



# Using real-world general practitioner data to study the diagnosis and management of dementia: rationale and design

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## Background

- General practitioners (GPs) play a critical role in the early recognition of cognitive deficits and management of dementia
- Timely diagnosis is important in light of potential disease-modifying therapies and the potential to improve patient outcomes
- A real-world data cohort could provide new opportunities to study the diagnosis and management of dementia

### Aim

To establish a real-world data cohort using data from GPs on individuals with dementia

## Methods

- We selected individuals with dementia from GP data from the PHARMO Data Network
- Diagnosis of dementia was defined as a diagnosis code or prescription of anti-dementia drugs between 2011 and 2022
- We described the cohort in terms of demographics and the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE)

## Results

- We created a cohort of 81,922 individuals with dementia, providing a starting point for further research on the diagnosis and management of Alzheimer's disease and dementia
- Sex: 60% female, mean age: 81 years (SD = 8.9)
- Patients have 9.1 years (median, IQR 5.7-12.7) of data available prior to dementia diagnosis and can be followed-up for 2.6 years (median, IQR 1.2-4.7 years) after diagnosis
- We found the MMSE in the records of 60% of all patients
- The cohort has been linked to other data sources (Figure 1) and will be updated yearly
- Data from controls without dementia are available

### Conclusion

The cohort of **81,922 persons with dementia** is a starting point for studying trajectories and management of Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and patient outcomes

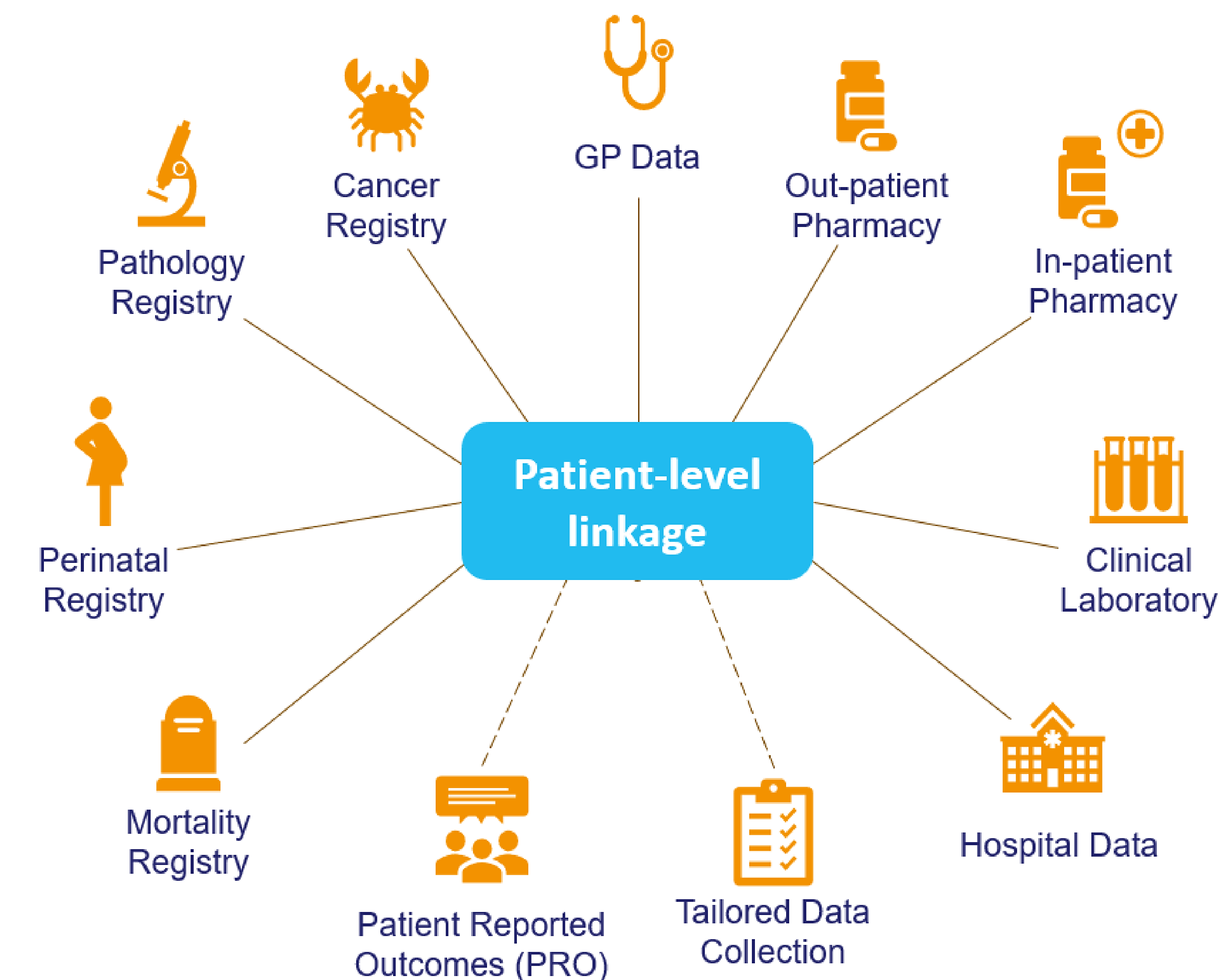


Figure 1: Established linkages between the cohort and other data sources



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