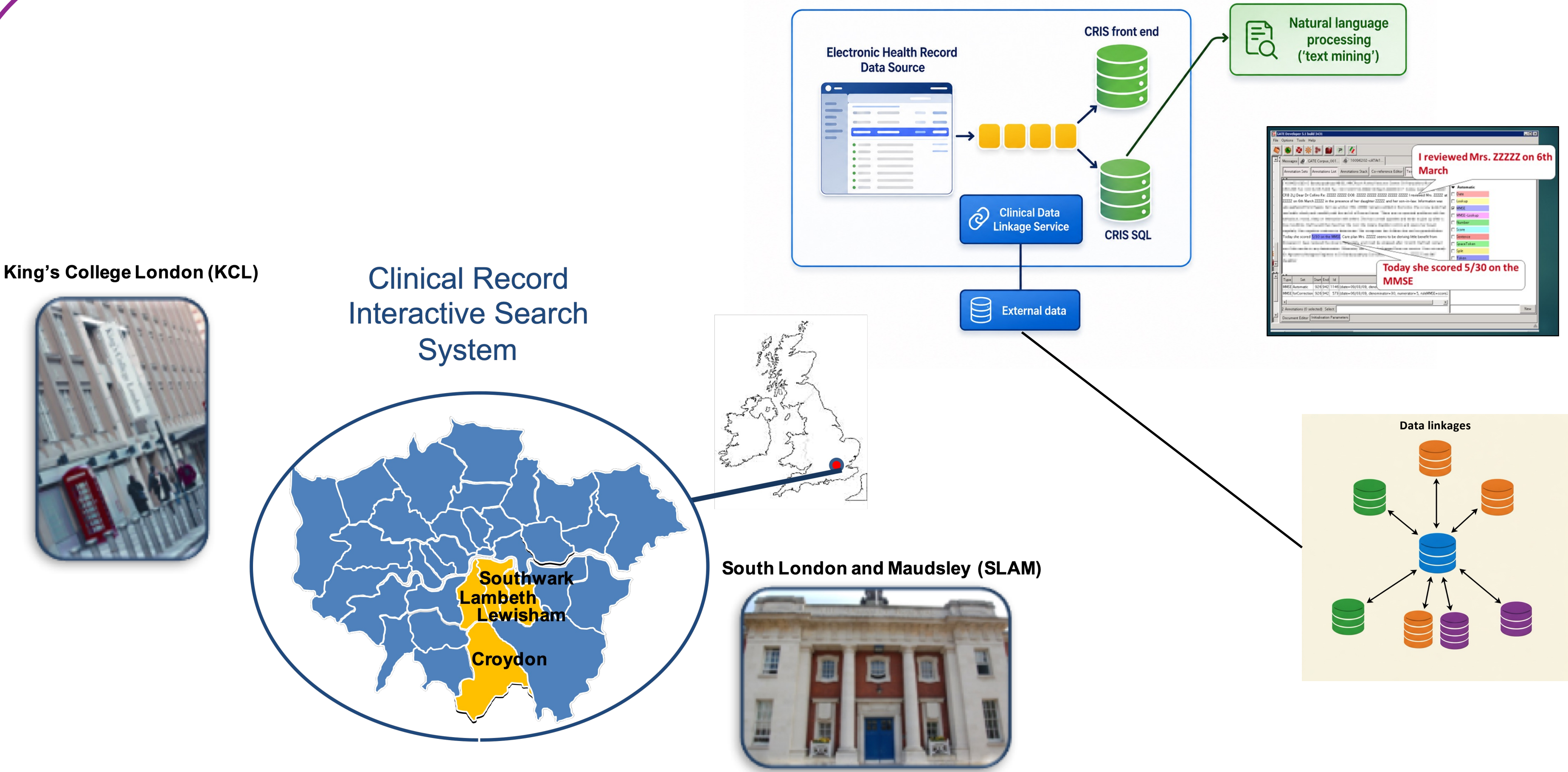


Unlocking the Potential of Electronic Health Records for Dementia Research: Insights from the Clinical Record Interactive Search (CRIS) Platform

