

Additional file 1: Data adjustment procedure and results

To adjust for the age and gender specifics of the GEK database, adjustment was performed for the German general population according to data from the Federal Bureau of Statistics as of December 31, 2004. All analyses were conducted with sampling weights to correct the differences of age and gender. Sampling weights were obtained from the German population data as of December 12, 2004 (<http://www.destatis.de>). Each year of age for women and men was assigned its own sampling weight, except for ages 85 and older, which share a common weighting factor for age. The following table shows the differences between the unadjusted and adjusted data.

Table: Comparison of raw and adjusted sociodemographic data

	Raw data			Adjusted data		
	total cohort	mm-sample	nmm-sample	total cohort	mm-sample	nmm-sample
Distribution of MM/NMM	100.0%	58.9%	41.1%	100.0%	62.1%	37.9%
Percentage of women	42.4%	44.6%	39.2%	59.2%	61.5%	55.3%
Age (mean, SD)	72.0 (6.1)	72.9 (6.3)	70.7 (5.6)	74.1 (7.1)	75.1 (7.2)	72.5 (6.7)
Female	72.8 (6.7)	73.6 (6.8)	71.4 (6.2)	75.1 (7.5)	76.0 (7.5)	73.4 (7.2)
Male	71.4 (5.7)	72.3 (5.9)	70.2 (5.1)	72.7 (6.4)	73.7 (6.5)	71.3 (5.9)
Number of chronic diagnoses (mean, SD)	3.6 (3.1)	5.7 (2.5)	0.8 (0.8)	3.9 (3.2)	5.8 (2.6)	0.8 (0.9)
Female	3.9 (3.2)	5.7 (2.6)	0.8 (0.9)	4.1 (3.2)	5.9 (2.6)	0.8 (0.9)
Male	3.5 (3.1)	5.6 (2.5)	0.7 (0.8)	3.6 (3.1)	5.7 (2.5)	0.7 (0.8)
Nursing care dependency	13.4%	16.9%	8.3%	19.1%	23.2%	12.3%
Female	16.0%	19.6%	10.3%	22.4%	26.5%	15.1%
Male	11.4%	14.8%	7.0%	14.2%	18.0%	8.8%

mm-sample = multimorbid sample; nmm-sample = non-multimorbid sample; SD = standard deviation