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Glossary

A1 Medicare items: Medicare item numbers 1–51, 601, 602

Aboriginal: The patient identifies himself or herself as an Aboriginal person.

Activity level: The number of general practice A1 Medicare items claimed during the previous 3 months by a participating general practitioner.

Allied health professionals: Those who provide clinical and other specialised services in the management of patients, including physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dietitians and pharmacists.

Chapters (ICPC-2): The main divisions within ICPC-2 PLUS; there are 17 chapters primarily representing the body systems.

Complaint: A symptom or disorder expressed by the patient when seeking care.

Consultation: See *Encounter*.

Diagnosis/problem: A statement of the provider's understanding of a health problem presented by a patient, family or community. GPs are instructed to record at the most specific level possible from the information available at the time. It may be limited to the level of symptoms.

- *New problem:* The first presentation of a problem, including the first presentation of a recurrence of a previously resolved problem but excluding the presentation of a problem first assessed by another provider.
- *Old problem:* A previously assessed problem that requires ongoing care. Includes follow-up for a problem or an initial presentation of a problem previously assessed by another provider.

Encounter (enc): Any professional interchange between a patient and a GP.

- *Indirect:* Encounter where there is no face-to-face meeting between the patient and the GP but a service is provided (e.g. prescription, referral).
- *Direct:* Encounter where there is a face-to-face meeting of the patient and the GP.

Direct encounters can be further divided into:

(a) *Medicare-claimable*

- A1 items of service: MBS item numbers 1–51, 601, 602
 - *surgery consultations:* encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 3; 23; 36; 44

- *home visits*: encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 4; 24; 37; 47
- *hospital encounters*: encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 19; 33; 40; 50
- *nursing home visits*: encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 20; 35; 43; 51
- *other institutional visits*: encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 13; 25; 38; 40
- *other MBS encounters*: encounters identified by an MBS item number that does not identify place of encounter

(b) *Workers compensation*: encounters paid by workers compensation insurance

(c) *Other paid*: encounters paid from another source (e.g. State).

General practitioner (GP): 'A medical practitioner who provides primary comprehensive and continuing care to patients and their families within the community' (Royal Australian College of General Practitioners).

Indigenous status: The patient identifies himself or herself as an Aboriginal person or as a Torres Strait Islander.

Medication: Medication which is prescribed, advised for over-the-counter purchase or provided by the GP at the encounter.

Morbidity: Any departure, subjective or objective, from a state of physiological wellbeing. In this sense, sickness, illness and morbid conditions are synonymous.

Patient status: The status of the patient to the practice

- *New patient*: The patient has not been seen before in the practice.
- *Old patient*: The patient has attended the practice before.

Problem managed: See *Diagnosis*.

Provider: A person to whom a patient has access when contacting the health care system.

Reasons for encounter (RFEs): The subjective reasons given by the patient for seeing or contacting the general practitioner. These can be expressed in terms of symptoms, diagnoses or the need for a service.

Recognised GP: A medical practitioner who is:

- vocationally recognised under Section 3F of the Health Insurance Act, *or*
- a holder of the Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) who participates in, and meets the requirements for, QA and continuing

medical education as defined in the RACGP Quality Assurance and Continuing Medical Education Program, *or*

- undertaking an approved placement in general practice as part of a training program for general practice leading to the award of the Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners or undertaking an approved placement in general practice as part of some other training program recognised by the RACGP as being of equivalent standard. (Medicare Benefits Schedule book, 1 November 1998)

Referral: The process by which the responsibility for part or all of the care of a patient is temporarily transferred to another health care provider. Only new referrals to specialist, allied health professionals, and for hospital and nursing home admissions arising at a recorded encounter are included. Continuation referrals are not included. Multiple referrals can be recorded at any one encounter.

Torres Strait Islander: The patient identifies himself or herself as a Torres Strait Islander.

Work-related problem: A problem judged by the GP, using their clinical experience, to be work related. Irrespective of whether the encounter was claimable through workers compensation or Medicare.

Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AUDIT	Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test
BEACH	<u>B</u> ettering the <u>E</u> valuation <u>A</u> nd <u>C</u> are of <u>H</u> ealth
BMI	Body mass index
CAPS	Coding Atlas for Pharmaceutical Substances
CI	Confidence interval (in this report 95% CI is used)
CNS	Central nervous system
COPD	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder
DHAC	Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (now the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, DoHA)
DoHA	See DHAC
Enc	Encounter
FMRC	Family Medicine Research Centre, The University of Sydney
GP	General practitioner
GPSCU	General Practice Statistics and Classification Unit, University of Sydney, a collaborating unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
HIC	Health Insurance Commission
ICPC	International Classification of Primary Care
ICPC-2	International Classification of Primary Care (Version 2)
ICPC-2 PLUS	An extended vocabulary of terms classified according to ICPC-2
IHD	Ischaemic heart disease
LCL	Lower confidence limit
MBS	Medicare Benefits Schedule
MC&S	Microscopy culture and sensitivity
NDSHS	National Drug Strategy Household Survey
NESB	The patient reports coming from a non-English-speaking background, i.e. a language other than English is spoken at home.
NS	Not significant
NSAID	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications
OTCs	Medications advised for over-the-counter purchase
OR	Odds ratio
p.a.	Per annum
QA	Quality assurance (in this case the Quality Assurance Program of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners)
RACGP	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

RFE(s)	Reason for encounter(s) (see Glossary)
RRMA	Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Area classification
SAND	Supplementary Analysis of Nominated Data
SAS	Statistical Analysis System
UCL	Upper confidence limit
URTI	Upper respiratory tract infection
UTI	Urinary tract infection
WHO	World Health Organization

Appendixes

Appendix 1: Example of a recording form

Appendix 2: GP characteristics questionnaire



The University of Sydney
at Westmead Hospital

General Practice Statistics and Classification Unit
Family Medicine Research Centre
Department of General Practice

a collaborating unit of the
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare



Please fill in boxes or circle answers
where appropriate

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Doctor Identification Number

1. Sex: Male / Female
2. Age
3. How many years have you spent in general practice?
4. Number of general practice sessions you usually work per week?
5. How many **full-time** (>5 sessions per week) general practitioners work with you at this practice? (Practice= shared medical records)
6. How many **part-time** (<6 sessions per week) general practitioners work with you at this practice? (Practice = shared medical records)
7. Do you conduct more than **50%** of consultations in a language other than English? Yes / No
8. What is the postcode of your major practice address?
9. Country of graduation: Aust NZ Asia UK Other:(specify)
10. General Practice training status Presently training Completed training Not Applicable
(CSCT or RACGP training programme)?
11. Do you hold FRACGP? Yes / No
12. Are you a member of any of the following organisations? AMA RACGP RDAA
13. How do you routinely instruct pharmacists on the substitution of generic drugs? No substitute allowed Substitute allowed
14. To what extent are computers used at your major practice address? (Circle as many as apply)
Not at all Billing Prescribing Medical Records Internet / Email Other Admin
15. Is this practice accredited ? Yes / No
16. What are the normal after-hours arrangements for your practice?
Practice does its own Co-operative with oth. practices Deputising service Referral to other service (eg A&E) Other None
17. Do you have your own *on-site* NATA accredited pathology lab? Yes / No
18. Which external pathology provider does your practice normally use? Name of provider.....
Provider's Postcode

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Appendix 3: Reasons for encounter and problems managed—code groups from ICPC-2 and ICPC-2 PLUS

