

Electronic supplementary material 4: Study design adopted for the mortality and readmission analyses

Article title: Effect of cardiologist care on 6-month outcomes in patients discharged with heart failure: results from an observational study based on administrative data

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To assess the impact of organizational predictors and medication adherence on mortality and readmission we adopted a time-matched nested case-control design. Patients who experienced the study outcome were defined as cases, and 9 controls were randomly selected and matched to each case by gender, age group (defined using a decile split) and follow-up duration. This technique is called “incidence density sampling”. We chose this approach to ensure an equal time window for detecting and measuring time-varying exposure variables in cases and controls. Odds ratios of mortality and readmission were estimated by conditional logistic regression to account for the matching of cases and controls.