

Senior alert – a tool for better care collaboration

Background

The increasing prevalence of negative events among older frail adults is a challenge for society which calls for pro-active and preventive actions, figure 1. Senior Alert (SA) is a quality-registry focusing proactively on 5 risk areas common among older adults: malnutrition, pressure ulcers, falls, oral health and bladder dysfunction among people ≥ 65 years. It is mandatory to assess risks in all risk areas, figure 2. SA plays an unique roll among the more than 100 national quality registries in Sweden used for quality improvements, in aspect that it also stimulate staff to perform screening, action taking, and follow-up.

Rational

However, the potential of SA to improve the care of older adults has not been recognized. Although the risks are registered to a high degree, the underlying causes are not identified to the same extent. If the need for intervention is not identified, an effective preventive care process and effective collaboration between different actors are missed, figure 3.

The study

Aims to investigate factors constituting support or obstacles to the preventive care process that promotes effective collaboration between different actors for best practice care of older frail adults. The project has an interdisciplinary approach. It is based on a mixed method design using both quantitative and qualitative methods, figure 4.

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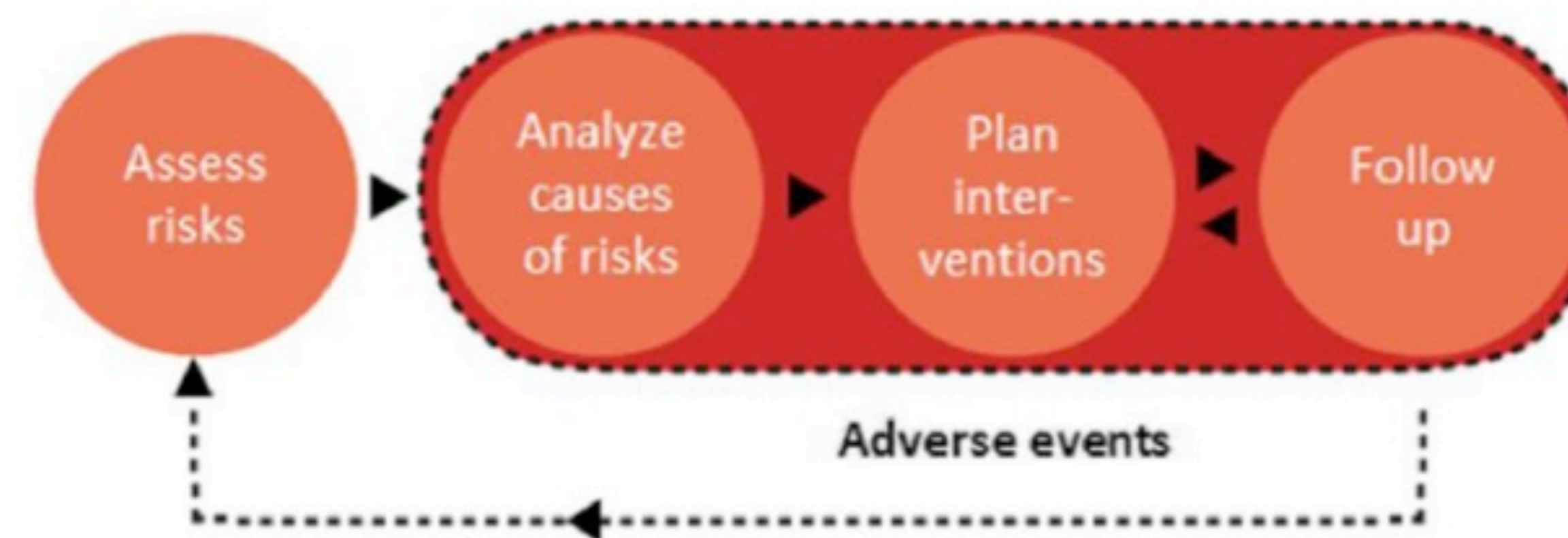


Figure 1. The preventive care process for preventing adverse events by identifying risks at an early stage.