Group	ICPC rubric	ICPC-2 PLUS code	ICPC/ICPC-2 PLUS label
Abdominal pain	D01		Pain/cramps;abdominal general
	D06		Pain;abdominal localised;other
Abnormal test results	A91		Abnormal results investigations NOS
	B84		Abnormal white cells
	U98		Abnormal urine test NOS
	X86		Abnormal Pap smear
Anaemia	B80		Iron deficiency anaemia
	B81		Anaemia;vitamin B12/folate deficiency
	B82		Anaemia other/unspecified
Anxiety	P01		Feeling anxious/nervous/tense
	P74		Anxiety disorder/anxiety state
Arthritis		L70009	Arthritis;pyogenic
		L70010	Arthritis;viral
		L81003	Arthritis;traumatic
		L83010	Arthritis;spine cervical
		L84003	Arthritis;spine
		L84023	Arthritis;spine thoracic
		L84024	Arthritis;spine lumbar
		L84025	Arthritis;lumbosacral
		L84026	Arthritis;sacroiliac
		L89004	Arthritis;hip
		L90004	Arthritis;knee
		L91009	Arthritis
		L91010	Arthritis;acute
		L91011	Arthritis;allergic
		L91012	Polyarthritis
	L92006	Arthritis;shoulder	
	S91002	Arthritis;psoriatic	
	T99063	Arthritis;crystal (excl. gout)	

(continued)

Appendix 3 (continued): Reasons for encounter and problems managed—code groups from ICPC-2 and ICPC-2 PLUS

Group	ICPC rubric	ICPC-2 PLUS code	ICPC/ICPC-2 PLUS label
Back complaint	L02		Back symptom/complaint
	L03		Low back symptom/complaint
	L86		Back syndrome with radiating pain
Check-up (all)	-30		Medical examination/health evaluation, complete
	-31		Medical examination/health evaluation, partial
	X37		Pap smear
Check-up (ICPC chapter)	A30;A31		General
	B30;B31		Blood
	D30;D31		Digestive
	F30;F31		Eye
	H30;H31		Ear
	K30;K31		Cardiovascular
	L30;L31		Musculoskeletal
	N30;N31		Neurological
	P30;P31		Psychological
	R30;R31		Respiratory
	S30;S31		Skin
	T30;T31		Endocrine
	U30;U31		Urology
	W30;W31		Prenatal/post-natal
	X30;X31;X37		female genital
Y30;Y31		male genital	
Z30;Z31		Social	
Depression	P03		Feeling depressed
	P76		Depressive disorder
Diabetes (non-gestational)	T89		Diabetes;insulin-dependent
	T90		Diabetes;non-insulin-dependent
Diabetes (all)	T89		Diabetes;insulin-dependent
	T90		Diabetes;non-insulin-dependent
	W85		Gestational diabetes

(continued)

Appendix 3 (continued): Reasons for encounter and problems managed – code groups from ICPC-2 and ICPC-2 PLUS

Group	ICPC rubric	ICPC-2 PLUS code	ICPC/ICPC-2 PLUS label
Fracture	L72		Fracture;radius/ulna
	L73		Fracture;tibia/fibia
	L74		Fracture;hand/foot bone
	L75		Fracture;femur
	L76		Fracture;other
		L99017	Fracture;non-union
		L99018	Fracture;pathological
		L99019	Fracture;malunion
		N80012	Fracture;skull (base)
		N80013	Fracture;skull
	N80014	Injury;head;fracture	
Hypertension/High BP (RFEs)	K85		Elevated blood pressure without hypertension
	K86		Uncomplicated hypertension
	K87		Hypertension with involvement of target organs
		W81003	Hypertension in pregnancy
Hypertension (for problems)	K86		Uncomplicated hypertension
	K87		Hypertension with involvement of target organs
		W81003	Hypertension in pregnancy
Immunisation	A44		Preventive immunisation/medication–general/unspecified
	D44		Preventive immunisation/medication;hepatitis
	N44		Preventive immunisation/medication;tetanus
	R44		Preventive immunisation/medication;influenza
Ischaemic heart disease	K74		Ischaemic heart disease without angina
	K76		Ischaemic heart disease with angina
Menstrual problems	X02		Pain;menstrual
	X03		Pain;intermenstrual
	X05		Menstruation;absent/scanty
	X06		Menstruation;excessive
	X07		Menstruation;irregular/frequent
	X08		Intermenstrual bleeding
	X09		Premenstrual symptoms/complaint
	X10		Postponement of menstruation

(continued)

Appendix 3 (continued): Reasons for encounter and problems managed – code groups from ICPC-2 and ICPC-2 PLUS

