**Index date** = date of the first NRT patch prescription.

Between 1\textsuperscript{st} January 2008 and 31\textsuperscript{st} December 2011.

**Baseline period** — used to measure baseline patient characteristics; patients’ baseline periods were from the start of the patient record to index date. Minimum of 6 months.

**Follow-up period** — used to measure the study endpoints; patients’ follow-up periods were from index date to the end of the patient record. Data was available until 30\textsuperscript{th} September 2012. Minimum of 14 days.