

# The cost of primary care consultations associated with long COVID in non-hospitalised adults: a retrospective cohort study using UK primary care data

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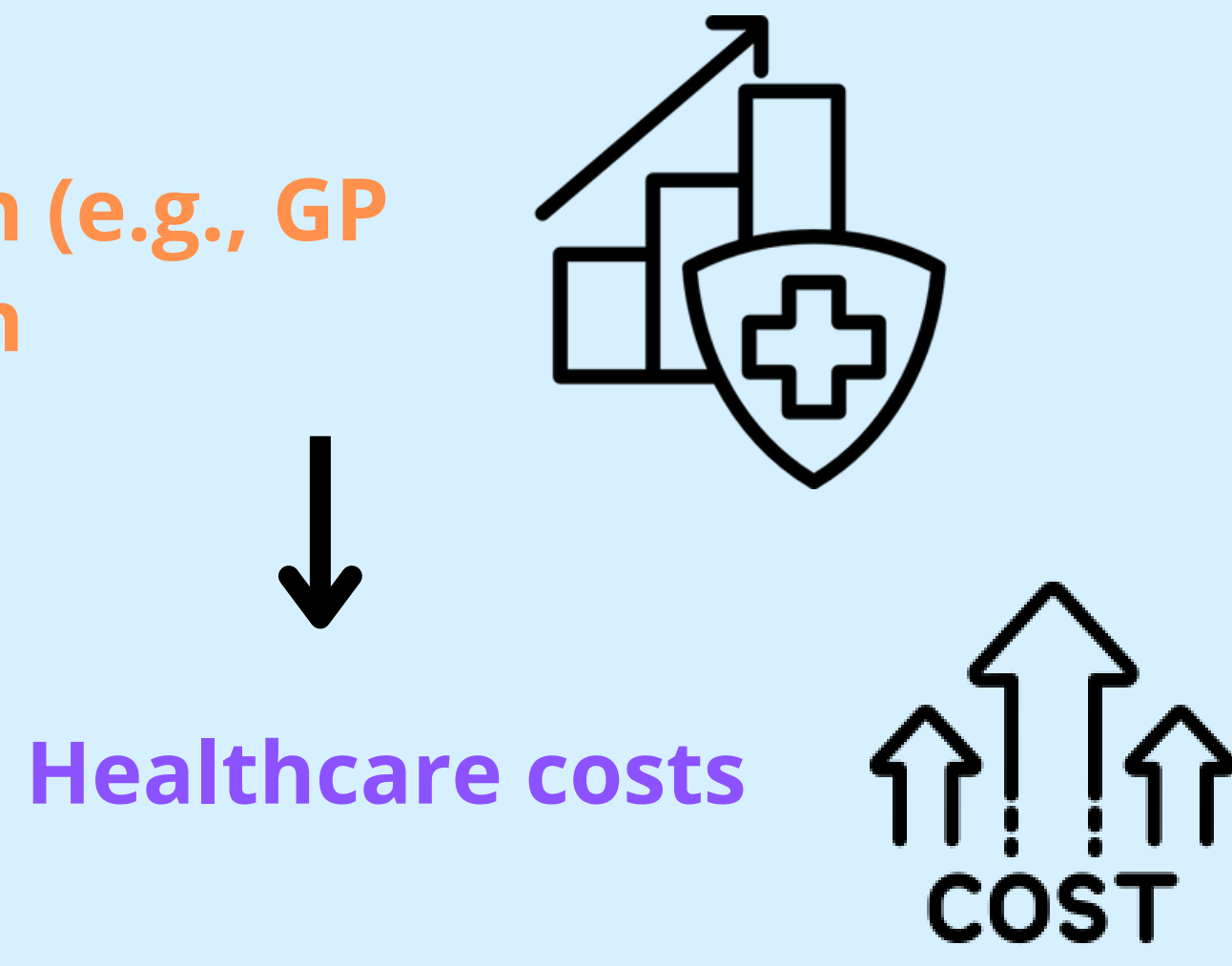


## Background

Long COVID is one of the largest public health challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic

