

Registration of treatment demands for substance use disorders in Belgium : Why are some clients registered anonymously?

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Introduction

- The Treatment Demand Indicator (TDI) collects data on patients entering treatment for their drug use at EU level on behalf of EMCDDA
- Belgium started the registration in 2011 in a wide range of treatment facilities using the national population register number (NRN) of clients in order to
 - tag multiple records and follow clients through different treatment episodes over time
 - allow the linkage with other national databases
- However the protocol leaves the possibility to register clients episodes **without any identifier**

Research question

- The **objective** is to describe the factors linked with the use of the NRN

Material and Methods

- Focus on TDI data between 2011 and 2014
- Selection of first-time treatment episodes for substance use (n= 17593)
 - 69% with NRN | 31% without NRN
- Multivariate analysis performed including clients socio-demographic characteristics, the main substance used and centers characteristics
- Logistic regression provided the adjusted odds ratio of reporting a NRN at each level comparing with the reference level

Results

Figure 1 : Odds ratio estimates and 95% Wald Confidence Intervals

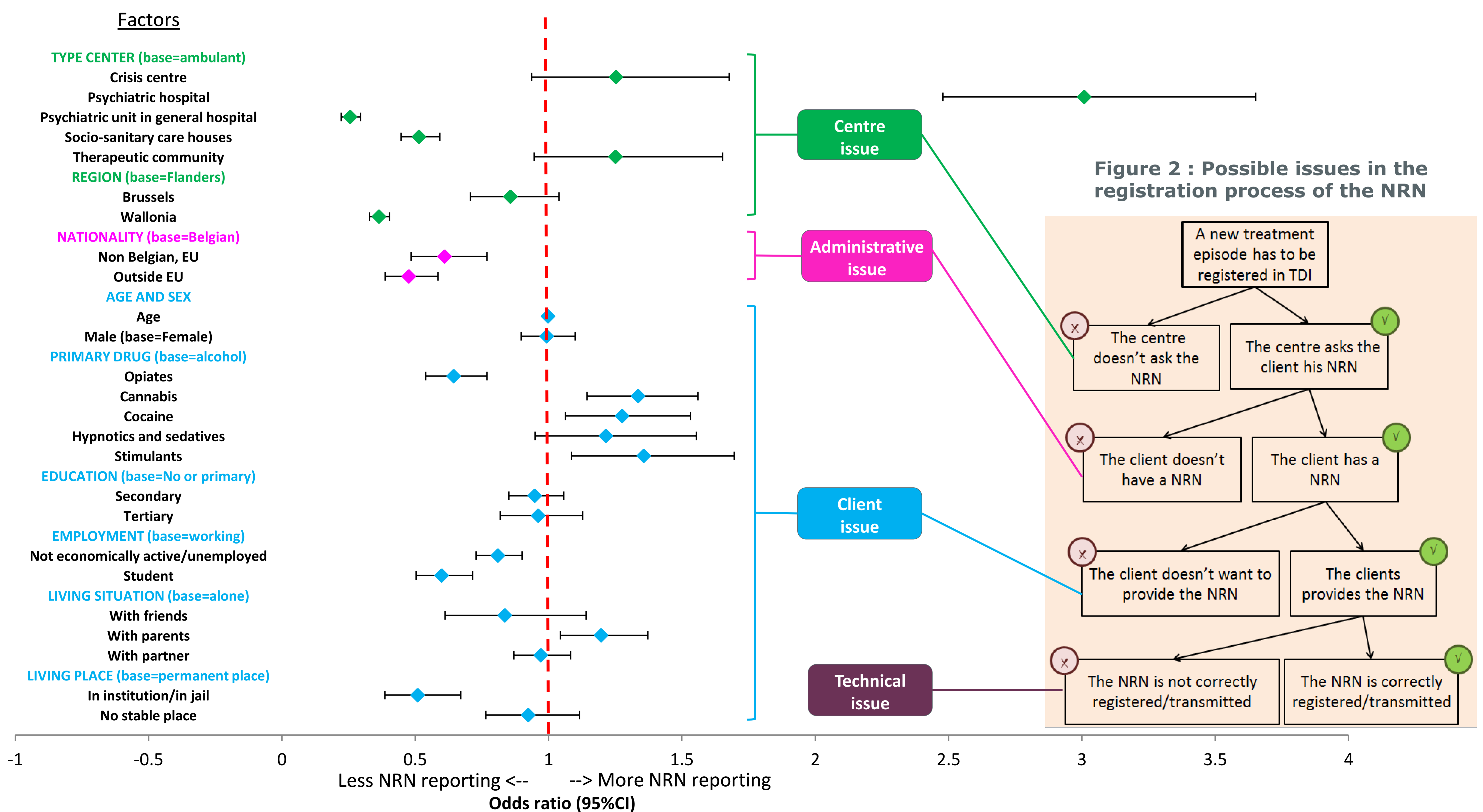
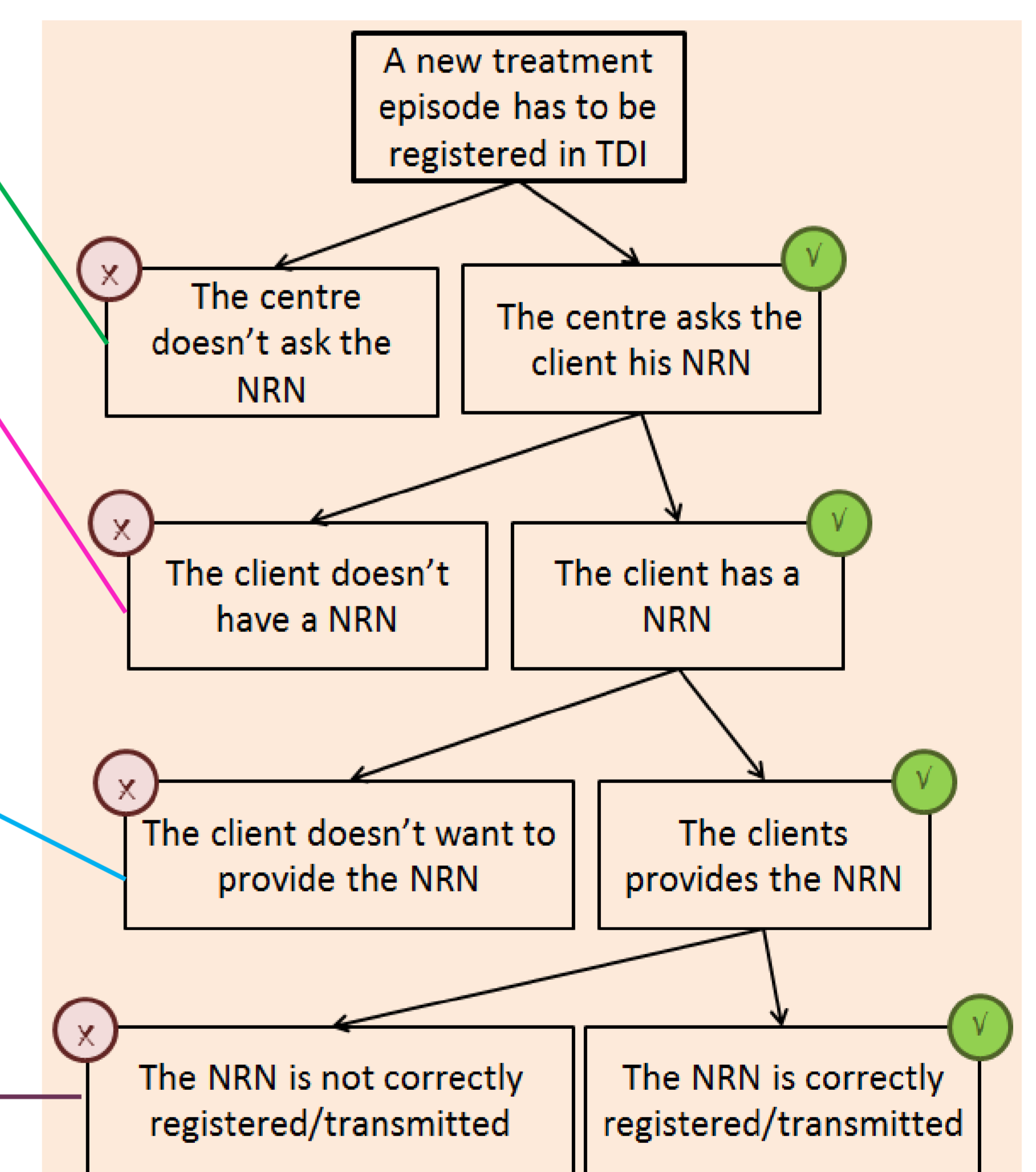


Figure 2 : Possible issues in the registration process of the NRN



- There is little evidence that clients characteristics had a major impact on the NRN reporting
- The main factors associated with the NRN reporting were :
 - the nationality
 - the main substance used
 - the type of treatment center
 - the region where the client is treated

Conclusions

- This study allows us to better understand the use of the NRN in TDI registration in Belgium
- These findings help to target specific groups of centres/regions to improve the NRN registration
- It gives insights in the « missing » population in linkage studies using TDI