

## **Appendix 4: Results by states and territories of Australia 1998–2003**

**Table A4.1: Characteristics of participating GPs by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| GP characteristic                   | Per cent of GPs, <sup>(a)</sup> column specific |                  |                |               |               |                |               |              |                        |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
|                                     | NSW<br>(n=1,892)                                | Vic<br>(n=1,140) | Qld<br>(n=933) | WA<br>(n=412) | SA<br>(n=381) | Tas<br>(n=133) | ACT<br>(n=78) | NT<br>(n=52) | Australia<br>(n=5,021) |
| Per cent of sample                  | 37.7                                            | 22.7             | 18.6           | 8.2           | 7.6           | 2.6            | 1.6           | 1.0          | 100.0                  |
| Sex                                 |                                                 |                  |                |               |               |                |               |              |                        |
| Male                                | 68.6                                            | 67.2             | 64.6           | 68.5          | 71.7          | 66.9           | 50.0          | 69.2         | 67.4                   |
| Female                              | 31.5                                            | 32.8             | 35.4           | 31.6          | 28.4          | 33.1           | 50.0          | 30.8         | 32.6                   |
| Age (missing)                       | (8)                                             | (2)              | (4)            | (2)           | (1)           | (0)            | (1)           | (0)          | (18)                   |
| <35 years                           | 6.2                                             | 7.6              | 7.1            | 10.2          | 8.2           | 7.5            | 5.2           | 7.7          | 7.2                    |
| 35–44 years                         | 26.3                                            | 33.0             | 33.9           | 29.5          | 32.1          | 34.6           | 24.7          | 26.9         | 30.1                   |
| 45–54 years                         | 35.4                                            | 32.3             | 33.2           | 33.2          | 34.5          | 33.8           | 53.3          | 30.8         | 34.2                   |
| 55+ years                           | 32.1                                            | 27.1             | 25.8           | 27.1          | 25.3          | 24.1           | 16.9          | 34.6         | 28.4                   |
| Years in general practice (missing) | (15)                                            | (7)              | (6)            | (1)           | (5)           | (2)            | (0)           | (0)          | (36)                   |
| <2 years                            | 0.6                                             | 0.2              | 0.5            | 0.7           | 1.1           | 0.8            | 1.3           | 1.9          | 0.6                    |
| 2–5 years                           | 6.5                                             | 7.4              | 7.1            | 9.2           | 5.3           | 8.4            | 7.7           | 9.6          | 7.1                    |
| 6–10 years                          | 13.1                                            | 15.5             | 15.0           | 17.0          | 17.8          | 14.5           | 16.7          | 15.4         | 14.8                   |
| 11–19 years                         | 29.7                                            | 29.7             | 32.5           | 30.9          | 30.3          | 35.9           | 26.9          | 26.9         | 30.5                   |
| 20+ years                           | 50.1                                            | 47.1             | 44.9           | 42.1          | 45.5          | 40.5           | 47.4          | 46.2         | 47.1                   |
| Sessions per week (missing)         | (23)                                            | (14)             | (16)           | (1)           | (3)           | (0)            | (1)           | (0)          | (58)                   |
| <6 per week                         | 15.9                                            | 14.9             | 16.4           | 15.8          | 14.8          | 17.3           | 23.4          | 11.5         | 15.8                   |
| 6–10 per week                       | 66.2                                            | 69.2             | 65.8           | 70.6          | 67.2          | 77.4           | 74.0          | 73.1         | 67.7                   |
| 11+ per week                        | 17.9                                            | 15.9             | 17.9           | 13.6          | 18.0          | 5.3            | 2.6           | 15.4         | 16.5                   |

*(continued)*

**Table A4.1 (continued): Characteristics of participating GPs by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| GP characteristic             | Per cent of GPs, <sup>(a)</sup> column specific |                  |                |               |               |                |               |              |                        |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
|                               | NSW<br>(n=1,892)                                | Vic<br>(n=1,140) | Qld<br>(n=933) | WA<br>(n=412) | SA<br>(n=381) | Tas<br>(n=133) | ACT<br>(n=78) | NT<br>(n=52) | Australia<br>(n=5,021) |
| Size of practice (missing)    | (58)                                            | (26)             | (16)           | (9)           | (10)          | (0)            | (2)           | (0)          | (121)                  |
| Solo                          | 21.9                                            | 14.6             | 14.0           | 13.6          | 13.2          | 12.0           | 5.3           | 17.3         | 16.9                   |
| 2–4 GPs                       | 40.9                                            | 34.5             | 41.0           | 41.7          | 31.0          | 39.8           | 61.8          | 51.9         | 39.2                   |
| 5+ GPs                        | 37.2                                            | 50.9             | 45.0           | 44.7          | 55.8          | 48.1           | 32.9          | 30.8         | 44.0                   |
| Place of graduation (missing) | (14)                                            | (4)              | (3)            | (2)           | (1)           | (0)            | (0)           | (0)          | (0)                    |
| Australia                     | 70.6                                            | 79.8             | 77.0           | 65.4          | 81.2          | 65.4           | 78.2          | 75.0         | 74.3                   |
| United Kingdom                | 5.8                                             | 7.1              | 11.7           | 16.8          | 3.9           | 24.1           | 7.7           | 7.7          | 8.5                    |
| Asia                          | 12.8                                            | 4.7              | 3.2            | 9.0           | 11.1          | 2.3            | 5.1           | 7.7          | 8.3                    |
| Europe                        | 2.1                                             | 2.0              | 1.5            | 1.5           | 1.1           | 0.8            | 2.6           | 1.9          | 1.8                    |
| Africa                        | 3.2                                             | 1.7              | 2.9            | 2.9           | 0.8           | 3.0            | 2.6           | 0.0          | 2.6                    |
| New Zealand                   | 1.3                                             | 0.9              | 2.3            | 1.2           | 0.5           | 0.8            | 1.3           | 5.8          | 1.4                    |
| Other                         | 4.1                                             | 3.8              | 1.4            | 3.2           | 1.0           | 3.8            | 2.6           | 1.9          | 3.2                    |
| Practice location             |                                                 |                  |                |               |               |                |               |              |                        |
| Capital                       | 68.9                                            | 71.3             | 50.6           | 75.0          | 75.9          | 51.9           | 98.7          | 67.3         | 67.1                   |
| Other metropolitan            | 11.4                                            | 3.3              | 14.1           | ..            | ..            | ..             | 1.3           | ..           | 7.7                    |
| Large rural                   | 3.6                                             | 5.3              | 15.8           | ..            | 1.8           | 16.5           | ..            | ..           | 6.1                    |
| Small rural                   | 5.7                                             | 7.5              | 5.7            | 7.0           | 5.0           | 9.8            | ..            | ..           | 6.1                    |
| Other rural                   | 10.0                                            | 12.5             | 11.3           | 11.7          | 16.8          | 21.8           | ..            | 9.6          | 11.6                   |
| Remote central                | ..                                              | ..               | 0.8            | 4.1           | 0.0           | ..             | ..            | 11.5         | 0.6                    |
| Other remote, offshore        | 0.4                                             | 0.2              | 1.8            | 2.2           | 0.5           | 0.0            | ..            | 11.5         | 0.9                    |

(continued)

**Table A4.1 (continued): Characteristics of participating GPs by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| GP characteristic                           | Per cent of GPs, <sup>(a)</sup> column specific |                  |                |               |               |                |               |              |                        |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
|                                             | NSW<br>(n=1,892)                                | Vic<br>(n=1,140) | Qld<br>(n=933) | WA<br>(n=412) | SA<br>(n=381) | Tas<br>(n=133) | ACT<br>(n=78) | NT<br>(n=52) | Australia<br>(n=5,021) |
| GP Training Status (missing)                | (83)                                            | (51)             | (50)           | (9)           | (8)           | (4)            | (2)           | (1)          | (208)                  |
| Currently in a vocational training program  | 2.5                                             | 1.6              | 3.5            | 3.2           | 2.1           | 2.3            | 5.3           | 2.0          | 2.5                    |
| Fellow of the RACGP                         | 27.4                                            | 35.0             | 35.7           | 33.3          | 32.5          | 36.1           | 44.2          | 41.2         | 32.2                   |
| Own or cooperative after-hours arrangements | 45.8                                            | 40.0             | 45.4           | 33.5          | 40.2          | 64.7           | 38.5          | 46.2         | 43.4                   |

(a) Missing data removed.

. . . Not available. No postcodes in this state classified to this RRMA grouping.

