FIGURE 1.

Combined primary care diagnostic centres’ databases n=22,187

Caucasian subjects aged ≥40 at baseline with ≥3 follow-up spirometry tests and known smoking status and respiratory medication for all follow-up visits n=5,538

Total follow-up ≥1 year n=5,379

Baseline category either LLN°-Fixed- (non-obstructed), LLN-Fixed (discordant), or LLN+Fixed+ (obstructed) n=5,217

n=16,649 subjects excluded

n=159 subjects excluded

n=162 subjects excluded

Same LLN Fixed FEV₁/FVC category at baseline and final visit n=3,974

TOTAL STUDY POPULATION Dividing in categories based on LLN°_Fixed FEV₁/FVC cutpoints for consecutive visits (see Figure 2a) n=5,215

Switched between Fixed_LLN FEV₁/FVC categories at ≥1 or more intermediate visits between baseline and final visit n=650

n=2 subjects excluded

Different† LLN Fixed FEV₁/FVC categories at baseline and final visit n=1,241

Shifted to higher‡ Fixed_LLN FEV₁/FVC category from baseline to final visit n=530

BASE CASE STUDY POPULATION n=3,324

Shifted to lower‡ Fixed-LLN FEV₁/FVC category from baseline to final visit n=711

n=5,538

n=159 subjects excluded

n=162 subjects excluded