SUPPLEMENTARY FILE 2

The following variables were calculated or modified:

- Triage levels were considered equal between hospitals. Non-urgent triage levels (blue and green) were merged into one triage level, because of the low number of ED patients and events in the triage level blue.

- The Manchester Triage System (MTS) was used in the tertiary care centre, and consisted of 51 possible chief complaints. The Dutch Triage Standard (NTS) consisted of 50 possible triage chief complaints and was used in the two urban hospitals. The MTS and NTS were merged into one chief complaints list. The MTS, NTS and the merged chief complaints list are shown below. If chief complaints did not match, a new chief complaint was made. In total the merged list contained 51 different chief complaints. The top ten chief complaints were used in the present study to adjust the primary associations of interest (feeling unwell; abdominal pain; dyspnea; chest pain; extremity problems; collapse; trauma; palpitations; wounds; headache, and a miscellaneous category containing all the other chief complaints.

- Treating specialty was categorised to minimalize the number of categories and use as potential confounder: surgical (i.e. surgery, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, urology, ear-nose-throat), medical (internal medicine, cardiology, neurology, gastroenterologist, psychiatry, and remaining specialties) and emergency medicine if no other specialty had been involved. Specialities were assigned before ED treatment during patient registration. Self-referred patients and critically ill patients are generally assigned to the Emergency Medicine. If a patient is referred by a general practitioner, he/she is often referred to a specific specialty.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Merged chief complaints (N=51)</th>
<th>MTS chief complaints (N=51)</th>
<th>NTS chief complaints (N=50)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal pain</td>
<td>Abdominal pain in adults</td>
<td>Abdominal pain in adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal pain in children</td>
<td>Abdominal pain in children</td>
<td>Abdominal pain in children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abscesses &amp; local infections</td>
<td>Abscesses and local infections</td>
<td>Allergic reaction and stings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allergy, bites &amp; stings</td>
<td>Allergy</td>
<td>Bites and stings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apparently drunk</td>
<td>Apparently drunk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>Assault</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back pain</td>
<td>Back pain</td>
<td>Back pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaving strangely &amp; suicidal</td>
<td>Behaving strangely</td>
<td>Behaving strangely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast infection</td>
<td>Burns and scalds</td>
<td>Burns and scalds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burns &amp; scalds</td>
<td>Chest pain</td>
<td>Chest pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chest pain</td>
<td>Collapsed adult</td>
<td>Collapse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collapse</td>
<td>Dizziness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SUPPLEMENTARY FILE 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Manchester Triage System (MTS)</th>
<th>Dutch Triage Standard (NTS)</th>
<th>Number (N)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- Constipation
- Coughing
- Crying baby
- Dental problems
- Diabetes
- Diarrhea & vomiting
- Dyspnea
- Ear problems
- Exposure to chemicals
- Extremity problems
- Eye problems
- Facial problems
- Falls
- Feeling unwell
- Fits
- Foreign body
- Gastro-intestinal (GI) bleeding
- Genital problems
- Headache
- Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD)
- Irritable child
- Limping child
- Major incidents – primary
- Mental illness
- Near-drowning
- Neck pain
- Overdose & poisoning
- Palpitations
- Per vaginum (VP) bleeding
- Pregnancy
- Rashes
- Rectal problems
- Self-harm
- Sexually acquired infection
- Throat problems
- Trauma
- Urinary problems
- Worried parent
- Wounds

Abbreviations: MTS=Manchester Triage System, NTS=Dutch Triage Standard, N=number