Note: GPs—General practitioners; RACGP—Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

**Table A4.2: The BEACH data set by state/territory, crude numbers (1998–2003)**

| Variable                                     | NSW<br>(n=189,200) | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200)  | SA<br>(n=38,100)  | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| General practitioners                        | 1,892              | 1,140              | 933               | 412               | 381               | 133               | 78               | 52               | 5,021                    |
| Encounters                                   | 189,200            | 114,000            | 93,300            | 41,200            | 38,100            | 13,300            | 7,800            | 5,200            | 502,100                  |
| Reasons for encounter                        | 289,522            | 171,624            | 137,290           | 60,862            | 56,027            | 19,309            | 11,711           | 7,580            | 753,925                  |
| Problems managed                             | 281,554            | 170,735            | 136,129           | 61,185            | 55,569            | 19,545            | 11,159           | 7,749            | 743,625                  |
| Medications                                  | 211,409            | 121,709            | 95,320            | 41,931            | 38,176            | 13,649            | 7,194            | 5,438            | 534,826                  |
| Other treatments                             | 94,991             | 58,695             | 49,728            | 20,378            | 18,442            | 7,027             | 3,508            | 2,848            | 255,617                  |
| Referrals                                    | 23,396             | 13,137             | 9,975             | 4,927             | 4,473             | 1,547             | 941              | 646              | 59,042                   |
| <b>Number of encs 1999–2003<sup>+</sup></b>  | <b>(n=153,000)</b> | <b>(n=90,400)</b>  | <b>(n=74,800)</b> | <b>(n=33,900)</b> | <b>(n=30,600)</b> | <b>(n=11,100)</b> | <b>(n=6,000)</b> | <b>(n=3,900)</b> | <b>(n=403,700)</b>       |
| Imaging <sup>+</sup>                         | 15,711             | 8,625              | 7,950             | 3,564             | 2,468             | 960               | 687              | 421              | 40,386                   |
| <b>Number of encs 2000–2003<sup>++</sup></b> | <b>(n=113,800)</b> | <b>(n=69,300)</b>  | <b>(n=53,700)</b> | <b>(n=24,700)</b> | <b>(n=21,100)</b> | <b>(n=8,600)</b>  | <b>(n=4,800)</b> | <b>(n=3,000)</b> | <b>(n=299,000)</b>       |
| Pathology <sup>++</sup>                      | 56,429             | 35,595             | 30,902            | 14,166            | 11,001            | 3,792             | 2,442            | 1,957            | 156,284                  |

+ Limited to April 1999 to March 2003 inclusive due to older imaging codes in Year 1.

++ Limited to April 2000 to March 2003 inclusive due to older pathology codes in Years 1 and 2.

Note: Encs—encounters.

**Table A4.3a: Summary of morbidity and management by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Variable                  | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |                          |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
|                           | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)     | Qld<br>(n=93,300)      | WA<br>(n=41,200)       | SA<br>(n=38,100)       | Tas<br>(n=13,300)      | ACT<br>(n=7,800)       | NT<br>(n=5,200)        | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| General practitioners (n) | 1,892                                                                            | 1,140                  | 933                    | 412                    | 381                    | 133                    | 78                     | 52                     | 5,021                    |
| Encounters (n)            | 189,200                                                                          | 114,000                | 93,300                 | 41,200                 | 38,100                 | 13,300                 | 7,800                  | 5,200                  | 502,100                  |
| Reasons for encounter     | 153.0<br>(151.9–154.2)                                                           | 150.6<br>(149.1–152.0) | 147.2<br>(145.6–148.7) | 147.7<br>(145.6–149.8) | 147.1<br>(144.7–149.4) | 145.2<br>(141.2–149.1) | 150.1<br>(144.6–155.6) | 145.8<br>(138.6–152.9) | 150.2<br>(149.5–150.8)   |
| Problems managed          | 148.8<br>(147.5–150.1)                                                           | 149.8<br>(148.2–151.4) | 145.9<br>(144.2–147.6) | 148.5<br>(146.0–151.0) | 145.9<br>(143.2–148.5) | 147.0<br>(142.3–151.6) | 143.1<br>(137.7–148.4) | 149.0<br>(140.7–157.3) | 148.1<br>(147.3–148.9)   |
| New problems              | 51.5<br>(50.5–52.5)                                                              | 51.0<br>(49.7–52.2)    | 52.6<br>(51.2–53.9)    | 50.2<br>(48.2–52.2)    | 49.8<br>(47.7–51.9)    | 46.3<br>(42.9–49.7)    | 45.2<br>(40.5–49.9)    | 58.6<br>(52.5–64.8)    | 51.2<br>(50.6–51.8)      |
| Work-related*             | 3.4<br>(3.2–3.6)                                                                 | 3.6<br>(3.3–3.8)       | 2.7<br>(2.5–2.9)       | 3.6<br>(3.2–4.0)       | 3.7<br>(3.2–4.2)       | 3.6<br>(2.9–4.3)       | 3.2<br>(2.5–3.9)       | 6.7<br>(4.0–9.4)       | 3.4<br>(3.3–3.5)         |
| Medications               | 111.7<br>(110.0–113.4)                                                           | 106.8<br>(104.7–108.8) | 102.2<br>(100.1–104.2) | 101.8<br>(98.7–104.8)  | 100.2<br>(97.1–103.3)  | 102.6<br>(96.3–108.9)  | 92.2<br>(86.6–97.9)    | 104.6<br>(95.0–114.1)  | 106.5<br>(105.5–107.5)   |
| Prescribed                | 94.6<br>(92.8–96.4)                                                              | 90.4<br>(88.3–92.6)    | 84.7<br>(82.7–86.7)    | 83.2<br>(80.0–86.4)    | 82.4<br>(79.0–85.8)    | 86.6<br>(80.2–92.9)    | 79.4<br>(73.9–84.8)    | 88.5<br>(78.9–98.1)    | 89.4<br>(88.4–90.4)      |
| Advised OTC               | 10.0<br>(9.5–10.4)                                                               | 8.3<br>(7.9–8.8)       | 8.8<br>(8.2–9.3)       | 7.6<br>(6.9–8.2)       | 8.5<br>(7.6–9.4)       | 7.7<br>(6.4–8.9)       | 9.1<br>(7.1–11.2)      | 11.1<br>(8.6–13.6)     | 9.0<br>(8.7–9.2)         |
| GP-supplied               | 7.2<br>(6.6–7.8)                                                                 | 8.0<br>(7.1–8.9)       | 8.7<br>(7.7–9.8)       | 11.0<br>(8.6–13.4)     | 9.4<br>(7.6–11.1)      | 8.4<br>(6.0–10.8)      | 3.7<br>(2.7–4.8)       | 4.9<br>(2.9–7.0)       | 8.1<br>(7.7–8.5)         |
| Other treatments          | 50.2<br>(48.7–51.7)                                                              | 51.5<br>(49.6–53.3)    | 53.3<br>(51.2–55.4)    | 49.5<br>(46.7–52.3)    | 48.4<br>(45.5–51.3)    | 52.8<br>(47.6–58.1)    | 45.0<br>(37.9–52.1)    | 54.8<br>(44.8–64.7)    | 50.9<br>(50.0–51.8)      |
| Clinical                  | 37.2<br>(35.9–38.6)                                                              | 38.6<br>(36.9–40.2)    | 36.1<br>(34.3–37.9)    | 35.5<br>(33.0–37.9)    | 35.9<br>(33.2–38.6)    | 37.7<br>(33.4–42.1)    | 34.7<br>(28.5–40.9)    | 41.6<br>(32.8–50.4)    | 37.1<br>(36.3–37.9)      |
| Procedural                | 13.0<br>(12.5–13.4)                                                              | 13.0<br>(12.4–13.5)    | 17.2<br>(16.4–18.0)    | 14.0<br>(13.0–15.0)    | 12.5<br>(11.5–13.4)    | 15.1<br>(13.2–17.0)    | 10.3<br>(8.3–12.2)     | 13.2<br>(10.6–15.8)    | 13.8<br>(13.5–14.1)      |

(continued)

**Table A4.3a (continued): Summary of morbidity and management by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Variable               | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|                        | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)  | Qld<br>(n=93,300)   | WA<br>(n=41,200)    | SA<br>(n=38,100)    | Tas<br>(n=13,300)   | ACT<br>(n=7,800)    | NT<br>(n=5,200)     | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Referrals              | 12.4<br>(12.0–12.7)                                                              | 11.5<br>(11.1–11.9) | 10.7<br>(10.2–11.2) | 12.0<br>(11.3–12.6) | 11.7<br>(11.0–12.4) | 11.6<br>(10.5–12.8) | 12.1<br>(10.3–13.8) | 12.4<br>(10.8–14.0) | 11.8<br>(11.6–12.0)      |
| Specialist             | 8.7<br>(8.4–8.9)                                                                 | 7.6<br>(7.3–7.8)    | 7.2<br>(6.8–7.5)    | 8.0<br>(7.6–8.4)    | 7.5<br>(7.0–8.0)    | 7.3<br>(6.6–8.0)    | 7.8<br>(6.6–8.9)    | 7.6<br>(6.4–8.8)    | 7.9<br>(7.8–8.1)         |
| Allied health services | 2.9<br>(2.7–3.0)                                                                 | 3.0<br>(2.8–3.2)    | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.7)    | 3.0<br>(2.7–3.2)    | 3.2<br>(2.8–3.5)    | 3.6<br>(2.9–4.2)    | 3.6<br>(2.9–4.4)    | 3.7<br>(2.9–4.5)    | 2.9<br>(2.8–3.0)         |
| Hospital               | 0.5<br>(0.5–0.6)                                                                 | 0.6<br>(0.6–0.7)    | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)    | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9)    | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.0)    | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.7)    | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6)    | 0.8<br>(0.4–1.1)    | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7)         |
| Emergency dept         | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                                                                 | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)    | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)    | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.3)    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)         |
| Other referral         | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)    | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)    | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3)    | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.4)    | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)         |
| Pathology <sup>+</sup> | 31.9<br>(30.7–33.1)                                                              | 34.0<br>(32.4–35.7) | 35.9<br>(33.9–37.8) | 39.2<br>(36.5–41.9) | 31.2<br>(28.4–33.9) | 30.3<br>(26.7–34.0) | 35.0<br>(29.0–41.0) | 41.8<br>(32.9–50.8) | 33.8<br>(33.0–34.5)      |
| Imaging <sup>++</sup>  | 8.5<br>(8.2–8.8)                                                                 | 7.7<br>(7.3–8.0)    | 8.8<br>(8.2–9.3)    | 8.8<br>(8.2–9.4)    | 6.4<br>(5.8–7.0)    | 7.4<br>(6.6–8.3)    | 9.4<br>(7.8–11.0)   | 7.8<br>(6.2–9.4)    | 8.2<br>(8.0–8.4)         |

(a) Figures will not total 100 as multiple events may occur at each encounter or for the management of each problem at encounter.