Group	ICPC rubric	ICPC-2 PLUS code	ICPC/ICPC-2 PLUS label	
Osteoarthritis		L83011	Osteoarthritis;spine;cervical	
		L84004	Osteoarthritis;spine	
		L84009	Osteoarthritis;spine;thoracic	
		L84010	Osteoarthritis;spine;lumbar	
		L84011	Osteoarthritis;lumbosacral	
		L84012	Osteoarthritis;sacroiliac	
		L89001	Osteoarthritis;hip	
		L90001	Osteoarthritis;knee	
		L91001	Osteoarthritis;degenerative	
		L91003	Osteoarthritis	
	L92007	Osteoarthritis;shoulder		
Oral contraception	W10		Contraception;postcoital	
	W11		Oral contraceptive	
	W50		Medication, reproductive system	
Pregnancy	W01		Question of pregnancy	
	W78		Pregnancy	
	W79		Unwanted pregnancy	
Prescription	-50		Medication prescription/request/renewal/injection	
Rash	S06		Localised redness/erythema/rash of skin	
	S07		Generalised/multiple redness/erythema/rash skin	
Rheumatoid arthritis	L88		Rheumatoid arthritis	
Swelling (skin)	S04		Localised swelling/papules/ lump/mass/ skin/subcutaneous tissue	
	S05		Generalised swelling/papules/ lumps/mass/ skin/subcutaneous tissue	
Sprain/strain		L19014	Strain;muscle(s)	
		L77	Sprain/strain of ankle	
		L78	Sprain/strain of knee	
		L79	Sprain/strain of joint NOS	
		L83023	Sprain;neck	
		L83024	Strain;neck	
		L84020	Sprain;back	
		L84021	Strain;back	
	Test results	-60		Results test/procedures
		-61		Results examinations/test/record/letter other provider
Tonsillitis	R76		Tonsillitis;acute	
	R90		Hypertroph;tonsils/adenoids	
Urinary tract infection (UTI)	U70		Pyelonephritis/pyelitis;acute	
	U71		Cystitis/other urinary infection;non-venereal	

Note: -(code) signifies that the concept includes all of the specified code across all chapters of ICPC-2.

Appendix 4: Clinical treatment—code groups from ICPC-2 PLUS

Treatment group	ICPC-2 PLUS code	ICPC-2 PLUS label
Advice—care of other person	A45022	Advice;care of sick 3rd person
	A45023	Advice;care of well 3rd person
	A58001	Counselling;terminal care
Advice/education	A45002	Advice/education
	B45002	Advice/education;blood
	D45002	Advice/education;digestive
	F45002	Advice/education;eye
	H45002	Advice/education;ear
	K45002	Advice/education;cardiovascular
	L45002	Advice/education;musculoskeletal
	N45002	Advice/education;neurological
	P45001	Advice/education;psychological
	R45002	Advice/education;respiratory
	S45002	Advice/education;skin
	T45002	Advice/education;endocrine/metabolic
	U45002	Advice/education;urology
	W45004	Advice/education;reproductive
	X45002	Advice/education;genital;female
	Y45002	Advice/education;genital;male
	Z45002	Advice/education;social
Advice/education—legal/other	A45017	Advice/education;compensation
	Z45009	Advice/education;legal
Advice/education—medication	A45015	Advice/education;medication
	A48003	Review;medication
	A48005	Increased;drug dosage
	A48006	Decreased;drug dosage
	A48007	Change (in);drug dosage
	A48008	Stop medication
	A48009	Recommend medication
	A48010	Change (in);medication
Advice/education—mothercare	A45024	Advice;mothercare

(continued)

