

# Data Ethics Checklist

Developed by David Danks (Carnegie Mellon University) in conjunction with Seattle Children's Hospital, November 2018

## Potential privacy issues

**P1.** Does this process/method/analysis use information that patient/families/employees are probably unaware that Seattle Children's has collected (or could integrate)?

*[Roughly, did they "consent" to have their data used in this way, though think more broadly than "mere" legal consent.]*

0: Definitely not

1: In some situations

2: Definitely yes

**P2.** Will this project infer information that the target people would legitimately object to you knowing (even though they agreed to provide the input data)?

*[People's willingness to provide their data depends partly on how they think the data could be used, not how it could possibly be used.]*

0: Definitely not

1: In some situations

2: Definitely yes

## Potential bias and equity issues

**B1.** Were the various input data collected, measured, or processed differently between groups?

*[For example, have only some groups provided relevant data? Or were some groups treated differently during data collection?]*

0: Definitely not

1: In some situations

2: Definitely yes

**B2.** Will the affected people likely disagree about whether the impacts are a net positive?

*[The same impacts could be good for one group but bad for another, so we should consider the impacted individuals' interests.]*

0: Definitely not

1: In some situations

2: Definitely yes

## Potential transparency and measurement issues

**T1.** For any given prediction/recommendation/analysis, would it be difficult to determine what happened, why it happened, or how to improve it?

*[Surprises and errors are inevitable; can we explain (after the fact) why they occurred, and perhaps how to avoid them in the future?]*

0: Definitely not

1: In some situations

2: Definitely yes

**T2.** Does the project place disproportionate weight on only a few datapoints (or will you not know if it does)?

*[We should be cautious about deploying technology that is, or might be, fragile (= highly dependent on small features of the data.)]*

0: Definitely not

1: In some situations

2: Definitely yes

## Potential overall issues

**O1.** If your dependent (parent, child, etc.) were going to be impacted (in treatment, privacy, etc.), would you want to be involved or guide them about how to respond?

0: Definitely not

1: In some situations

2: Definitely yes

**O2.** Would you be uncomfortable or feel uneasy if you knew this technology would impact you?

0: Definitely not

1: In some situations

2: Definitely yes