Appendix: Detailed information on data collection

Variable Name	Means of collection	Format collected	Format used in the analysis
Age	Administrative database	Age in years	Categorical (<85, ≥85)
Female gender	Administrative database	Categorical	Categorical (Female vs. Male)
Living arrangement	Interview questionnaire	Categorical	Categorical (Lives alone, with adults, in autonomous residence)
Health status	Interview questionnaire	Categorical	Ordinal (Not-Good to Excellent)
Charlson Co-morbidity Score	Chart review	Continuous score	Continuous score, truncated up to 3 or more
Identification of Seniors At Risk score	Chart review + Interview questionnaire	Continuous score	Categorical (<2 or ≥2)
Barthel Index	Interview questionnaire	Continuous score	Categorical (≤80, 80-90, ≥90)
Number of medications	Interview questionnaire	Continuous number	Continuous number, truncated up to 16
Previous emergency department visits within 6 months	Interview questionnaire	Categorical	Categorical (Yes/No)
Previous hospital admissions within 6 months	Interview questionnaire	Categorical	Categorical (Yes/No)
Receiving local community services	Interview questionnaire	Categorical	Categorical (Yes/No)
Receiving local community nurse visits	Interview questionnaire	Categorical	Categorical (Yes/No)
Receiving local community medical services	Interview questionnaire	Categorical	Categorical (Yes/No)
Followed by family physician	Interview questionnaire	Categorical	Categorical (Yes/No)

Appendix: Detailed information on data collection (continued)

Variable Name	Means of collection	Format collected	Format used in the analysis
Followed by specialist(s)	Interview questionnaire	Categorical	Categorical (Yes/No)
Contacted heath care provider before ED visit	Interview questionnaire	Categorical	Categorical (Yes/No)
Contacted family doctor before ED visit	Interview questionnaire	Categorical	Categorical (Yes/No)
Difficulty with seeing family physician within 2 days for an urgent medical problem	Interview questionnaire	Categorical	Categorical (Difficult vs. Easy)
Difficulty in getting an appointment for a new problem	Interview questionnaire	Categorical	Categorical (Difficult vs. Easy)
Difficulty in speaking with family physician by telephone	Interview questionnaire	Categorical	Categorical (Difficult vs. Easy)
Ambulance arrival	Administrative database	Categorical	Categorical (Yes/No)
Triage level	Administrative database	Categorical	Ordinal (level 1 to level 5)
Top Diagnosis	Administrative database	Categorical	Categorical (Top several vs. other)
Admitted at the index visit	Administrative database	Categorical	Categorical (Yes/No)
Referred to primary care after discharge	Chart review	Categorical	Categorical (Yes/No)
Referred to outpatient clinic after discharge	Chart review	Categorical	Categorical (Yes/No)
Index Visit occurred on weekend	Administrative database	Categorical	Categorical (Yes/No)
Index Visit Shifts	Administrative database	Categorical	Categorical (Day, Evening, Night Shifts)
Length of stay in ED	Administrative database	Length in hours	Continuous
Length of stay in hospital ward	Administrative database	Length in days	Continuous
Return visits within 3 months	Interview questionnaire	Continuous number	Categorical (Yes/No) and as Count

Table: Comparison between completed study patients and patients withdrawn after being enrolled, excluding death

Variable Name	Patients in analysis N=1998	Patients withdrawn after enrollment (Excluding death) N=126
Age≥85 years	33.7%	36.5%
Female	61.3%	63.5%
Living arrangement		
-- Lives alone	34.2%	35.7%
-- Lives with adults	46.4%	34.9%
-- Lives in autonomous residence	19.4%	29.4%
Health status (=Excellent)	13.0%	12.7%
Charlson Co-morbidity Score≥2	51.1%	53.2%
Triage level (≤3)	75.9%	73.0%
Ambulance arrival	55.4%	67.5%
Top Diagnosis		
-- Chest Pain	7.2%	4.0%
-- Pneumonia	4.4%	4.8%
-- Congested heart failure	3.1%	2.4%
-- General weakness	2.7%	4.8%