\* Data on whether the problem managed was work-related were only collected in Years 1 to 4, April 1998 to March 2002 inclusive.

+ Limited to April 2000 to March 2003 inclusive due to older pathology codes in Years 1 and 2. For number of encounters for each state/territory, refer to Table A4.2.

++ Limited to April 1999 to March 2003 inclusive due to older imaging codes in Year 1. For number of encounters for each state/territory, refer to Table A4.2.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). OTC—over-the-counter; GP—General practitioner; dept—department.

**Table A4.3b: Summary of morbidity and management by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Variable                  | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |                          |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
|                           | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)     | Qld<br>(n=93,300)      | WA<br>(n=41,200)       | SA<br>(n=38,100)       | Tas<br>(n=13,300)      | ACT<br>(n=7,800)       | NT<br>(n=5,200)        | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| General practitioners (n) | 1,892                                                                            | 1,140                  | 933                    | 412                    | 381                    | 133                    | 78                     | 52                     | 5,021                    |
| Encounters (n)            | 187,544                                                                          | 112,971                | 92,549                 | 40,892                 | 37,776                 | 13,186                 | 7,719                  | 5,128                  | 497,765                  |
| Reasons for encounter     | 152.5<br>(151.4–153.7)                                                           | 150.0<br>(148.6–151.4) | 147.1<br>(145.6–148.6) | 147.4<br>(145.2–149.5) | 146.6<br>(144.3–149.0) | 144.5<br>(140.6–148.4) | 151.2<br>(145.6–156.8) | 148.0<br>(140.1–155.9) | 149.8<br>(149.1–150.5)   |
| Problems managed          | 147.6<br>(146.3–148.8)                                                           | 148.4<br>(146.8–150.0) | 145.7<br>(144.0–147.4) | 147.8<br>(145.3–150.3) | 144.7<br>(142.1–147.2) | 145.4<br>(140.8–149.9) | 145.0<br>(139.4–150.6) | 155.7<br>(145.4–166.1) | 147.2<br>(146.5–148.0)   |
| New problems              | 52.3<br>(51.3–53.3)                                                              | 51.9<br>(50.6–53.1)    | 52.8<br>(51.4–54.2)    | 50.7<br>(48.7–52.7)    | 50.6<br>(48.4–52.8)    | 47.1<br>(43.7–50.6)    | 44.5<br>(39.8–49.2)    | 57.1<br>(50.9–63.3)    | 51.8<br>(51.2–52.4)      |
| Work-related*             | 3.4<br>(3.2–3.7)                                                                 | 3.6<br>(3.3–3.8)       | 2.6<br>(2.4–2.8)       | 3.5<br>(3.1–3.9)       | 3.6<br>(3.1–4.1)       | 3.6<br>(2.9–4.3)       | 2.9<br>(2.3–3.6)       | 5.4<br>(3.3–7.5)       | 3.4<br>(3.2–3.5)         |
| Medications               | 110.9<br>(109.3–112.6)                                                           | 105.9<br>(103.9–107.9) | 102.3<br>(100.3–104.3) | 101.8<br>(98.7–104.8)  | 99.8<br>(96.7–102.9)   | 101.7<br>(95.5–107.9)  | 94.2<br>(88.2–100.3)   | 112.9<br>(101.3–124.5) | 106.1<br>(105.1–107.1)   |
| Prescribed                | 93.4<br>(91.6–95.1)                                                              | 89.1<br>(87.0–91.2)    | 84.8<br>(82.8–86.8)    | 82.8<br>(79.7–86.0)    | 81.6<br>(78.2–84.9)    | 85.3<br>(79.1–91.4)    | 81.6<br>(75.6–87.5)    | 97.2<br>(85.5–109.0)   | 88.7<br>(87.7–89.7)      |
| Advised OTC               | 10.3<br>(9.9–10.8)                                                               | 8.7<br>(8.2–9.2)       | 8.9<br>(8.3–9.4)       | 7.8<br>(7.1–8.5)       | 8.8<br>(7.9–9.8)       | 8.0<br>(6.7–9.3)       | 8.9<br>(7.0–10.9)      | 10.6<br>(8.1–13.0)     | 9.3<br>(9.0–9.6)         |
| GP-supplied               | 7.2<br>(6.6–7.8)                                                                 | 8.1<br>(7.1–9.0)       | 8.7<br>(7.6–9.7)       | 11.1<br>(8.7–13.4)     | 9.4<br>(7.7–11.1)      | 8.5<br>(6.2–10.7)      | 3.7<br>(2.7–4.7)       | 5.1<br>(2.9–7.3)       | 8.1<br>(7.7–8.6)         |
| Other treatments          | 50.2<br>(48.7–51.7)                                                              | 51.4<br>(49.6–53.3)    | 53.3<br>(51.2–55.4)    | 49.1<br>(46.4–51.9)    | 48.3<br>(45.4–51.2)    | 52.8<br>(47.5–58.0)    | 44.5<br>(37.4–51.5)    | 53.9<br>(43.4–64.5)    | 50.8<br>(50.0–51.7)      |
| Clinical                  | 37.4<br>(36.0–38.7)                                                              | 38.7<br>(37.0–40.4)    | 36.1<br>(34.3–37.9)    | 35.3<br>(32.8–37.7)    | 36.0<br>(33.3–38.7)    | 37.9<br>(33.5–42.3)    | 34.2<br>(28.1–40.4)    | 41.1<br>(31.5–50.6)    | 37.2<br>(36.4–37.9)      |
| Procedural                | 12.8<br>(12.4–13.3)                                                              | 12.8<br>(12.2–13.3)    | 17.2<br>(16.4–18.0)    | 13.9<br>(12.9–14.9)    | 12.3<br>(11.4–13.3)    | 14.9<br>(13.1–16.7)    | 10.3<br>(8.2–12.3)     | 12.9<br>(10.4–15.3)    | 13.7<br>(13.4–14.0)      |

(continued)

**Table A4.3b (continued): Summary of morbidity and management by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Variable               | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|                        | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)  | Qld<br>(n=93,300)   | WA<br>(n=41,200)    | SA<br>(n=38,100)    | Tas<br>(n=13,300)   | ACT<br>(n=7,800)    | NT<br>(n=5,200)     | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Referrals              | 12.3<br>(11.9–12.6)                                                              | 11.4<br>(11.0–11.7) | 10.7<br>(10.2–11.1) | 11.8<br>(11.2–12.5) | 11.6<br>(10.9–12.3) | 11.6<br>(10.4–12.7) | 12.2<br>(10.4–13.9) | 12.5<br>(10.6–14.4) | 11.7<br>(11.5–11.8)      |
| Specialist             | 8.6<br>(8.4–8.8)                                                                 | 7.5<br>(7.2–7.7)    | 7.2<br>(6.8–7.5)    | 7.9<br>(7.5–8.3)    | 7.5<br>(7.0–7.9)    | 7.3<br>(6.6–8.0)    | 7.8<br>(6.6–9.0)    | 7.5<br>(6.2–8.7)    | 7.9<br>(7.7–8.0)         |
| Allied health services | 2.9<br>(2.7–3.0)                                                                 | 3.0<br>(2.8–3.1)    | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.7)    | 2.9<br>(2.6–3.2)    | 3.1<br>(2.8–3.4)    | 3.5<br>(2.9–4.1)    | 3.6<br>(2.9–4.4)    | 3.8<br>(2.6–5.0)    | 2.9<br>(2.8–2.9)         |
| Hospital               | 0.5<br>(0.5–0.6)                                                                 | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)    | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)    | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9)    | 0.8<br>(0.7–1.0)    | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.7)    | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6)    | 0.8<br>(0.4–1.1)    | 0.6<br>(0.6–0.7)         |
| Emergency dept         | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                                                                 | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)    | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3)    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)    | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.4)    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)         |
| Other referral         | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)    | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)    | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3)    | 0.3<br>(0.0–0.5)    | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)         |
| Pathology <sup>+</sup> | 32.3<br>(30.9–33.8)                                                              | 34.6<br>(32.6–36.5) | 36.5<br>(34.2–38.9) | 38.2<br>(34.9–41.5) | 32.3<br>(28.7–35.8) | 32.0<br>(27.1–36.9) | 43.7<br>(35.5–52.0) | 43.6<br>(32.8–54.4) | 34.4<br>(33.4–35.3)      |
| Imaging <sup>++</sup>  | 8.5<br>(8.2–8.7)                                                                 | 7.6<br>(7.2–7.9)    | 8.7<br>(8.2–9.2)    | 8.7<br>(8.1–9.3)    | 6.4<br>(5.8–7.0)    | 7.4<br>(6.6–8.2)    | 9.4<br>(7.8–11.0)   | 7.9<br>(6.2–9.6)    | 8.2<br>(8.0–8.3)         |

(a) Figures will not total 100 as multiple events may occur at each encounter or for the management of each problem at encounter.

\* Data on whether the problem managed was work-related were only collected in Years 1 to 4, April 1998 to March 2002 inclusive.

+ Limited to April 2000 to March 2003 inclusive due to older pathology codes in Years 1 and 2. For number of encounters for each state/territory, refer to Table A4.2.

++ Limited to April 1999 to March 2003 inclusive due to older imaging codes in Year 1. For number of encounters for each state/territory, refer to Table A4.2.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). OTC—over-the-counter; GP—General practitioner; dept—department.