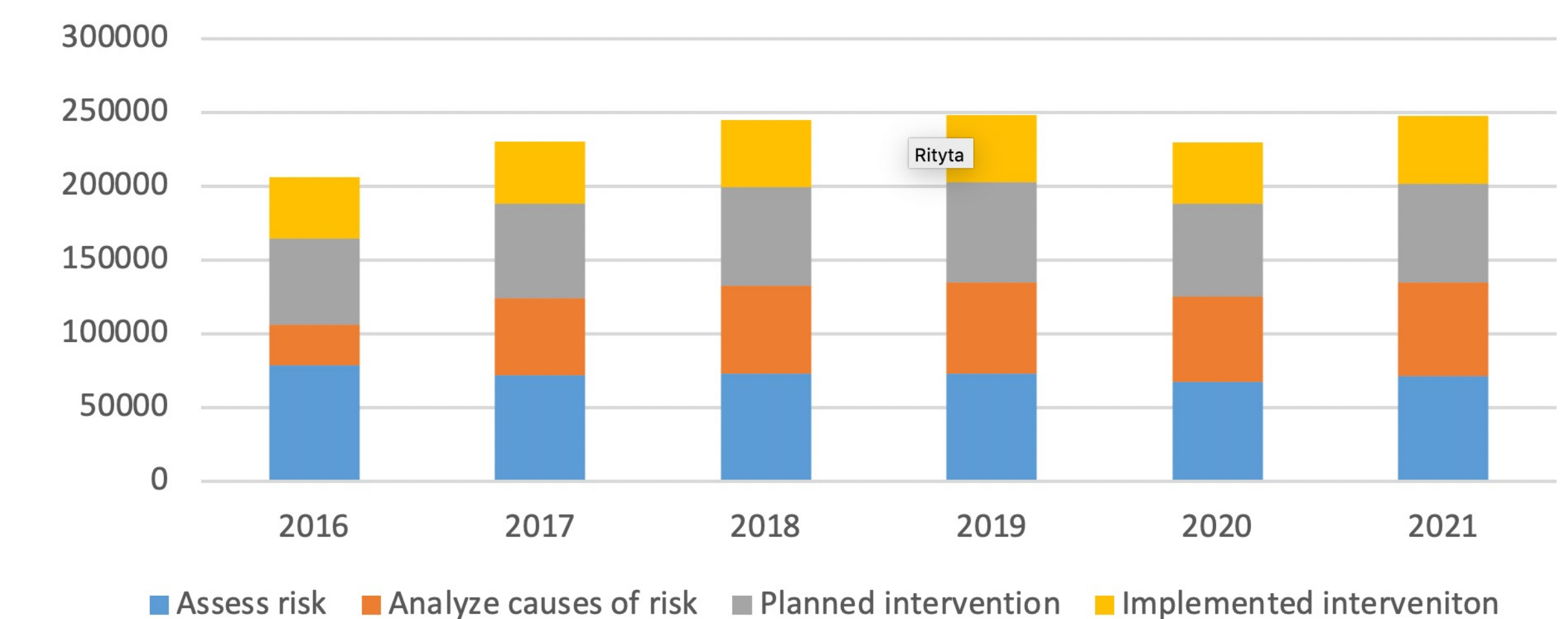


Figure 3. Number of registrations in the different steps of the care preventive process per year.