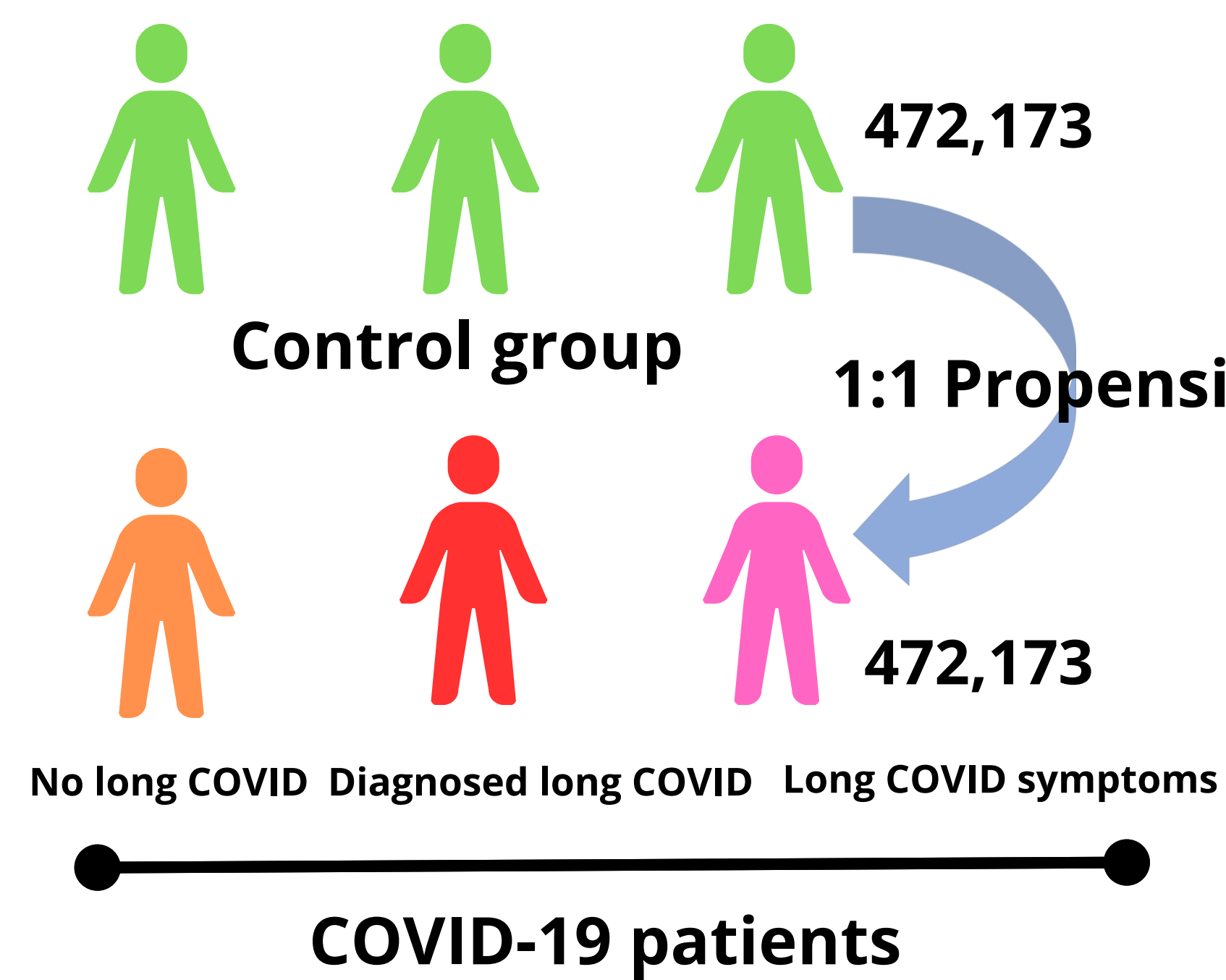
Worldwide 630 million people with COVID-19; 40 million with long COVID

Health resources utilisation (e.g., GP consultation) post-infection



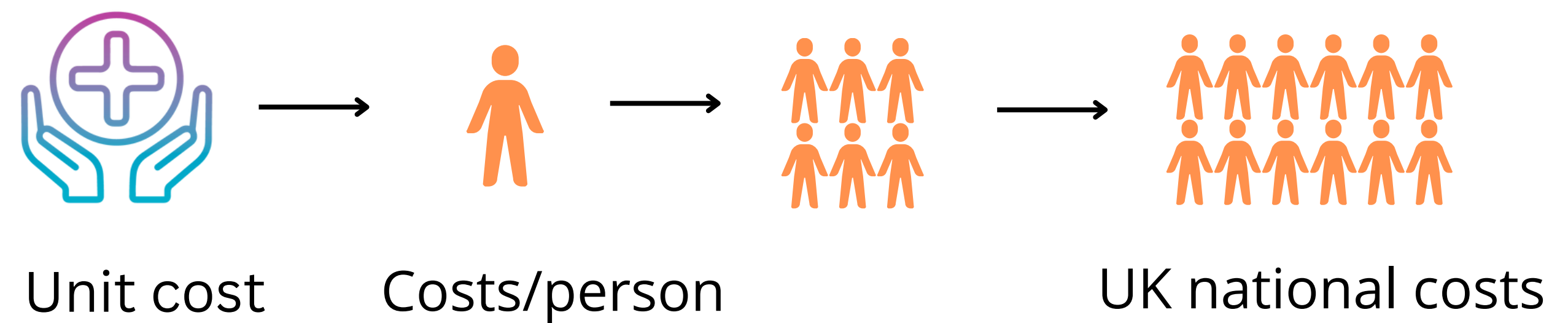
## Study aims?