**Table A4.4a: Type of encounter by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Variable                            | Per cent of encounters, 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|                                     | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)  | Qld<br>(n=93,300)   | WA<br>(n=41,200)    | SA<br>(n=38,100)    | Tas<br>(n=13,300)   | ACT<br>(n=7,800)    | NT<br>(n=5,200)     | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Direct consultations                | 97.0<br>(96.7–97.2)                                              | 97.3<br>(97.0–97.5) | 97.1<br>(96.8–97.4) | 92.3<br>(96.8–97.8) | 97.4<br>(97.0–97.9) | 95.1<br>(93.8–96.4) | 96.2<br>(94.8–97.6) | 97.1<br>(95.8–98.4) | 97.1<br>(96.9–97.2)      |
| No charge                           | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.8)                                                 | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)    | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1)    | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)    | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.9)    | 0.7<br>(0.5–1.0)    | 1.9<br>(0.0–3.9)    | 1.7<br>(1.0–2.4)    | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)         |
| MBS items of service <sup>(a)</sup> | 92.7<br>(92.2–93.2)                                              | 93.1<br>(92.5–93.6) | 93.1<br>(92.4–93.9) | 91.7<br>(90.4–93.0) | 93.0<br>(92.2–93.9) | 89.3<br>(86.4–92.1) | 89.1<br>(85.2–93.1) | 87.7<br>(83.9–91.5) | 92.6<br>(92.3–92.9)      |
| Short surgery consultations         | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)    | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6)    | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.5)    | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.6)    | 1.4<br>(1.0–1.8)    | 1.6<br>(0.8–2.5)    | 2.3<br>(0.9–3.6)    | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)         |
| Standard surgery consultations      | 75.6<br>(74.8–76.4)                                              | 74.7<br>(73.7–75.8) | 75.1<br>(74.0–76.3) | 76.3<br>(74.5–78.2) | 74.8<br>(72.8–76.8) | 72.8<br>(69.3–76.3) | 75.2<br>(71.1–79.3) | 73.0<br>(68.2–77.8) | 75.2<br>(74.7–75.7)      |
| Long surgery consultations          | 9.5<br>(9.0–10.0)                                                | 10.4<br>(9.8–11.0)  | 10.1<br>(9.4–10.7)  | 8.9<br>(7.9–9.9)    | 8.3<br>(7.4–9.1)    | 8.4<br>(7.0–9.8)    | 9.5<br>(7.5–11.5)   | 6.9<br>(4.4–9.4)    | 9.6<br>(9.3–9.9)         |
| Prolonged surgery consultations     | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.4)                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.3)    | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.9)    | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.7)    | 0.7<br>(0.2–1.3)    | 1.1<br>(0.0–2.3)    | 0.5<br>(0.2–0.9)    | 0.8<br>(0.2–1.5)    | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)         |
| Home visits                         | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.2)                                                 | 2.0<br>(1.7–2.4)    | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)    | 1.2<br>(0.7–1.7)    | 1.9<br>(1.3–2.5)    | 2.1<br>(0.9–3.4)    | 0.9<br>(0.4–1.4)    | 1.7<br>(0.0–3.4)    | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.9)         |
| Hospital                            | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.3)                                                 | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5)    | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.9)    | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.5)    | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.3)    | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.3)    | 0.0                 | 0.5<br>(0.0–1.3)    | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)         |
| Residential aged care facilities    | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2)                                                 | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)    | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.7)    | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.8)    | 1.6<br>(0.8–2.3)    | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.4)    | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.6)    | 0.3<br>(0.0–0.7)    | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)         |
| Other items                         | 2.1<br>(1.8–2.4)                                                 | 2.9<br>(2.5–3.3)    | 2.8<br>(2.3–3.2)    | 2.7<br>(2.0–3.4)    | 3.6<br>(2.5–4.7)    | 2.2<br>(1.3–3.1)    | 1.1<br>(0.4–1.9)    | 2.3<br>(1.6–3.0)    | 2.6<br>(2.4–2.7)         |
| Workers compensation                | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.4)                                                 | 2.1<br>(2.0–2.3)    | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)    | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.4)    | 2.4<br>(2.0–2.9)    | 2.4<br>(1.8–2.9)    | 2.5<br>(1.9–3.1)    | 3.4<br>(1.8–5.0)    | 1.9<br>(1.8–2.0)         |
| Other paid (hospital, state, etc.)  | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.9)                                                 | 1.6<br>(1.1–2.0)    | 2.0<br>(1.4–2.7)    | 2.9<br>(1.7–4.0)    | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.7)    | 2.7<br>(0.5–4.9)    | 2.7<br>(0.0–5.4)    | 4.3<br>(1.4–7.2)    | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.1)         |

(continued)

**Table A4.4a (continued): Type of encounter by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Variable               | Per cent of encounters, 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                        | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Indirect consultations | 3.0<br>(2.8–3.3)                                                 | 2.7<br>(2.5–3.0)   | 2.9<br>(2.6–3.2)  | 2.7<br>(2.2–3.2) | 2.6<br>(2.1–3.0) | 4.9<br>(3.6–6.2)  | 3.8<br>(2.4–5.2) | 2.9<br>(1.6–4.2) | 2.9<br>(2.8–3.1)         |
| Missing (n)            | 14,122                                                           | 8,023              | 5,707             | 3,252            | 2,819            | 1,079             | 932              | 426              | 36,360                   |

(a) Includes encounters that were recorded as claimable from the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs.  
 Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). MBS—Medicare Benefits Schedule.

**Table A4.4b: Type of encounter by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Variable                            | Per cent of encounters, 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|                                     | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)  | Qld<br>(n=93,300)   | WA<br>(n=41,200)    | SA<br>(n=38,100)    | Tas<br>(n=13,300)   | ACT<br>(n=7,800)    | NT<br>(n=5,200)     | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Direct consultations                | 97.1<br>(96.8–97.3)                                              | 97.4<br>(97.1–97.6) | 97.2<br>(96.9–97.5) | 97.3<br>(96.8–97.8) | 97.5<br>(97.1–98.0) | 95.3<br>(94.1–96.5) | 96.0<br>(94.5–97.5) | 96.7<br>(95.4–98.1) | 97.1<br>(97.0–97.3)      |
| No charge                           | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.8)                                                 | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)    | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1)    | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)    | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9)    | 0.7<br>(0.5–1.0)    | 1.9<br>(0.0–4.0)    | 1.6<br>(0.9–2.2)    | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)         |
| MBS items of service <sup>(a)</sup> | 92.8<br>(92.3–93.3)                                              | 91.2<br>(92.7–93.7) | 93.2<br>(92.4–93.9) | 91.8<br>(90.5–93.2) | 93.2<br>(92.3–94.0) | 89.5<br>(86.7–92.3) | 89.1<br>(85.1–93.1) | 88.8<br>(85.6–92.0) | 92.7<br>(92.4–93.0)      |
| Short surgery consultations         | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)    | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.7)    | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.5)    | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.6)    | 1.5<br>(1.0–1.9)    | 1.6<br>(0.7–2.4)    | 2.1<br>(0.8–3.3)    | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)         |
| Standard surgery consultations      | 76.1<br>(75.3–76.9)                                              | 75.5<br>(74.5–76.5) | 75.4<br>(74.2–76.5) | 76.7<br>(74.9–78.6) | 75.4<br>(73.4–77.4) | 73.4<br>(69.9–76.9) | 74.7<br>(70.5–78.9) | 71.8<br>(66.7–77.0) | 75.7<br>(75.2–76.2)      |
| Long surgery consultations          | 9.4<br>(8.9–9.8)                                                 | 10.2<br>(9.6–10.8)  | 10.0<br>(9.4–10.7)  | 8.7<br>(7.7–9.7)    | 8.1<br>(7.2–9.0)    | 8.2<br>(6.9–9.6)    | 9.6<br>(7.5–11.6)   | 8.4<br>(5.0–11.9)   | 9.5<br>(9.2–9.8)         |
| Prolonged surgery consultations     | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.4)                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.2)    | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.9)    | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.7)    | 0.7<br>(0.2–1.3)    | 1.1<br>(0.0–2.3)    | 0.5<br>(0.2–0.8)    | 0.8<br>(0.2–1.4)    | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1)         |
| Home visits                         | 1.9<br>(1.6–2.1)                                                 | 1.9<br>(1.5–2.2)    | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)    | 1.2<br>(0.7–1.7)    | 1.9<br>(1.2–2.5)    | 2.1<br>(0.7–3.4)    | 1.1<br>(0.5–1.8)    | 2.0<br>(0.1–4.0)    | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.8)         |
| Hospital                            | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3)                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)    | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.9)    | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.5)    | 0.8<br>(0.4–1.2)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)    | 0.0                 | 0.7<br>(0.0–1.9)    | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)         |

(continued)

**Table A4.4b (continued): Type of encounter by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Variable                           | Per cent of encounters, 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                    | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Residential aged care facilities   | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)                                                 | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)   | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.7)  | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.8) | 1.4<br>(0.7–2.0) | 1.0<br>(0.6–1.3)  | 0.4<br>(0.1–0.8) | 0.9<br>(0.0–2.2) | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1)         |
| Other items                        | 2.0<br>(1.7–2.3)                                                 | 2.8<br>(2.4–3.1)   | 2.7<br>(2.3–3.2)  | 2.6<br>(1.9–3.3) | 3.6<br>(2.4–4.8) | 2.2<br>(1.3–3.0)  | 1.2<br>(0.3–2.0) | 2.0<br>(1.4–2.6) | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.7)         |
| Workers compensation               | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.2)                                                 | 2.1<br>(2.0–2.3)   | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)  | 2.1<br>(1.8–2.3) | 2.4<br>(2.0–2.8) | 2.4<br>(1.8–2.9)  | 2.3<br>(1.7–2.8) | 2.8<br>(1.4–4.1) | 1.9<br>(1.8–2.0)         |
| Other paid (hospital, state, etc.) | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.9)                                                 | 1.5<br>(1.1–1.9)   | 2.0<br>(1.4–2.7)  | 2.8<br>(1.7–4.0) | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.7) | 2.7<br>(0.5–4.9)  | 2.7<br>(0.0–5.3) | 3.6<br>(1.3–5.9) | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0)         |
| Indirect consultations             | 3.0<br>(2.7–3.2)                                                 | 2.6<br>(2.4–2.9)   | 2.8<br>(2.5–3.1)  | 2.7<br>(2.2–3.2) | 2.5<br>(2.0–2.9) | 4.7<br>(3.5–5.9)  | 4.0<br>(2.5–5.5) | 3.3<br>(1.9–4.6) | 2.9<br>(2.7–3.0)         |
| Missing (n)                        | 13,707                                                           | 7,799              | 5,541             | 3,188            | 2,744            | 1,062             | 916              | 424              | 35,380                   |

(a) Includes encounters that were recorded as claimable from the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). MBS—Medicare Benefits Schedule.

