

	Overall	PHUs	Non-PHUs	P value ^a	Adjusted OR ^b [95% CI]
(A) Disease profile^{c, d}					
No. of patients	71,817	4735	67,082	-	-
No. of conditions					
Mean (SD)	1.44 (1.81)	3.17 (2.30)	1.32 (1.71)	<0.001	
Median [Q1, Q3]	1.00 [0, 3.00]	3.00 [1.00, 5.00]	0 [0, 3.00]		
Conditions, no. (%)					
Diabetes	18,868 (26)	2338 (49)	16,530 (25)	<0.001	1.47 [1.33–1.62] ^g
Hypertension	24,373 (34)	3005 (63)	21,368 (32)	<0.001	1.28 [1.17–1.41] ^g
Dyslipidaemia	19,076 (27)	2271 (48)	16,805 (25)	<0.001	0.939 [0.85–1.04]
Stroke	3544 (5)	381 (8)	3163 (5)	<0.001	1.1 [0.973–1.24]
Atrial fibrillation	3429 (5)	689 (15)	2740 (4)	<0.001	1.88 [1.7–2.09] ^g
Asthma	1223 (2)	193 (4)	1030 (2)	<0.001	2.41 [2.02–2.88] ^g
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	1165 (2)	238 (5)	927 (1)	<0.001	2.69 [2.29–3.17] ^g
Myocardial infarction	3596 (5)	530 (11)	3066 (5)	<0.001	0.986 [0.879–1.11]
Ischaemic heart disease	8744 (12)	1496 (32)	7248 (11)	<0.001	1.81 [1.67–1.97] ^g
Heart failure	2988 (4)	688 (15)	2300 (3)	<0.001	1.67 [1.5–1.86] ^g
Renal	8767 (12)	1730 (37)	7037 (10)	<0.001	2.4 [2.22–2.6] ^g
Osteoporosis	2996 (4)	547 (12)	2449 (4)	<0.001	2.64 [2.36–2.94] ^g
Dementia	2701 (4)	479 (10)	2222 (3)	<0.001	1.89 [1.67–2.13] ^g
Mental health disorders ^e	1334 (2)	259 (5)	1075 (2)	<0.001	3.48 [2.97–4.08] ^g
(B) Inpatient discharge specialty^c					
No. of patients	71,817	4735	67,082		
Patients who had admissions to, no. (%)					
Cardiovascular medicine/cardiology	10,079 (14)	1235 (26)	8844 (13)	<0.001	4.45 [4.08–4.84] ^g
Dermatology	141 (0)	19 (0)	122 (0)	0.00177	4.17 [2.31–7.53] ^g
Endocrinology	872 (1)	116 (2)	756 (1)	<0.001	3.25 [2.53–4.17] ^g
Otolaryngology	1717 (2)	138 (3)	1579 (2)	0.0168	3.59 [2.87–4.49] ^g

	Overall	PHUs	Non-PHUs	P value ^a	Adjusted OR ^b [95% CI]
Ophthalmology	436 (1)	47 (1)	389 (1)	<0.001	3.77 [2.57–5.52] ^g
Gastroenterology	4000 (6)	588 (12)	3412 (5)	<0.001	3.92 [3.49–4.41] ^g
General/geriatric medicine	28,349 (39)	3073 (65)	25,276 (38)	<0.001	4.9 [4.55–5.28] ^g
Infectious disease	2454 (3)	317 (7)	2137 (3)	<0.001	2.93 [2.5–3.43] ^g
Neurology	2325 (3)	205 (4)	2120 (3)	<0.001	2.81 [2.35–3.35] ^g
Neurosurgery	590 (1)	41 (1)	549 (1)	0.79	2.03 [1.4–2.95] ^g
Oral and maxillofacial surgery	141 (0)	4 (0)	137 (0)	0.103	2.62 [0.821–8.38]
Orthopaedic surgery	10,521 (15)	873 (18)	9648 (14)	<0.001	3.31 [3.01–3.63] ^g
Psychological medicine	345 (0)	67 (1)	278 (0)	<0.001	11 [7.86–15.3] ^g
Renal medicine/nephrology	1381 (2)	558 (12)	823 (1)	<0.001	14.1 [12.2–16.2] ^g
Respiratory medicine	3663 (5)	564 (12)	3099 (5)	<0.001	4.1 [3.64–4.63] ^g
Rehabilitation medicine	2706 (4)	379 (8)	2327 (3)	<0.001	3.07 [2.66–3.53] ^g
Sleep medicine surgery science	1586 (2)	127 (3)	1459 (2)	0.0248	3.24 [2.58–4.07] ^g
General surgery	12,924 (18)	1562 (33)	11,362 (17)	<0.001	4.61 [4.26–5] ^g
Urology	2349 (3)	258 (5)	2091 (3)	<0.001	3.58 [3.04–4.23] ^g
(C) Outpatient specialty^f					
No. of patients	226,895	5308	221,587	-	
Patients who ever visited, no. (%)					
Allied health services	18,138 (8)	1313 (25)	16,825 (8)	<0.001	23.2 [20–27] ^g
Medical discipline services	113,458 (50)	5119 (96)	108,339 (49)	<0.001	4.34 [4.07–4.62] ^g
Nursing related clinic services	2786 (1)	368 (7)	2418 (1)	<0.001	5.55 [4.92–6.26] ^g
Surgical discipline services	153,258 (68)	4999 (94)	148,259 (67)	<0.001	2.3 [2.14–2.47] ^g
Other services	74,236 (33)	3737 (70)	70,499 (32)	<0.001	1.82 [1.6–2.07] ^g

CI: confidence interval; OR: odds ratio; PHUs: persistent high utilisers; SD: standard deviation

^aP value estimated from Chi-square test.

^bAdjusted OR from a logistic regression with adjustments for age, sex, ethnicity and housing type where all the reference groups presented are “No” or absence of the mentioned items.

^cA total of 63,430 patients were considered for the analysis after excluding 2681 (4.1%) of patients with missing housing type data.

^dLimited to patients who were admitted to inpatient at least once during the study period.

^eMental health disorders represented patients diagnosed with either schizophrenia, major depression, anxiety or bipolar disorder.

^fA total of 218,090 patients were considered for the analysis after excluding 8805 (3.8%) of patients with missing housing type data.