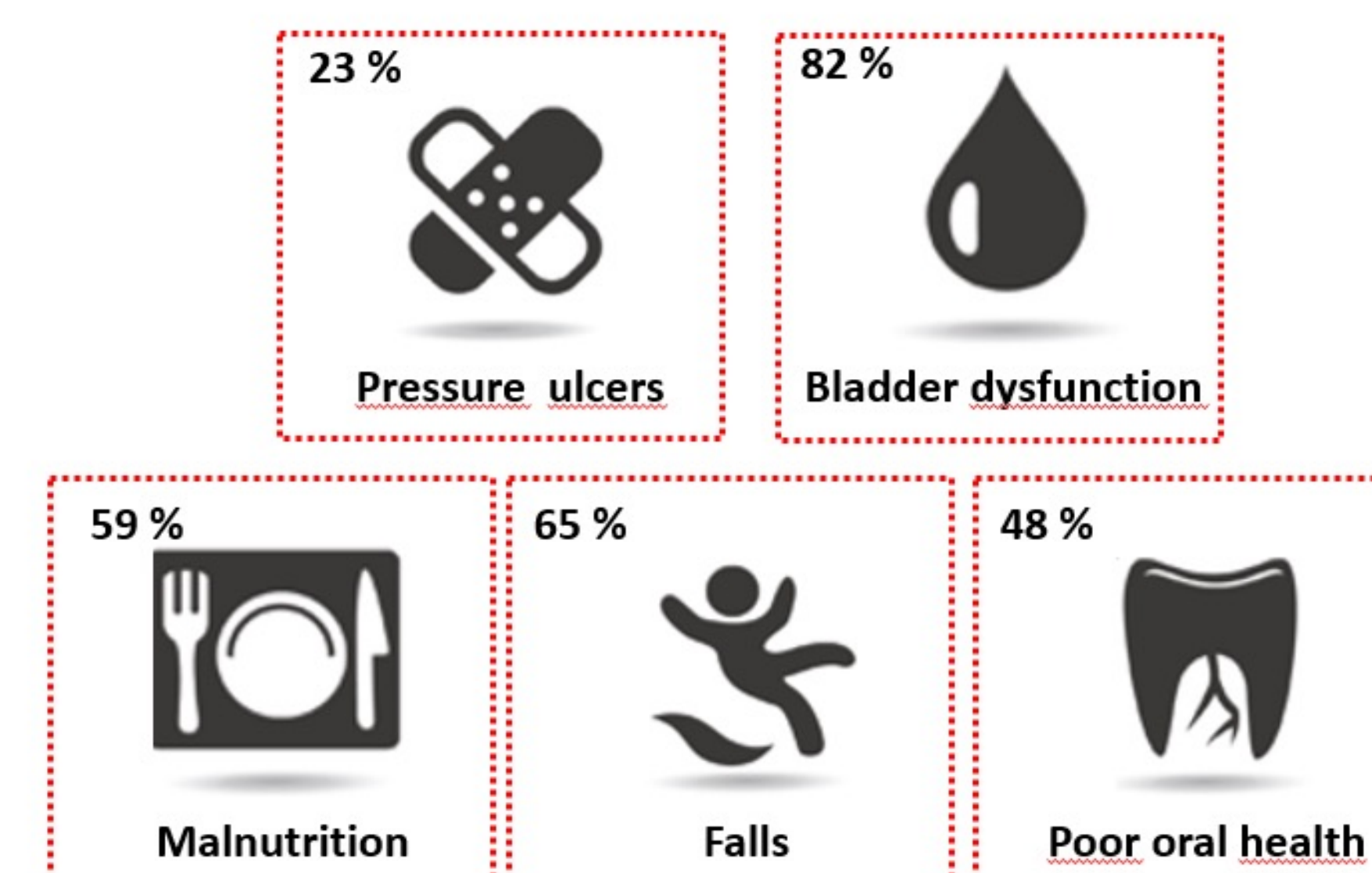


Figure 2. The five risk areas in Senior alert. The numbers represent how many riskassessment that showed a risk for each area.

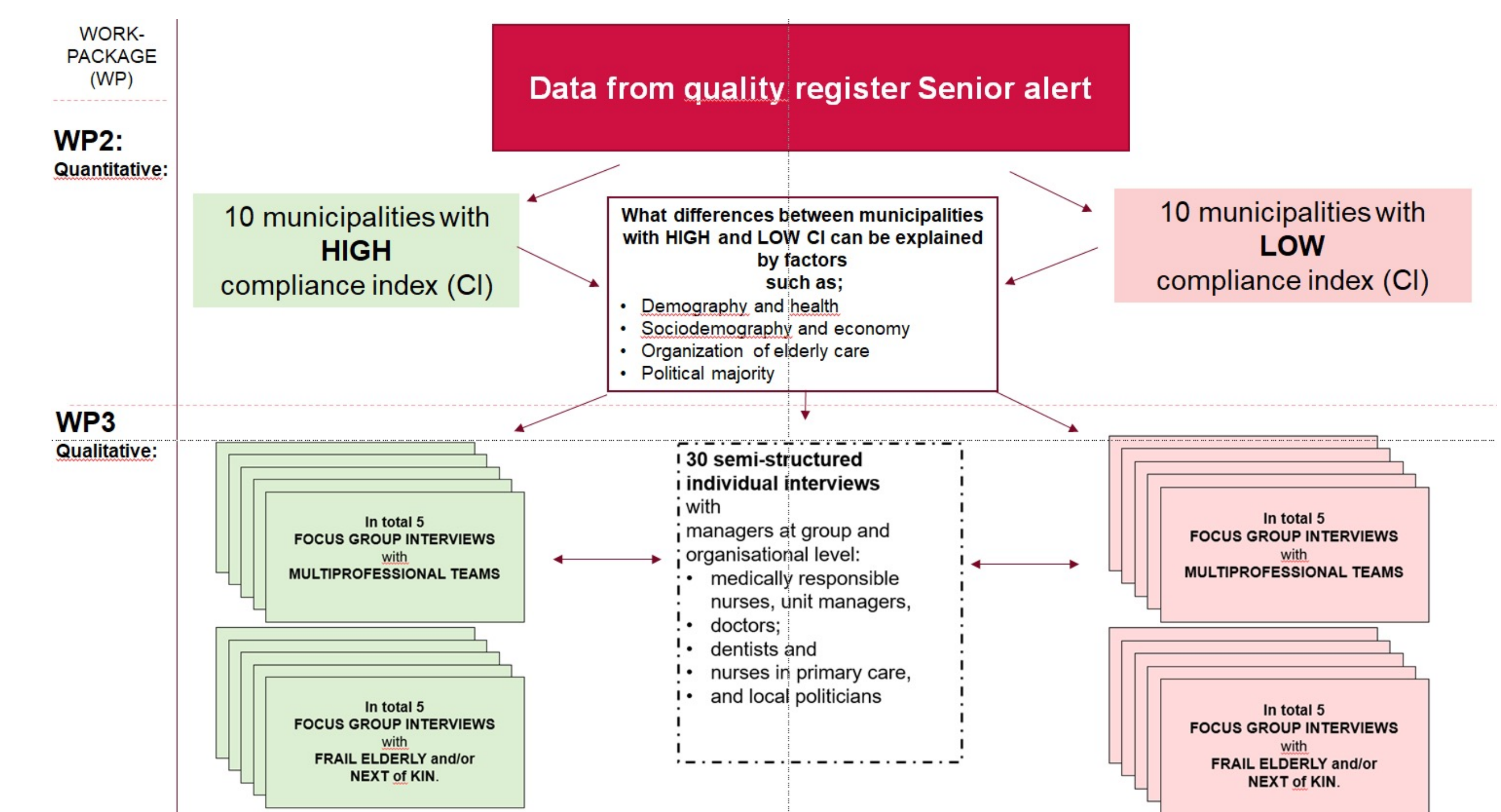


Figure 4. Study design.