Appendix 4 (continued): Clinical treatment code groups from ICPC-2 PLUS

Treatment group	ICPC-2 PLUS code	ICPC-2 PLUS label
Advice/education—treatment	A45016	Advice/education;treatment
	A45019	Advice;time off work
	A45020	Advice;rest/fluids
	A45021	Advice;naturopathic treatment
	A48004	Review;treatment
	S45004	Advice/education;RICE
	T45004	Advice/education;diabetes
Consultation with primary care provider	-46	
Consultation with specialist	-47	
Counsel/advice—STDs	A45012	Advice/education;STD
	A58008	Counselling;STDs
	X58004	Counselling;STDs;female
	Y58004	Counselling;STDs;male
Counsel/advice—alcohol	P45005	Advice/education;alcohol
	P58009	Counselling;alcohol
Counsel/advice—drug abuse	P45006	Advice/education;illicit drugs
	P58010	Counselling;drug abuse
Counsel/advice—exercise	A45004	Advice/education;exercise
	A58005	Counselling;exercise
Counsel/advice—health/body	A45005	Advice/education;health
	A45009	Health promotion
	A45010	Information;health
	A45011	Health promotion;injury
	A45018	Advice/education;body
	A58006	Counselling;health
Counsel/advice—life style	P45008	Advice/education;life style
	P58012	Counselling;life style
Counsel/advice—nutrition/weight	A45006	Advice/education;diet
	T45005	Advice/education;nutritional
	T45007	Advice/education;weight mgt
	T58002	Counselling;weight management
Counsel/advice—occupational	Z45004	Advice/education;occupation
	Z45010	Advice/education;work practice
	Z58004	Counselling;occupational

(continued)

Appendix 4 (continued): Clinical treatment code groups from ICPC-2 PLUS

Treatment group	ICPC-2 PLUS code	ICPC-2 PLUS label
Counsel/advice—other	A45014	Advice/education;travel
	P45009	Advice/education;sexuality
	P45010	Advice/education;life stage
	P58016	Counselling;life stage
	Z58005	Counselling;environment
Counsel/advice—pregnancy	W45009	Advice/education;pregnancy
	W58004	Counselling;prenatal
	W58006	Counselling;problem;pregnancy
Counsel/advice—prevention	A45025	Advice/education;immunisation
	A58007	Counselling;prevention
	X45004	Advice/educat;breast self exam
	Z45005	Advice/education;environment
Counsel/advice—relationship	Z45006	Advice/education;parenting
	Z45007	Advice/education;mothering
	Z45008	Advice/education;fathering
	Z58001	Counselling;conjugal;partner
	Z58003	Counselling;marriage/rship
	Z58006	Counselling;parenting
	Z58007	Counselling;mothering
	Z58008	Counselling;fathering
	Z58009	Counselling;family
Counsel/advice—relaxation	P45007	Advice/education;relaxation
	P58011	Counselling;relaxation
	P58017	Counselling;stress management
Counsel/advice—smoking	P45004	Advice/education;smoking
	P58008	Counselling;smoking
Counselling—problem	A58002	Counselling;problem
	A58003	Counselling;individual
	B58001	Counselling;problem;blood/blood-forming
	D58001	Counselling;problem;digestive
	F58001	Counselling;problem;eye
	H58001	Counselling;problem;ear
	K58001	Counselling;problem;cardiovascular
	L58001	Counselling;problem;musculoskeletal
	N58001	Counselling;problem;neurological
	R58001	Counselling;problem;respiratory
S58001	Counselling;problem;skin	
T58001	Counselling;problem;endocrine/metabolic	

(continued)

