Care settings	Code Type	Diagnosis position	Applied to study population
<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>

### 7.4.3 Context and rationale for follow up

Table 11: Operational Definitions of Follow up

Time point	Select all that apply	Specify
Follow up start	<Text>	<Text>
Follow up end	<Text>	<Text>
Date of outcome	<Text>	<Text>
Date of death	<Text>	<Text>
End of observation in data	<Text>	<Text>
Day X following index date	<Text>	<Text>
End of study period	<Text>	<Text>
End of exposure	<Text>	<Text>
Date of add to/switch from exposure	<Text>	<Text>
Other date	<Text>	<Text>

**7.4.4 Context and rationale for covariates (confounding variables and effect modifiers, e.g. risk factors, comorbidities, comedICATIONS)**

Table 12: Operational Definitions of Covariates

Characteristic	Details	Type of variable	Assessment window	Care settings	Code Type	Diagnosis position	Applied to study population
<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>

**7.5 Data analysis**

**7.5.1 Context and rationale for analysis plan**

**7.5.1.1 A. Primary analysis**

Table 16: Sensitivity analyses – rationale, strengths and limitations

Analysis	What is being varied?	Why (expected learning)?	Strengths of the sensitivity analysis compared to primary	Limitations of the
<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>

## 7.6 Data sources

### 7.6.1 Context and rationale for data sources

**Reason for selection:**

**Strengths of data source(s):**

**Limitations of data source(s):**

**Data source provenance/curation:**

Table 17: Metadata about data sources and software

Data element	Data 1	Data 2	Data 3
Data Sources:	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>
Study Period:	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>
Eligible Cohort Entry Period:	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>
Data version (or date of last update):	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>
Data sampling/extraction criteria:	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>
Type(s) of data:	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>
Data linkage	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>
Conversion to CDM:	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>
Software for data management:	<Text>	<Text>	<Text>

Table 13: Primary, secondary, and subgroup analysis specification

(a) Primary analysis

Analysis element	Specification
Hypothesis:	<Text>
Exposure contrast:	<Text>
Outcome:	<Text>
Analytical software	<Text>
Model(s):	<Text>
Conofunding adjustment method	Name method and provide relevant details, e.g. bivariate, multivariable, propensity score matching (specif
Missing data methods	Name method and provide relevant details, e.g. missing indicators, complete case, last value carried forward
Subgroup Analyses	List all subgroups

(a) Secondary analysis

Analysis element	Specification
Hypothesis:	<Text>
Exposure contrast:	<Text>
Outcome:	<Text>
Analytical software	<Text>
Model(s):	<Text>
Conofunding adjustment method	Name method and provide relevant details, e.g. bivariate, multivariable, propensity score matching (specif
Missing data methods	Name method and provide relevant details, e.g. missing indicators, complete case, last value carried forward
Subgroup Analyses	List all subgroups

## 7.7 Data management

## 7.8 Quality control

## 7.9 Study size and feasibility

## 8 Limitation of the methods

## 9 Protection of human subjects

## 10 Reporting of adverse events

## 11 References

1. Wang SV, Pottgård A, Crown W, *et al.* HARmonized Protocol Template to Enhance Reproducibility of hypothesis evaluating real-world evidence studies on treatment effects: A good practices report of a joint ISPE/ISPOR task force. *Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety* 2022; **32**: 44–55. doi:[10.1002/pds.5507](https://doi.org/10.1002/pds.5507).

## 12 Appendices

## 13 Change log

Detailed change log based on previous commits.

Thu, 20 Apr 2023 16:16:33 -0400  
Changes made by: [jweberpals@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:jweberpals@bwh.harvard.edu)  
Commit hash: `ac5ff1f`

Changes made: echo is only false for protocol

Tue, 18 Apr 2023 15:16:00 -0400

Changes made by: jweberpals@bwh.harvard.edu

Commit hash: 48390ee

Changes made: styling of tables

Mon, 17 Apr 2023 17:12:00 -0400

Changes made by: jweberpals@bwh.harvard.edu

Commit hash: bfb71b5

Changes made: added index

Mon, 17 Apr 2023 16:58:04 -0400

Changes made by: jweberpals@bwh.harvard.edu

Commit hash: 4705250

Changes made: some modifications

Mon, 17 Apr 2023 16:14:43 -0400

Changes made by: jweberpals@bwh.harvard.edu

Commit hash: c0f1b13

Changes made: with format gt

Mon, 17 Apr 2023 15:24:42 -0400

Changes made by: jweberpals@bwh.harvard.edu

Commit hash: 106faf2

Changes made: attempt to balance html and pdf output using gt

Sun, 16 Apr 2023 19:20:26 -0400

Changes made by: jweberpals@bwh.harvard.edu

Commit hash: f0bde2b

Changes made: first HARPER draft; TODO: Tables in pdf

Sun, 16 Apr 2023 19:12:50 -0400

Changes made by: jweberpals@bwh.harvard.edu

Commit hash: 34b0c71  
Changes made: initial commit