- Incremental costs of primary care consultations associated with long COVID
- Risk factors associated with these costs



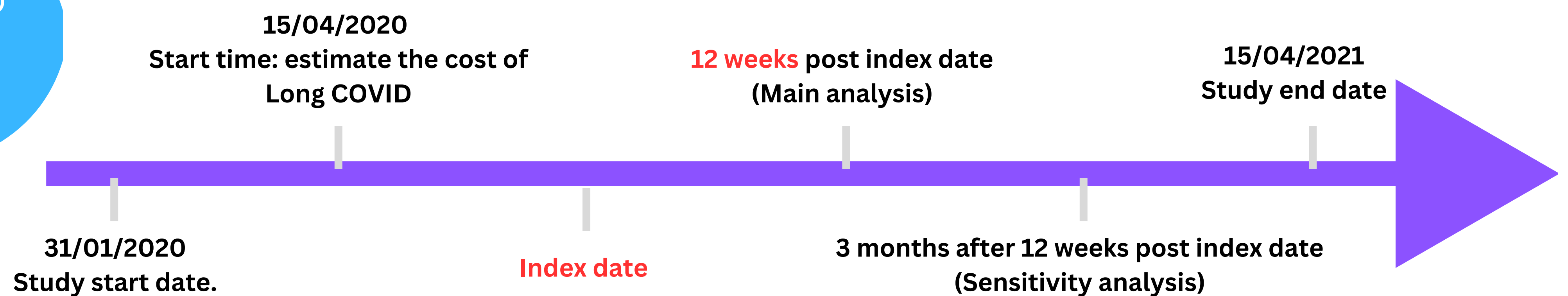
Data source: The Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD) Aurum

- Cost of illness estimation: bottom-up costing approach



Notes: Unit cost: consultation cost per working hour were from Personal Social Services Research Unit's (PSSRU) Unit Costs of Health and Social Care 2021