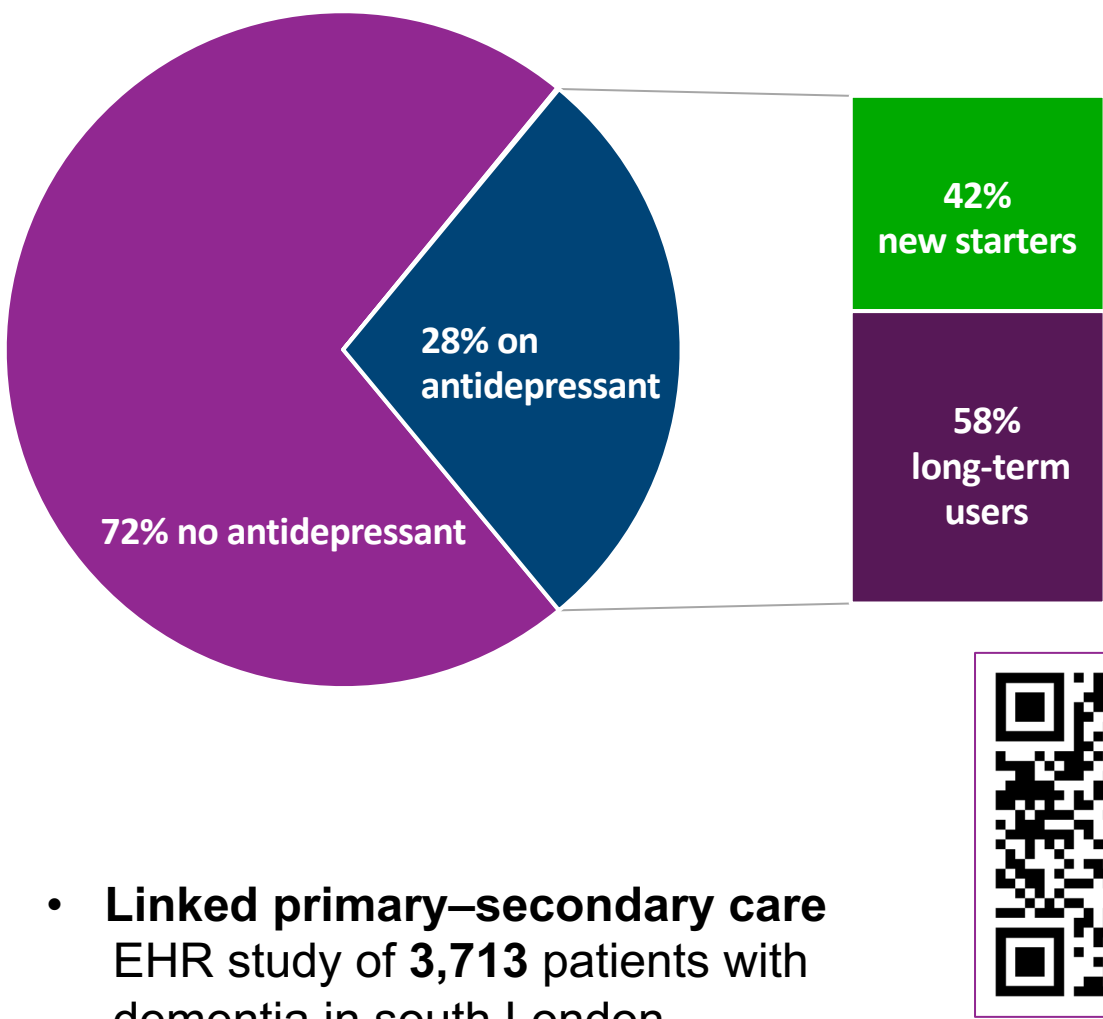
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Key points

- The Clinical Record Interactive Search (CRIS) platform, established in 2008, provides research access to more than 500,000 anonymised electronic health records from the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM).
- SLaM provides mental healthcare, including dementia assessment services, to a geographic catchment area of four South London boroughs (Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark) and about 1.4 million residents.
- CRIS supports ethically approved, secure use of structured and unstructured clinical data, enabling studies on over 25,000 patients with dementia.
- More than 60 dementia-related peer-reviewed publications (led by over twenty professions) have emerged from this resource, addressing diverse epidemiological and service-related questions.
- Data are enhanced through more than 100 natural natural language processing algorithms capturing data from clinical free-text.
- CRIS is linked to a wide range of external databases including neuroimaging, general hospitalisation, mortality, primary and social care, deprivation and census information, as well as geospatial data including air pollution and temperature.



Antidepressant Use at the Threshold: People prescribed antidepressants around the time of a dementia diagnosis



- **Linked primary–secondary care** EHR study of 3,713 patients with dementia in south London.
- **28%** were prescribed an antidepressant in the year of dementia diagnosis.
- Of these, **42% were new starts** within one year before or after diagnosis.
- In 1/3rd of patients an antidepressant was started **without a depression/anxiety diagnosis**.
- Antidepressant discontinuation was uncommon: only 17% stopped during follow-up, equivalent to approximately **6% per year**.
- Discontinuation rates were similar for new starters and long-term users.