**Table A4.5a: Characteristics of the patients at encounters by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Patient variable                    | Per cent of encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--|
|                                     | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                              | Vic<br>(n=114,000)  | Qld<br>(n=93,300)   | WA<br>(n=41,200)    | SA<br>(n=38,100)    | Tas<br>(n=13,300)   | ACT<br>(n=7,800)    | NT<br>(n=5,200)     | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |  |
| Sex (missing)                       | (2,105)                                                                         | (1,333)             | (989)               | (483)               | (403)               | (178)               | (117)               | (44)                | (5,652)                  |  |
| Males                               | 41.6<br>(41.0–42.1)                                                             | 39.6<br>(38.8–40.3) | 40.6<br>(39.8–41.4) | 41.0<br>(39.7–42.2) | 41.9<br>(40.7–43.1) | 39.9<br>(37.5–42.3) | 39.4<br>(36.5–42.1) | 45.3<br>(41.0–49.5) | 40.9<br>(40.5–41.2)      |  |
| Females                             | 58.5<br>(57.9–59.0)                                                             | 60.4<br>(59.7–61.2) | 59.4<br>(58.6–60.2) | 59.0<br>(57.8–60.3) | 58.1<br>(56.9–59.3) | 60.1<br>(57.7–62.5) | 60.7<br>(57.9–63.5) | 54.8<br>(50.5–59.0) | 59.1<br>(58.8–59.5)      |  |
| Age group (missing)                 | (1,645)                                                                         | (1,037)             | (771)               | (308)               | (326)               | (114)               | (81)                | (72)                | (4,354)                  |  |
| <1 year                             | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.3)                                                                | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.0)    | 2.4<br>(2.3–2.6)    | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.2)    | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0)    | 2.0<br>(1.6–2.3)    | 2.4<br>(1.8–2.9)    | 2.2<br>(1.6–2.9)    | 2.1<br>(2.1–2.2)         |  |
| 1–4 years                           | 5.1<br>(4.9–5.3)                                                                | 4.5<br>(4.2–4.7)    | 5.1<br>(4.9–5.4)    | 4.7<br>(4.3–5.0)    | 4.7<br>(4.3–5.0)    | 3.9<br>(3.4–4.4)    | 5.4<br>(4.6–6.3)    | 6.7<br>(5.2–8.3)    | 4.9<br>(4.8–5.0)         |  |
| 5–14 years                          | 6.3<br>(6.1–6.5)                                                                | 6.2<br>(5.9–6.4)    | 7.0<br>(6.7–7.3)    | 6.3<br>(5.9–6.7)    | 6.4<br>(6.0–6.9)    | 6.2<br>(5.5–6.8)    | 7.4<br>(6.3–8.6)    | 7.5<br>(6.1–8.9)    | 6.4<br>(6.3–6.6)         |  |
| 15–24 years                         | 9.4<br>(9.1–9.7)                                                                | 9.9<br>(9.5–10.2)   | 10.3<br>(9.9–10.8)  | 10.4<br>(9.8–11.0)  | 9.9<br>(9.3–10.5)   | 10.5<br>(9.5–11.6)  | 12.7<br>(11.1–14.2) | 10.2<br>(9.1–11.4)  | 9.9<br>(9.7–10.1)        |  |
| 25–44 years                         | 25.6<br>(25.1–26.1)                                                             | 26.3<br>(25.7–27.0) | 25.6<br>(25.3–26.4) | 26.3<br>(25.3–27.3) | 25.9<br>(24.9–26.9) | 24.8<br>(23.3–26.2) | 28.2<br>(25.8–30.5) | 34.7<br>(32.4–37.0) | 25.9<br>(25.6–26.2)      |  |
| 45–64 years                         | 25.5<br>(25.2–25.9)                                                             | 25.2<br>(24.7–25.7) | 25.9<br>(25.3–26.4) | 26.4<br>(25.6–27.2) | 25.6<br>(24.8–26.4) | 26.3<br>(25.1–27.5) | 25.6<br>(23.7–27.5) | 28.4<br>(25.5–31.2) | 25.7<br>(25.4–25.9)      |  |
| 65–74 years                         | 12.5<br>(12.2–12.9)                                                             | 12.5<br>(12.0–12.9) | 11.4<br>(10.9–11.8) | 11.9<br>(11.2–12.6) | 12.2<br>(11.5–12.9) | 12.4<br>(11.3–13.4) | 9.1<br>(7.5–10.7)   | 6.4<br>(5.3–7.5)    | 12.1<br>(11.9–12.3)      |  |
| 75+ years                           | 13.3<br>(12.8–13.9)                                                             | 13.6<br>(13.0–14.3) | 12.4<br>(11.6–13.1) | 12.0<br>(11.0–12.9) | 13.5<br>(12.3–14.7) | 14.0<br>(12.5–15.4) | 9.2<br>(7.1–11.3)   | 3.8<br>(2.8–4.8)    | 13.0<br>(12.7–13.3)      |  |
| Other characteristics               |                                                                                 |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |  |
| New patient to practice             | 9.2<br>(8.7–9.7)                                                                | 8.3<br>(7.7–8.9)    | 11.1<br>(10.2–11.9) | 8.2<br>(7.2–9.1)    | 8.4<br>(7.2–9.7)    | 6.4<br>(5.2–7.6)    | 10.7<br>(8.1–13.3)  | 16.1<br>(13.0–19.2) | 9.2<br>(8.9–9.5)         |  |
| Commonwealth Concession Card holder | 36.9<br>(35.8–37.8)                                                             | 40.3<br>(39.1–41.4) | 40.6<br>(39.3–41.9) | 39.5<br>(37.5–41.5) | 45.9<br>(43.8–47.9) | 50.1<br>(46.6–53.7) | 26.0<br>(22.3–29.8) | 23.8<br>(19.2–28.3) | 39.3<br>(38.7–39.9)      |  |

(continued)

**Table A4.5a (continued): Characteristics of the patients at encounters by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Patient variable                                | Per cent of encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                    |                          |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
|                                                 | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                              | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)    | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Repatriation Health Card holder                 | 3.5<br>(3.3–3.7)                                                                | 3.3<br>(3.1–3.5)   | 3.9<br>(3.6–4.1)  | 2.9<br>(2.5–3.2) | 3.1<br>(2.7–3.4) | 4.9<br>(4.0–5.7)  | 2.9<br>(2.1–3.6) | 1.4<br>(0.9–1.8)   | 3.4<br>(3.3–3.5)         |
| Non-English-speaking background                 | 12.2<br>(11.2–13.2)                                                             | 9.9<br>(8.8–10.9)  | 4.0<br>(3.3–4.7)  | 6.1<br>(4.9–7.3) | 6.1<br>(4.7–7.5) | 1.3<br>(0.8–1.8)  | 5.1<br>(3.6–6.7) | 12.9<br>(8.1–17.8) | 8.8<br>(8.3–9.9)         |
| Aboriginal person and/or Torres Strait Islander | 0.8<br>(0.7–1.0)                                                                | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.5)   | 1.6<br>(1.2–2.1)  | 2.6<br>(1.5–3.6) | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.4) | 0.6<br>(0.3–0.8)  | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6) | 8.6<br>(4.2–13.0)  | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2)         |

(a) Missing data removed.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample).

