The total number of patients, tests, sex and age distribution, CRP and neutrophil count concentrations, are shown at each stage of inclusion/exclusion. The number of patients may not add up to the total as within the same study period, CRP test results for some patients may have been excluded when they were children, and included when the patients became adults. Similarly, CRP test results for some patients may have been excluded when they were requested from a non-primary care location, or included when from primary care locations. Analyses were restricted to the 69 primary care practices in Oxfordshire whose main processor was the OUh laboratory, excluding those whose main processor was a laboratory outside Oxfordshire and those known to have closed or undergone major administrative reorganisation during the study period.