**Data process 1: Patient identification**

| Timeframe of patient identification | Level of patient identification | Patient level | Group level |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Ad hoc                             | I: Patient makes an appointment | II: Cross-sectional sampling |
| Systematic                         | III: Referral to outpatient follow-up | IV: Panel identification |

**Data process 2: Data collection**

| Timeframe of data collection | Level of data collection | Patient level | Group level |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Ad hoc                       | I: Consultation          | II: Cross-sectional data collection |
| Systematic                   | III: Outpatient follow-up | IV: Cohort follow-up |

**Data process 3: Data aggregation**

| Timeframe of data aggregation | Level of data aggregation | Patient level | Group level |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Ad hoc                       | I: Summary, diagnosis     | II: Data management |
| Systematic                   | III: Outpatient follow-up | IV: Data management |

**Data process 4: Data use**

| Timeframe of data use | Level of data use | Patient level | Group level |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Ad hoc                | I: Treatment plan | II: Hypothesis test & publication |
| Systematic            | III: Treatment adjustment | IV: Case mix analyses & quality report |

**Figure.** Examples of basic health data activities where the same cell is used an all the four health data processes. The four data processes of health data divided by level and timeframe I: Single episode clinical contact, II: Cross-sectional clinical study, III: Planned outpatient follow-up and IV: Quality surveillance programme (cf. Fig 2).