**Table A4.5b: Characteristics of the patients at encounters by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Patient variable                                | Per cent of encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|                                                 | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                              | Vic<br>(n=114,000)  | Qld<br>(n=93,300)   | WA<br>(n=41,200)    | SA<br>(n=38,100)    | Tas<br>(n=13,300)   | ACT<br>(n=7,800)    | NT<br>(n=5,200)     | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Other characteristics                           |                                                                                 |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
| New patient to practice                         | 9.4<br>(8.9–9.9)                                                                | 8.5<br>(7.8–9.1)    | 11.0<br>(10.2–11.9) | 8.3<br>(7.3–9.2)    | 8.7<br>(7.4–10.0)   | 6.6<br>(5.3–7.8)    | 9.9<br>(7.5–12.4)   | 14.4<br>(11.5–17.3) | 9.3<br>(9.0–9.6)         |
| Commonwealth Concession Card holder             | 36.0<br>(35.0–37.0)                                                             | 39.4<br>(38.2–40.6) | 40.7<br>(39.3–42.0) | 39.4<br>(37.4–41.3) | 45.1<br>(43.0–47.2) | 49.8<br>(46.2–53.4) | 27.9<br>(24.1–31.7) | 30.7<br>(25.5–35.9) | 38.8<br>(38.2–39.4)      |
| Repatriation Health Card holder                 | 3.0<br>(2.9–3.2)                                                                | 2.8<br>(2.6–3.0)    | 3.6<br>(3.3–3.9)    | 2.7<br>(2.4–3.1)    | 2.7<br>(2.4–3.0)    | 4.1<br>(3.4–4.8)    | 3.3<br>(2.5–4.2)    | 2.9<br>(2.1–3.7)    | 3.1<br>(3.0–3.2)         |
| Non-English-speaking background                 | 12.3<br>(11.3–13.4)                                                             | 9.9<br>(8.8–11.0)   | 4.0<br>(3.4–4.7)    | 6.1<br>(4.9–7.3)    | 6.0<br>(4.6–7.4)    | 1.3<br>(0.8–1.7)    | 5.3<br>(3.7–6.9)    | 13.5<br>(8.5–18.5)  | 8.9<br>(8.3–9.4)         |
| Aboriginal person and/or Torres Strait Islander | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.0)                                                                | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5)    | 1.6<br>(1.2–2.1)    | 2.6<br>(1.6–3.7)    | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.5)    | 0.6<br>(0.3–0.8)    | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6)    | 8.3<br>(4.0–12.5)   | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)         |

(a) Missing data removed.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample).

**Table A4.6a: Distribution of patient reasons for encounter across ICPC-2 chapter, by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Patient reasons for encounter | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|                               | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)  | Qld<br>(n=93,300)   | WA<br>(n=41,200)    | SA<br>(n=38,100)    | Tas<br>(n=13,300)   | ACT<br>(n=7,800)    | NT<br>(n=5,200)     | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| General & unspecified         | 31.4<br>(30.8–32.1)                                                              | 30.5<br>(29.8–31.3) | 31.8<br>(30.9–32.6) | 30.5<br>(29.2–31.7) | 29.9<br>(28.6–31.2) | 32.8<br>(30.4–35.3) | 29.5<br>(26.7–32.2) | 32.3<br>(28.7–35.8) | 31.1<br>(30.7–31.5)      |
| Respiratory                   | 23.9<br>(23.4–24.4)                                                              | 23.3<br>(22.6–23.9) | 21.1<br>(20.5–21.8) | 20.5<br>(19.5–21.5) | 22.3<br>(21.2–23.4) | 19.1<br>(17.5–20.6) | 25.4<br>(22.9–27.9) | 20.3<br>(17.9–22.6) | 22.7<br>(22.4–23.0)      |
| Musculoskeletal               | 17.2<br>(16.8–17.6)                                                              | 16.6<br>(16.1–17.1) | 16.2<br>(15.5–16.9) | 17.6<br>(16.7–18.5) | 17.1<br>(16.2–18.0) | 18.3<br>(16.6–20.1) | 18.2<br>(14.8–21.5) | 15.9<br>(13.8–18.0) | 16.9<br>(16.7–17.2)      |
| Skin                          | 14.3<br>(14.0–14.6)                                                              | 14.3<br>(13.9–14.7) | 17.4<br>(16.9–18.0) | 15.0<br>(14.4–15.5) | 13.9<br>(13.4–14.5) | 15.0<br>(13.0–17.0) | 14.3<br>(12.9–15.7) | 16.9<br>(15.3–18.5) | 15.0<br>(14.8–15.2)      |
| Circulatory                   | 12.6<br>(12.2–13.0)                                                              | 12.1<br>(11.7–12.6) | 9.5<br>(9.1–10.0)   | 10.1<br>(9.4–10.7)  | 10.6<br>(9.9–11.2)  | 10.9<br>(9.6–12.2)  | 9.2<br>(7.7–10.7)   | 6.8<br>(5.1–8.4)    | 11.4<br>(11.2–11.6)      |
| Digestive                     | 10.9<br>(10.7–11.2)                                                              | 10.4<br>(10.1–10.6) | 9.8<br>(9.5–10.1)   | 10.1<br>(9.6–10.6)  | 10.0<br>(9.4–10.5)  | 9.0<br>(8.2–9.7)    | 10.5<br>(9.5–11.6)  | 11.1<br>(9.7–12.5)  | 10.4<br>(10.3–10.5)      |
| Psychological                 | 7.8<br>(7.4–8.2)                                                                 | 8.7<br>(8.2–9.2)    | 7.4<br>(7.0–7.8)    | 7.8<br>(7.2–8.3)    | 8.9<br>(8.0–9.8)    | 8.4<br>(7.1–9.7)    | 7.9<br>(6.5–9.3)    | 7.2<br>(5.8–8.5)    | 8.0<br>(7.8–8.2)         |
| Female genital system         | 6.2<br>(5.9–6.5)                                                                 | 6.6<br>(6.1–7.0)    | 6.5<br>(6.0–7.0)    | 6.9<br>(6.3–7.5)    | 5.8<br>(5.2–6.4)    | 5.7<br>(4.8–6.7)    | 7.1<br>(5.8–8.4)    | 6.2<br>(4.5–7.9)    | 6.4<br>(6.2–6.6)         |
| Endocrine & metabolic         | 6.1<br>(5.9–6.3)                                                                 | 6.3<br>(5.9–6.6)    | 5.3<br>(4.9–5.6)    | 6.3<br>(5.9–6.7)    | 5.9<br>(5.5–6.4)    | 5.4<br>(4.8–6.0)    | 5.2<br>(4.2–6.1)    | 4.9<br>(3.8–5.9)    | 6.0<br>(5.8–6.1)         |
| Neurological                  | 5.7<br>(5.5–5.9)                                                                 | 5.5<br>(5.3–5.8)    | 5.1<br>(4.9–5.3)    | 5.1<br>(4.8–5.4)    | 5.6<br>(5.2–6.0)    | 5.2<br>(4.6–5.7)    | 5.6<br>(4.8–6.3)    | 5.3<br>(4.5–6.0)    | 5.5<br>(5.4–5.6)         |
| Ear                           | 4.0<br>(3.9–4.1)                                                                 | 3.9<br>(3.7–4.0)    | 4.3<br>(4.1–4.5)    | 4.2<br>(4.0–4.5)    | 4.4<br>(4.1–4.6)    | 3.7<br>(3.3–4.2)    | 4.2<br>(3.5–4.8)    | 5.4<br>(4.6–6.2)    | 4.1<br>(4.0–4.2)         |
| Pregnancy & family planning   | 3.6<br>(3.4–3.8)                                                                 | 4.0<br>(3.7–4.3)    | 4.2<br>(3.9–4.6)    | 4.4<br>(3.9–4.9)    | 3.3<br>(2.9–3.7)    | 3.5<br>(2.7–4.2)    | 4.5<br>(3.6–5.5)    | 4.9<br>(3.9–5.9)    | 3.9<br>(3.7–4.0)         |
| Eye                           | 2.8<br>(2.7–2.9)                                                                 | 2.6<br>(2.5–2.7)    | 2.5<br>(2.4–2.6)    | 2.9<br>(2.7–3.1)    | 2.9<br>(2.6–3.1)    | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.3)    | 2.7<br>(2.3–3.1)    | 2.6<br>(2.1–3.1)    | 2.7<br>(2.6–2.7)         |
| Urology                       | 2.6<br>(2.5–2.7)                                                                 | 2.6<br>(2.4–2.7)    | 2.4<br>(2.3–2.5)    | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.7)    | 2.5<br>(2.2–2.6)    | 2.5<br>(2.2–2.9)    | 2.5<br>(2.1–2.9)    | 2.4<br>(1.9–2.8)    | 2.5<br>(2.5–2.6)         |

(continued)

**Table A4.6a (continued): Distribution of patient reasons for encounter across ICPC-2 chapter, by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Patient reasons for encounter | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                               | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Blood                         | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)   | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)  | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.8) | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0) | 1.7<br>(1.4–2.0)  | 1.9<br>(1.4–2.3) | 1.4<br>(0.9–1.8) | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.6)         |
| Social                        | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)   | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.3)  | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.2) | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.6) | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.6)  | 0.7<br>(0.5–1.0) | 1.0<br>(0.6–1.3) | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)         |
| Male genital system           | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)   | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)  | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.5) | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1) | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)  | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.1) | 1.4<br>(1.0–1.8) | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)         |
| <b>Total RFEs (n)</b>         | <b>289,522</b>                                                                   | <b>171,624</b>     | <b>137,290</b>    | <b>60,862</b>    | <b>56,027</b>    | <b>19,309</b>     | <b>11,711</b>    | <b>7,580</b>     | <b>753,925</b>           |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one RFE can be recorded at each encounter.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). RFEs—reasons for encounter.

