

Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors): Description of Ontario health administrative data sources included in this study

Database	Description
Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada's (CIC) Permanent Resident Database	The Ontario portion of the IRCC Permanent Resident Database includes immigration application records for people who initially applied to land in Ontario since 1985. The dataset contains permanent residents' demographic information such as country of citizenship, level of education, mother tongue, and landing date. New immigrants who are currently residing in Ontario but originally landed in another province are not captured in this dataset.
Discharge Abstract Database (DAD)	The DAD is compiled by the Canadian Institute for Health Information and contains administrative, clinical (diagnoses and procedures), and demographic information for all admissions to acute care hospitals in Ontario. DAD records have been demonstrated to have excellent agreement (over 99%) for demographic and administrative data. Regarding diagnoses, median agreement between original DAD records and re-abstracted records for the 50 most common most responsible diagnoses was noted to be 81% (Sensitivity 82%; Specificity 82%). ¹ The corresponding median agreement for the 50 most frequently performed surgical procedures was 92% (sensitivity 95%, positive predictive value 91%).
Home Care database (HCD)	The HCD database contains information regarding the referral, authorization, and provision of community-based home health care services that are coordinated within Ontario's Local Health Integration Networks. The database is administered by Health Shared Services Ontario (formerly known as the Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres).
National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS)	The NACRS is compiled by the Canadian Institute for Health Information and contains administrative, clinical (diagnoses and procedures), and demographic information for all patient visits made to hospital- and community-based ambulatory care centres (emergency departments, day surgery units, dialysis and cancer care clinics) in Ontario.
Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program database	The ODB database contains prescription medication claims for those covered under the provincial drug program, mainly those aged 65 years and older, nursing home residents, and those receiving social assistance. Each medication claim has an associated prescriber identifier which indicates the health practitioner who wrote the prescription. A special flag in the ODB database indicates whether the prescription was dispensed in the community or nursing home setting.

Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) physician billing claims database	An audit of 5,155 randomly selected prescriptions dispensed from 50 Ontario pharmacies determined that the ODB had an error rate of 0.7% and none of the pharmacy characteristics examined (locations, owner affiliation, productivity) were associated with coding errors. ²
Registered Persons Database (RPDB)	The OHIP physician billing claims database contains information on all outpatient services provided by fee-for-service physicians in Ontario and “shadow billings” for physicians paid under alternate payment plans. Billing codes are specific in identifying services provided in the nursing home setting. Billing codes on the claims (OHIP fee codes) identify the care provider, their area of specialization and the type and location of service. The RPDB provides basic demographic information (age, sex, area of residence, date of birth, and date of death for deceased individuals) about anyone who has ever received an Ontario health card number (e.g., been enrolled in the province’s publicly funded health insurance system). The RPDB also indicates the time periods for which an individual was eligible to receive publicly funded health insurance benefits and the best known postal code for each registrant on July 1 st of each year.

References

1. Juurlink, D, Preyra, C, Croxford, R, Chong, A, Austin, P, Tu, J, and Laupacis, A. Canadian Institute for Health Information Discharge Abstract Database: A Validation Study. 2006. Toronto, Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences.
Ref Type: Report
2. Levy AR, O'Brien BJ, Sellors C, Grootendorst P, Willison D: Coding accuracy of administrative drug claims in the Ontario Drug Benefit database. *Can J Clin Pharmacol* 2003; 10: 67-71