

# ISAR

## Potential Severe Asthma Hidden in UK Primary Care

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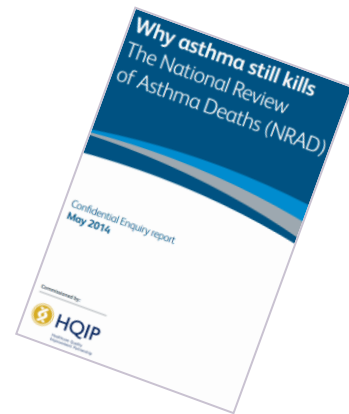
# Background

## Original Article

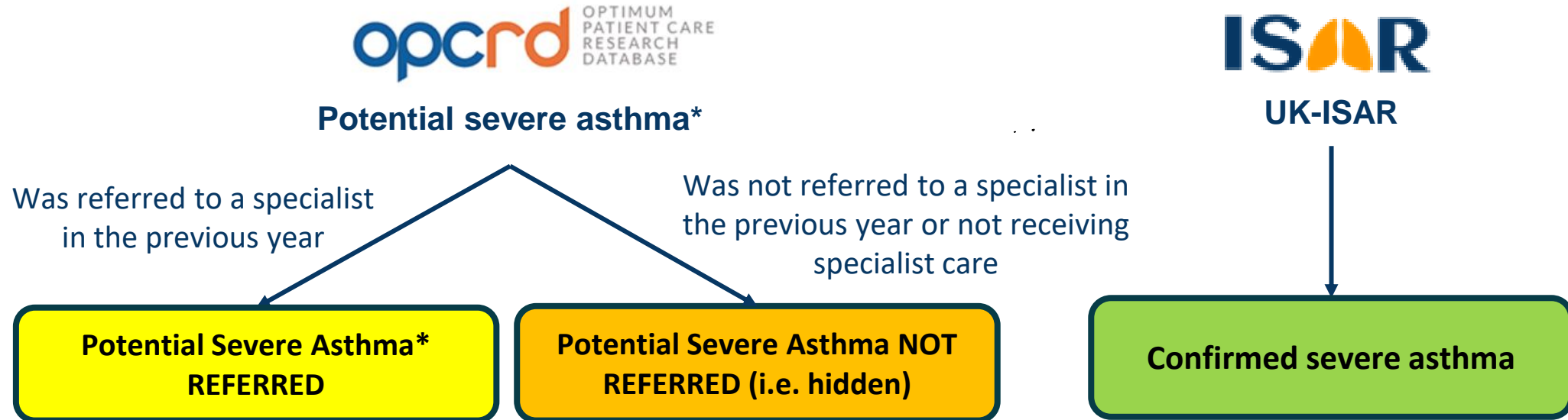
### Potential Severe Asthma Hidden in UK Primary Care

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- Referral of difficult-to-treat asthma to specialist care is associated with **improved outcomes**<sup>1</sup>.
- 19% of asthma deaths in the UK were associated with **potentially avoidable factors** related to access to specialist care<sup>2</sup>.
- Identifying patients with potential severe asthma (PSA) who are hidden in primary care (i.e., not referred for specialist review) remains a challenge.