**Table A4.6b: Distribution of patient reasons for encounter across ICPC-2 chapter, by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Patient reasons for encounter | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|                               | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)  | Qld<br>(n=93,300)   | WA<br>(n=41,200)    | SA<br>(n=38,100)    | Tas<br>(n=13,300)   | ACT<br>(n=7,800)    | NT<br>(n=5,200)     | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| General & unspecified         | 31.1<br>(30.4–31.7)                                                              | 30.3<br>(29.5–31.0) | 31.6<br>(30.7–32.4) | 30.3<br>(29.1–31.6) | 29.6<br>(28.3–30.9) | 32.5<br>(30.2–34.8) | 30.4<br>(27.5–33.3) | 33.4<br>(29.3–37.5) | 30.9<br>(30.5–31.2)      |
| Respiratory                   | 24.5<br>(24.0–25.1)                                                              | 24.1<br>(23.4–24.8) | 21.4<br>(20.8–22.1) | 21.1<br>(20.0–22.1) | 23.1<br>(22.0–24.3) | 19.8<br>(18.2–21.3) | 25.3<br>(22.9–27.8) | 20.8<br>(18.5–23.2) | 23.3<br>(23.0–23.6)      |
| Musculoskeletal               | 17.1<br>(16.7–17.4)                                                              | 16.3<br>(15.8–16.8) | 16.2<br>(15.4–16.9) | 17.4<br>(16.5–18.3) | 16.8<br>(15.9–17.7) | 18.0<br>(16.2–19.7) | 18.1<br>(14.9–21.3) | 16.2<br>(13.9–18.5) | 16.8<br>(16.5–17.0)      |
| Skin                          | 14.4<br>(14.1–14.7)                                                              | 14.4<br>(14.0–14.8) | 17.5<br>(16.9–18.1) | 15.1<br>(14.5–15.6) | 14.0<br>(13.4–14.5) | 15.2<br>(13.2–17.1) | 14.1<br>(12.7–15.4) | 16.4<br>(14.9–18.0) | 15.0<br>(14.8–15.2)      |
| Circulatory                   | 12.0<br>(11.6–12.4)                                                              | 11.5<br>(11.1–12.0) | 9.5<br>(9.0–9.9)    | 9.9<br>(9.2–10.5)   | 10.0<br>(9.4–10.7)  | 10.1<br>(8.9–11.4)  | 10.5<br>(8.8–12.1)  | 8.8<br>(6.3–11.2)   | 11.0<br>(10.8–11.2)      |
| Digestive                     | 11.0<br>(10.8–11.3)                                                              | 10.5<br>(10.2–10.7) | 9.9<br>(9.6–10.2)   | 10.2<br>(9.7–10.6)  | 10.0<br>(9.4–10.6)  | 9.0<br>(8.2–9.8)    | 10.4<br>(9.4–11.4)  | 10.6<br>(9.2–12.0)  | 10.5<br>(10.3–10.6)      |
| Psychological                 | 7.7<br>(7.3–8.1)                                                                 | 8.5<br>(8.0–9.0)    | 7.3<br>(6.9–7.7)    | 7.6<br>(7.1–8.1)    | 8.7<br>(7.8–9.6)    | 8.3<br>(7.0–9.6)    | 7.9<br>(6.5–9.2)    | 7.2<br>(5.6–8.7)    | 7.9<br>(7.7–8.1)         |

(continued)

**Table A4.6b (continued): Distribution of patient reasons for encounter across ICPC-2 chapter, by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Patient reasons for encounter | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                               | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Female genital system         | 6.2<br>(5.9–6.5)                                                                 | 6.5<br>(6.1–6.9)   | 6.5<br>(6.0–7.0)  | 6.7<br>(6.1–7.3) | 5.8<br>(5.2–6.4) | 5.7<br>(4.8–6.6)  | 6.7<br>(5.5–7.8) | 5.4<br>(3.9–6.9) | 6.3<br>(6.1–6.5)         |
| Endocrine & metabolic         | 6.0<br>(5.8–6.2)                                                                 | 6.1<br>(5.8–6.5)   | 5.3<br>(4.9–5.6)  | 6.2<br>(5.8–6.6) | 5.8<br>(5.4–6.2) | 5.3<br>(4.7–5.8)  | 5.5<br>(4.4–6.6) | 5.2<br>(4.1–6.3) | 5.9<br>(5.7–6.0)         |
| Neurological                  | 5.7<br>(5.5–5.8)                                                                 | 5.5<br>(5.3–5.7)   | 5.1<br>(4.9–5.3)  | 5.0<br>(4.7–5.3) | 5.5<br>(5.2–5.9) | 5.2<br>(4.6–5.7)  | 5.5<br>(4.8–6.2) | 5.7<br>(4.6–6.8) | 5.5<br>(5.4–5.6)         |
| Ear                           | 4.2<br>(4.0–4.3)                                                                 | 4.1<br>(4.0–4.3)   | 4.4<br>(4.2–4.6)  | 4.5<br>(4.2–4.8) | 4.6<br>(4.3–4.9) | 4.0<br>(3.6–4.5)  | 4.1<br>(3.5–4.8) | 4.1<br>(4.2–5.9) | 4.3<br>(4.2–4.3)         |
| Pregnancy & family planning   | 3.6<br>(3.4–3.7)                                                                 | 3.8<br>(3.5–4.1)   | 4.1<br>(3.8–4.4)  | 4.2<br>(3.7–4.6) | 3.3<br>(2.9–3.6) | 3.4<br>(2.7–4.1)  | 3.8<br>(3.0–4.6) | 3.9<br>(3.1–4.7) | 3.8<br>(3.6–3.9)         |
| Eye                           | 2.8<br>(2.7–2.9)                                                                 | 2.6<br>(2.5–2.7)   | 2.5<br>(2.4–2.6)  | 3.0<br>(2.8–3.2) | 2.9<br>(2.7–3.1) | 2.1<br>(1.8–2.3)  | 2.8<br>(2.4–3.2) | 2.5<br>(2.0–3.1) | 2.7<br>(2.6–2.7)         |
| Urology                       | 2.6<br>(2.5–2.7)                                                                 | 2.5<br>(2.4–2.6)   | 2.4<br>(2.3–2.5)  | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.7) | 2.4<br>(2.2–2.6) | 2.5<br>(2.2–2.8)  | 2.6<br>(2.1–3.0) | 2.7<br>(1.9–3.4) | 2.5<br>(2.5–2.6)         |
| Blood                         | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)   | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)  | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.7) | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.9) | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.9)  | 2.0<br>(1.5–2.5) | 1.6<br>(1.0–2.2) | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.6)         |
| Social                        | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)   | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)  | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1) | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.6) | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.6)  | 0.7<br>(0.5–0.9) | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.1) | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)         |
| Male genital system           | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)   | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2)  | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.5) | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1) | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)  | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.2) | 1.7<br>(1.1–2.3) | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)         |
| <b>Total RFEs (n)</b>         | <b>286,045</b>                                                                   | <b>169,492</b>     | <b>136,163</b>    | <b>60,260</b>    | <b>55,386</b>    | <b>19,051</b>     | <b>11,671</b>    | <b>7,589</b>     | <b>745,656</b>           |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one RFE can be recorded at each encounter.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). RFEs—reasons for encounter.

