



# RNFM Maastricht

Research Network Family Medicine Maastricht or RNFM Maastricht, is a large database with anonymised medical data which can be of great use for your research.

## What is the RNFM Maastricht?

The RNFM Maastricht is embedded in the Department of Family Medicine of MaastrichtUniversity. The database contains medical data of patients from 20 general practices in the South part of the Netherlands (Limburg).

In 1988 we started building this Family Medicine database (formerly known as RNH) in Maastricht in a time when only few GPs used a personal computer in daily medical practice.

We are systematically collecting data of a large and dynamic patient group over a substantial period of time. When new patients enter a practice, their medical record must be completed, also retrospectively.

## What is special about our data?

The RNFM Maastricht contains data regarding demographics, diseases and diagnoses and prescribed drugs of all patients. Information of patients who left the practice (or deceased) remain available for analyses. So, in total, the data include 166,000 patients, of whom about 80,000 are still patients in one of the practices. In the coming years we aim to enlarge our network into a double amount of patients in 2020. New practices already stand in line to join the RNFM Maastricht.

## What can you do with the RNFM Maastricht?

The RNFM Maastricht can be used as a sampling frame to identify and recruit patients with specific characteristics like age, gender, with or without specific diseases or medication, to enlist in scientific studies. For example, recruiting patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease to identify determinants of chronic fatigue in this disease.

The RNFM Maastricht is also available for secondary data analyses, meaning you can start analyses immediately without additional data collection from patients or GPs. For example, a study of comorbidity patterns, diabetes type II as a risk factor for depression or the exploration of disease patterns in patients with more than ten chronic health problems.

## What are the costs?

Browsing in our datawarehouse on the website is free. If you want more or specific data, please contact us without any obligation. Our prices are noncommercial. Over the years, many publications, including PhD theses, have been accomplished using our data.

## Contact information

# www.rnfm.nl

You will be directed to the RNFM Maastricht subsection within the website of the Department of Family Medicine in Maastricht. For further information: [rnfm@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:rnfm@maastrichtuniversity.nl). Research coordinator dr. HuiBERT Tange will answer your questions.