# A Historical Cohort Study - Design

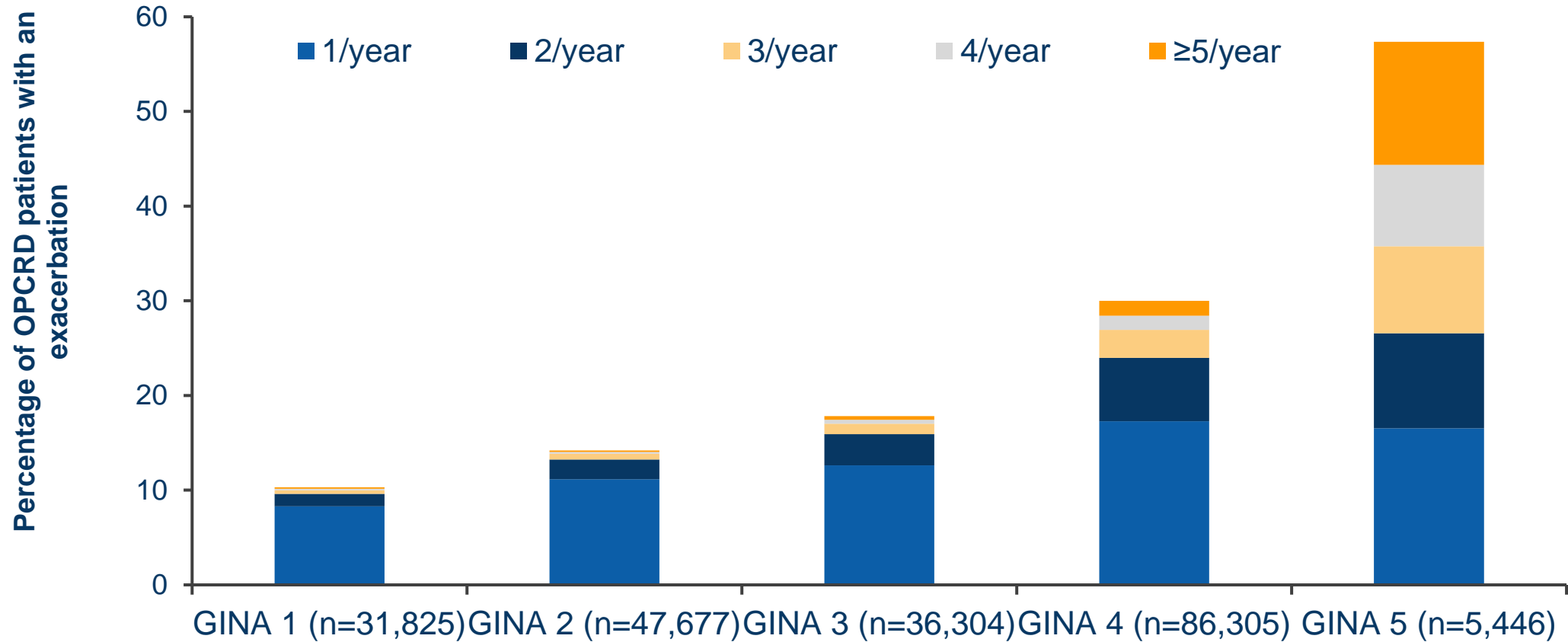


- ① **Objective 1:** To identify patients with potential severe asthma (PSA)\* managed in UK primary care
- ② **Objective 2:** To estimate how many are hidden
- ③ **Objective 3:** To compare the demographics and clinical characteristics of patients with PSA with those of patients with a confirmed severe diagnosis

\*Potential Severe Asthma Definition: Receiving treatment at GINA Step 4 & experiencing  $\geq 2$  exacerbations/year OR receiving treatment at GINA Step 5

# Many Patients Managed in Primary Care Experience Frequent Exacerbations – Regardless of GINA Step

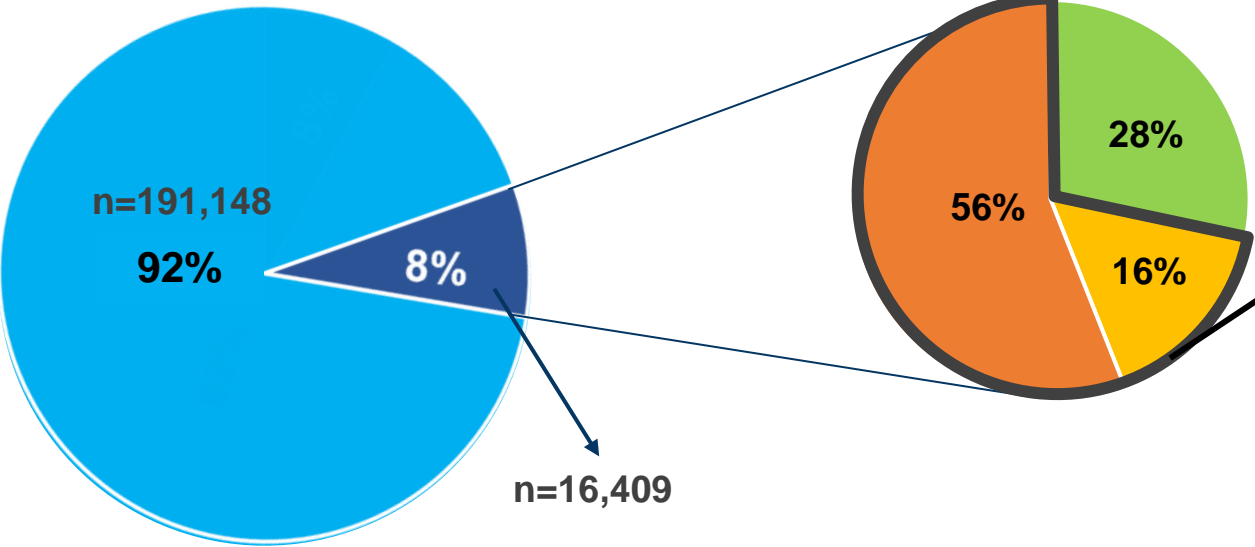
N=207,557



# An Estimated 8% of Asthma Patients In Primary Care Were Identified As Potential Severe Asthma Patients



- Potential Severe Asthma
- All other active asthma patients (>16 yrs) in OPCR with >1yr follow up
- Reviewed/referred in the last year
- NOT reviewed/referred in last year or currently receiving specialist care
- NOT reviewed/referred ever



- 72% were unreferral
- Common characteristics among these patients:
  - Poor lung function
  - Uncontrolled asthma
  - Comorbidities: allergic rhinitis & eczema
  - Ex-smoker
  - Female
  - In their 60s
  - Overweight/obese

# Conclusion

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- A significant proportion of severe asthma patients remain hidden in primary care
- The majority of these patients are never referred to a specialist and may be managed with long-term OCS
- Understanding the characteristics associated with potential severe asthma may help with earlier identification