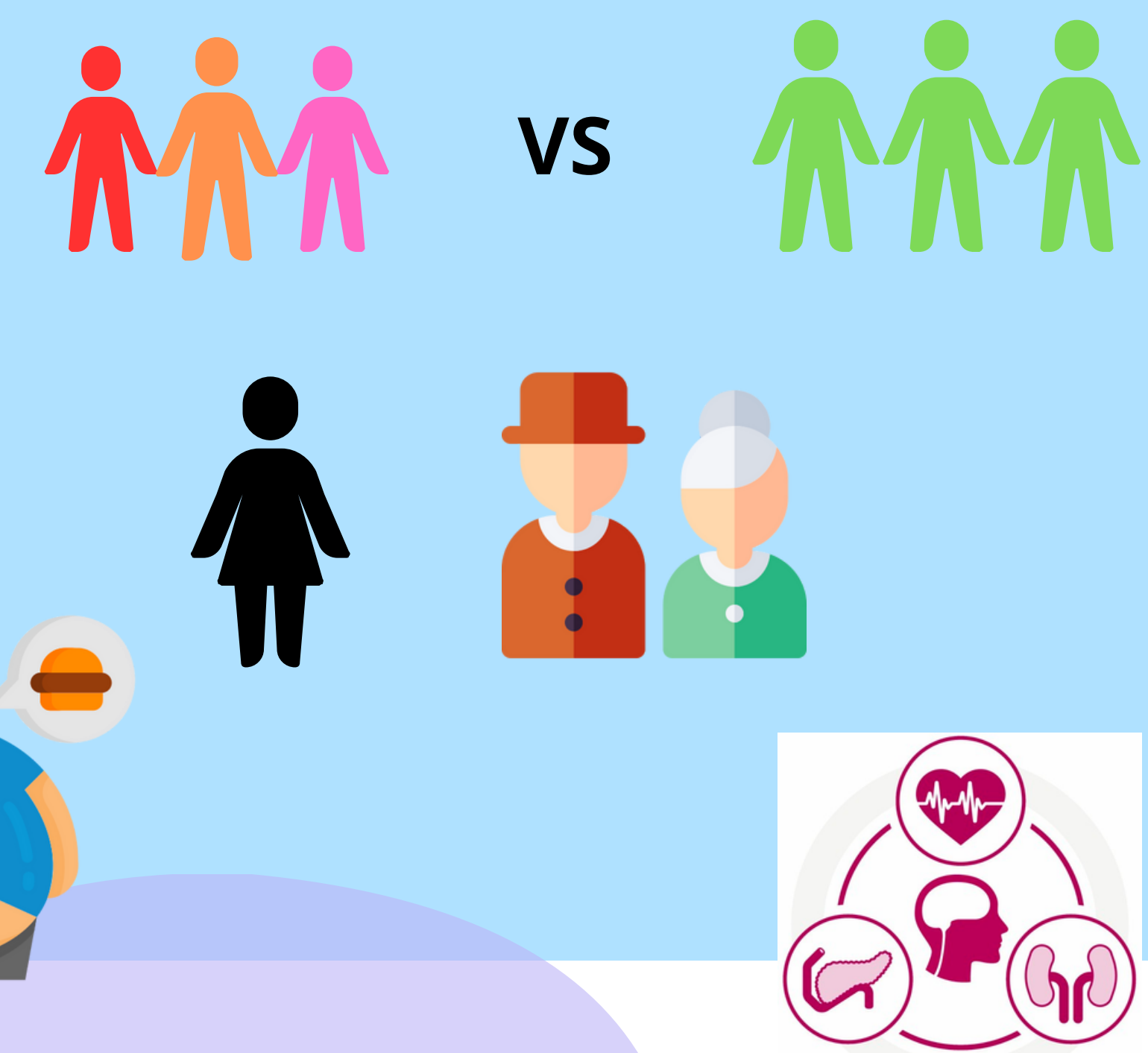
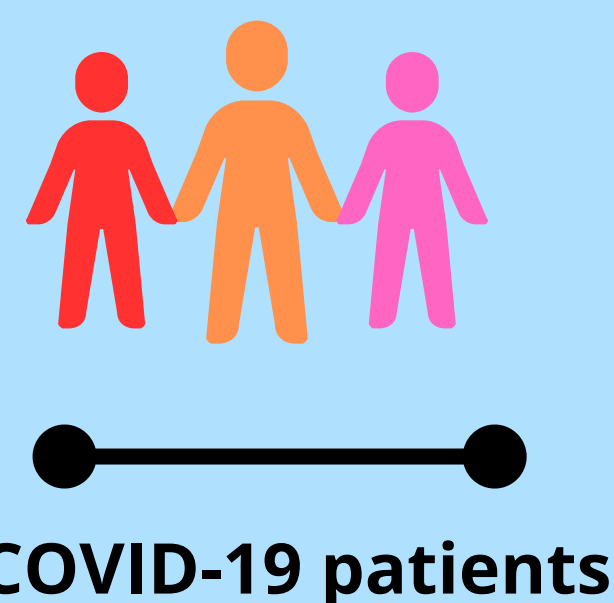
- Regression models: multivariable regression models



## Results

- The annual incremental cost of primary care consultations associated with long COVID: **£2.44/patient**
- £5.72/patient** in sensitivity analysis
- National incremental cost: **£23,382,452** (90% CIs: £21,378,567 - £25,526,052)
- £54,814,601** (90% CIs: £50,116,967 - £59,839,762) in the sensitivity analysis

- VS : A long COVID diagnosis: **43% increase** in primary care consultation costs, compared to patients without long COVID symptoms
- VS : A reporting of long COVID symptoms: **44% increase** in primary care consultation costs, compared to patients without long COVID symptoms



## Conclusions

The costs of primary care consultations associated with long COVID in non-hospitalised adults are substantial.

Costs are significantly higher among those diagnosed with long COVID, those with long COVID symptoms, older adults, females, and those with obesity and comorbidities.

## Implications

Require substantial investment globally to ensure adequate primary care services.

Training allied healthcare professionals & implementation of guidelines for long COVID diagnosis and care might be helpful.

Risk factors should be considered when designing and resourcing long COVID services in primary care.

## References

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