Appendix 4 (continued): Clinical treatment code groups from ICPC-2 PLUS

Treatment group	ICPC-2 PLUS code	ICPC-2 PLUS label
	U58001	Counselling;problem;urology
	W58003	Counselling;problem;reproductive
	X58001	Counselling;problem;genital;female
	X58003	Counselling;sexual;physical;female
	Y58001	Counselling;problem;genital;male
	Y58003	Counselling;sexual;physical;male
	Z58002	Counselling;problem;social
Counselling—psychological	P58001	Counselling;psychiatric
	P58002	Psychotherapy
	P58004	Counselling;psychological
	P58005	Counselling;sexual;psychological
	P58006	Counselling;individual;psychological
	P58007	Counselling;bereavement
	P58013	Counselling;anger
	P58014	Counselling;self esteem
	P58015	Counselling;assertiveness
	P58018	Therapy;group
Family planning	W14015	Counselling;genetic;female
	W45006	Advice/education;preconceptual
	W45007	Advice/education;contraception
	W45008	Advice/education;family plan;female
	W58001	Counselling;abortion
	W58005	Counselling;terminat pregnancy
	W58007	Counselling;preconceptual
	W58012	Counselling;sterilisation;female
	W58013	Counselling;family planning;female
	Y14006	Counselling;genetic;male
	Y45006	Advice/education;family plan;male
	Y58005	Counselling;sterilisation;male
	Y58006	Counselling;family planning;male
Observe/wait	A45001	Observe/wait
	B45001	Observe/wait;blood/blood-forming organs
	D45001	Observe/wait;digestive
	F45001	Observe/wait;eye
	H45001	Observe/wait;ear
	K45001	Observe/wait;cardiovascular
	L45001	Observe/wait;musculoskeletal
	N45001	Observe/wait;neurological
	P45002	Observe/wait;psychological
	R45001	Observe/wait;respiratory

(continued)

Appendix 4 (continued): Clinical treatment code groups from ICPC-2 PLUS

Treatment group	ICPC-2 PLUS code	ICPC-2 PLUS label
	S45001	Observe/wait;skin
	T45001	Observe/wait;endocrine/metabolic
	U45001	Observe/wait;urology
	W45003	Observe/wait;reproductive
	X45001	Observe/wait;genital;female
	Y45001	Observe/wait;genital;male
	Z45001	Observe/wait;social
Other admin/document	-62 excluding sickness certificate A62008	
Reassurance support	A58010	Reassurance/support
Sickness certificate	A62008	Admin;certificate;sickness
Clinical measurements		
Electrical tracings	-42	
Diagnostic radiology/imaging	-41	
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	-57	

Note: -(code) signifies that the concept includes all of the specified code across all chapters of ICPC-2.

Appendix 5: Procedural treatment code groups from ICPC-2 PLUS

Treatment group	ICPC-2 PLUS code	ICPC-2 PLUS label
Assist at operation	A69006	Assist at operation
	B69002	Assist at operation;blood
	D69002	Assist at operation;digestive
	F69002	Assist at operation;eye
	H69002	Assist at operation;ear
	L69002	Assist at operation;musculoske
	N69002	Assist at operation;neurological
	P69002	Assist at operation;psycho
	R69002	Assist at operation;respiratory
	S69002	Assist at operation;skin
	T69002	Assist at operation;endo/metab
	U69002	Assist at operation;urological
	W69002	Assist at operation;reproduct
	X69002	Assist at operation;genital;female
	Y69002	Assist at operation;genital;male
Z69003	Assist at operation;social	
Contraceptive device fit/supply/remove	W12003	Contraception;IUD
	W12004	Insertion;IUCD
	W12005	Removal;IUCD
	W14010	Contraception;diaphragm
	W14012	Fitting (of);diaphragm
	W14013	Supply;diaphragm
	W14014	Removal;diaphragm

(continued)

Appendix 5 (continued): Procedural treatment code groups from ICPC-2 PLUS

Treatment group	ICPC-2 PLUS code	ICPC-2 PLUS label
Diagnostic endoscopy	-40	
Dressing/pressure/compression/ tamponade	-56	
Excision/removal tissue/biopsy/ destruction/debridement/ cauterisation	-52	
Incise/drainage/flushing/aspiration/ removal body fluid	-51	
Instrumentation/catheterisation/ intubation/dilution	-53	
Local injection/infiltration	-55	
Other diagnostic procedures	-43	
Other preventive procedures/high risk medication/condition	-49	
Other therapeutic procedures/minor surgery NEC	-59	
Pap smear	X37001	Pap smear
Physical function test	-39	
Pregnancy test	W33001	Test;urine;pregnancy
	W33002	Test;pregnancy
Repair/fixation—suture/cast/prosthetic device (apply/remove)	-54	
Sensitivity test	-32	
Test;glucose	T34005	Test;glucose
Urine test	-35	

Note: -(code) signifies that the concept includes all of the specified code across all chapters of ICPC-2.