Visual representation of study timeline and selection process (Identification of the exposed group (individuals with PCOS/PCO Read codes) and their controls (without PCOS/PCO) matched 1:2 by age at index date, BMI and general practice)

Study start 1st January 2000

Index Date

Exit Date

Study End 15th May 2017

Observation Period

PCOS/PCO group

Index data is Date of diagnosis of PCOS/PCO (new diagnosis) or date patient became eligible* to take part if diagnosis is already present. (prevalent cases) exists Diagnosis of PCOS/PCO prior to the index date

First documentation of Read codes for OSA during the study period

Exit date is OSA diagnosis date or transfer date or death date or date of last collection from practice control patient

Without PCOS/PCO group

Controls selected at index date of corresponding exposed patient to mitigate immortality time bias

* To ensure good quality data, a patient is eligible to take part one year after the latest of the following dates: 1) registration with the general practice (registration date); 2) introduction of VISION Electronic Medical Record (VISION date); and 3) Acceptable Mortality Recording (AMR) date. AMR is an indicator when practices started to record information consistently and in a timely manner\(^1\)\(^2\). One year latent period is applied to ensure there was sufficient time to record all important covariates.


Figure E.1: Visual presentation of study selection process