**Table A4.7a: Most frequent patient reasons for encounter by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Patient reasons for encounter     | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|                                   | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)  | Qld<br>(n=93,300)   | WA<br>(n=41,200)    | SA<br>(n=38,100)    | Tas<br>(n=13,300)   | ACT<br>(n=7,800)    | NT<br>(n=5,200)     | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Check-up—all*                     | 14.4<br>(13.9–14.8)                                                              | 15.5<br>(14.8–16.1) | 15.0<br>(14.3–15.6) | 14.2<br>(13.3–15.0) | 13.6<br>(12.7–14.4) | 13.9<br>(12.4–15.4) | 12.0<br>(10.4–13.7) | 14.1<br>(11.5–16.7) | 14.6<br>(14.3–14.9)      |
| Prescription—all*                 | 10.1<br>(9.7–10.5)                                                               | 9.4<br>(8.9–9.9)    | 9.7<br>(9.2–10.1)   | 10.6<br>(9.9–11.4)  | 10.2<br>(9.3–11.1)  | 11.4<br>(10.1–12.7) | 8.6<br>(7.2–10.0)   | 8.1<br>(6.3–9.9)    | 9.9<br>(9.7–10.1)        |
| Cough                             | 6.7<br>(6.4–6.9)                                                                 | 6.1<br>(5.8–6.4)    | 5.6<br>(5.3–5.9)    | 5.3<br>(4.9–5.7)    | 5.9<br>(5.3–6.5)    | 5.1<br>(4.4–5.7)    | 6.5<br>(5.3–7.7)    | 6.6<br>(5.4–7.8)    | 6.1<br>(6.0–6.3)         |
| Immunisation/vaccination—all*     | 4.7<br>(4.4–5.0)                                                                 | 4.4<br>(4.0–4.9)    | 4.9<br>(4.4–5.3)    | 4.8<br>(3.9–5.7)    | 3.5<br>(2.9–4.1)    | 4.9<br>(3.8–6.0)    | 4.8<br>(3.2–6.4)    | 2.1<br>(0.2–4.0)    | 4.6<br>(4.4–4.8)         |
| Test results*                     | 4.7<br>(4.5–5.0)                                                                 | 4.4<br>(4.1–4.6)    | 4.9<br>(4.6–5.1)    | 5.0<br>(4.6–5.5)    | 3.5<br>(3.1–3.9)    | 3.8<br>(3.0–4.5)    | 4.2<br>(3.2–5.3)    | 4.1<br>(2.6–5.6)    | 4.6<br>(4.4–4.7)         |
| Back complaint*                   | 3.6<br>(3.5–3.8)                                                                 | 3.5<br>(3.3–3.7)    | 3.4<br>(3.1–3.7)    | 3.6<br>(3.2–4.0)    | 3.5<br>(3.2–3.8)    | 3.8<br>(3.3–4.3)    | 3.3<br>(2.7–3.9)    | 3.2<br>(2.4–4.0)    | 3.5<br>(3.4–3.6)         |
| Throat complaint                  | 3.8<br>(3.7–4.0)                                                                 | 3.7<br>(3.5–3.9)    | 3.1<br>(2.9–3.3)    | 2.9<br>(2.6–3.2)    | 3.7<br>(3.3–4.0)    | 2.7<br>(2.2–3.1)    | 3.8<br>(3.0–4.6)    | 3.3<br>(2.6–3.9)    | 3.5<br>(3.4–3.6)         |
| Rash*                             | 2.7<br>(2.7–2.9)                                                                 | 2.7<br>(2.6–2.9)    | 2.7<br>(2.6–2.9)    | 2.7<br>(2.5–2.9)    | 2.6<br>(2.4–2.8)    | 2.7<br>(2.3–3.1)    | 3.1<br>(2.6–3.6)    | 3.3<br>(2.5–4.1)    | 2.7<br>(2.7–2.8)         |
| Upper respiratory tract infection | 2.3<br>(2.1–2.4)                                                                 | 2.7<br>(2.4–2.9)    | 2.2<br>(1.9–2.5)    | 2.1<br>(1.7–2.5)    | 2.4<br>(2.0–2.8)    | 1.7<br>(1.1–2.4)    | 3.2<br>(2.0–4.3)    | 1.6<br>(0.9–2.3)    | 2.3<br>(2.2–2.5)         |
| Abdominal pain*                   | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.3)                                                                 | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.2)    | 1.9<br>(1.8–2.0)    | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.3)    | 2.1<br>(1.8–2.3)    | 1.9<br>(1.6–2.2)    | 2.3<br>(1.9–2.8)    | 2.2<br>(1.7–2.7)    | 2.1<br>(2.0–2.1)         |
| Depression*                       | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.1)                                                                 | 2.2<br>(2.0–2.4)    | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.1)    | 2.2<br>(1.9–2.4)    | 2.2<br>(1.9–2.6)    | 2.0<br>(1.5–2.5)    | 2.5<br>(1.9–3.0)    | 1.6<br>(1.2–2.0)    | 2.1<br>(2.0–2.2)         |
| Hypertension/high blood pressure* | 2.4<br>(2.1–2.6)                                                                 | 2.1<br>(1.8–2.5)    | 1.6<br>(1.2–1.9)    | 1.8<br>(1.3–2.3)    | 1.8<br>(1.3–2.3)    | 1.8<br>(0.8–2.8)    | 2.0<br>(0.7–3.3)    | 1.0<br>(0.2–1.7)    | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.2)         |
| Headache                          | 2.2<br>(2.0–2.3)                                                                 | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.0)    | 1.8<br>(1.6–1.9)    | 1.8<br>(1.7–2.0)    | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.1)    | 1.7<br>(1.4–2.1)    | 2.3<br>(1.8–2.8)    | 2.0<br>(1.4–2.6)    | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.0)         |
| Fever                             | 2.2<br>(2.0–2.4)                                                                 | 1.7<br>(1.4–1.9)    | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.0)    | 1.5<br>(1.2–1.8)    | 1.7<br>(1.2–2.3)    | 1.2<br>(0.7–1.6)    | 2.0<br>(1.3–2.7)    | 3.0<br>(2.1–3.9)    | 1.9<br>(1.8–2.0)         |

(continued)

**Table A4.7a (continued): Most frequent patient reasons for encounter by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Patient reasons for encounter | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                               | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Ear pain                      | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.8)                                                                 | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)   | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.0)  | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.9) | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.9) | 1.4<br>(1.1–1.7)  | 1.7<br>(1.2–2.3) | 3.0<br>(2.4–3.7) | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.7)         |
| Weakness/tiredness            | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)                                                                 | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.8)   | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.8)  | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.9) | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.9) | 1.4<br>(1.1–1.7)  | 1.7<br>(1.3–2.2) | 1.8<br>(1.1–2.4) | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)         |
| Skin complaint                | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)   | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.8)  | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.7) | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.5) | 1.4<br>(1.1–1.8)  | 1.1<br>(0.6–1.6) | 1.5<br>(1.0–2.0) | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)         |
| Knee complaint                | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)   | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)  | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.7) | 1.4<br>(1.1–1.7) | 1.5<br>(1.0–2.0)  | 1.8<br>(0.0–3.6) | 1.4<br>(0.9–2.0) | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.4)         |
| Sneeze/nasal congestion       | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.9)                                                                 | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.4)   | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.3)  | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.2) | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.5) | 0.9<br>(0.4–1.3)  | 1.3<br>(0.6–2.0) | 1.4<br>(0.5–2.4) | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.5)         |
| Diarrhoea                     | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)   | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)  | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.4) | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6) | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.2)  | 1.5<br>(1.1–1.9) | 2.3<br>(1.7–2.8) | 1.3<br>(1.3–1.4)         |
| Pain, chest NOS               | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)                                                                 | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)   | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)  | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.3) | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2) | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.3)  | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.6) | 1.5<br>(1.1–1.9) | 1.2<br>(1.2–1.3)         |
| Sleep disturbance             | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)                                                                 | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4)   | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)  | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.5) | 1.4<br>(1.1–1.7) | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.7)  | 1.0<br>(0.5–1.4) | 1.4<br>(0.9–1.9) | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)         |
| Administrative procedure NOS  | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.5)   | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)  | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.4) | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.6) | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.7)  | 1.3<br>(0.8–1.7) | 1.5<br>(0.9–2.1) | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)         |
| Foot/toe complaint            | 1.2<br>(1.2–1.3)                                                                 | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)   | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)  | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3) | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.3) | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.7)  | 1.2<br>(0.7–1.6) | 1.4<br>(1.0–1.9) | 1.2<br>(1.2–1.2)         |
| Vertigo/dizziness             | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.3)                                                                 | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)   | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)  | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.2) | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.4) | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.2)  | 1.0<br>(0.6–1.3) | 0.9<br>(0.4–1.4) | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.2)         |
| Asthma                        | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)                                                                 | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4)   | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.3)  | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.2) | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.4) | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.2)  | 1.2<br>(0.7–1.7) | 1.2<br>(0.5–1.9) | 1.1<br>(1.1–1.2)         |
| Neck complaint                | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)   | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.4)  | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.5) | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.3) | 1.4<br>(0.9–1.8)  | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.4) | 0.8<br>(0.3–1.2) | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)         |
| Swelling*                     | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)                                                                 | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)   | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)  | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3) | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.3) | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.2)  | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.5) | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.6) | 1.1<br>(1.1–1.2)         |

(continued)

**Table A4.7a (continued): Most frequent patient reasons for encounter by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Patient reasons for encounter | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                               | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Shoulder complaint            | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)   | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2)  | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.4) | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.3) | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.6)  | 1.1<br>(0.3–1.8) | 1.3<br>(0.8–1.7) | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)         |
| Anxiety*                      | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.4)   | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.0)  | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.1) | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.6) | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.6)  | 0.9<br>(0.3–1.5) | 0.7<br>(0.0–1.6) | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)         |
| Subtotal (n)                  | 156,691                                                                          | 93,644             | 74,829            | 33,008           | 30,136           | 9,852             | 6,312            | 4,126            | 412,625                  |
| <b>Total RFEs (n)</b>         | <b>289,522</b>                                                                   | <b>171,624</b>     | <b>137,290</b>    | <b>60,862</b>    | <b>56,027</b>    | <b>19,309</b>     | <b>11,711</b>    | <b>7,580</b>     | <b>753,925</b>           |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one RFE can be recorded at each encounter.

\* Includes multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 5).

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). NOS—not otherwise specified; RFEs—reasons for encounter.

**Table A4.7b: Most frequent patient reasons for encounter by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Patient reasons for encounter | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|                               | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)  | Qld<br>(n=93,300)   | WA<br>(n=41,200)    | SA<br>(n=38,100)    | Tas<br>(n=13,300)   | ACT<br>(n=7,800)    | NT<br>(n=5,200)     | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Check-up—all*                 | 14.0<br>(13.5–14.4)                                                              | 14.9<br>(14.3–15.5) | 14.8<br>(14.2–15.5) | 13.9<br>(13.0–14.7) | 13.2<br>(12.3–14.0) | 13.4<br>(11.9–14.8) | 12.4<br>(10.7–14.2) | 14.7<br>(11.9–17.5) | 14.2<br>(14.0–14.5)      |
| Prescription—all*             | 9.8<br>(9.4–10.1)                                                                | 9.1<br>(8.6–9.5)    | 9.6<br>(9.2–10.1)   | 10.4<br>(9.6–11.1)  | 9.9<br>(9.0–10.7)   | 10.9<br>(9.6–12.1)  | 9.3<br>(7.8–10.8)   | 9.5<br>(7.3–11.6)   | 9.7<br>(9.4–9.9)         |
| Cough                         | 6.9<br>(6.7–7.2)                                                                 | 6.5<br>(6.1–6.8)    | 5.8<br>(5.4–6.1)    | 5.6<br>(5.2–6.1)    | 6.3<br>(5.7–6.9)    | 5.4<br>(4.7–6.1)    | 6.5<br>(5.3–7.7)    | 6.4<br>(5.3–7.6)    | 6.4<br>(6.2–6.5)         |
| Immunisation/vaccination—all* | 4.8<br>(4.5–5.0)                                                                 | 4.6<br>(4.2–5.0)    | 4.9<br>(4.5–5.3)    | 5.0<br>(4.1–5.9)    | 3.6<br>(3.0–4.2)    | 5.1<br>(4.1–6.2)    | 5.1<br>(3.3–7.0)    | 2.6<br>(0.0–5.6)    | 4.7<br>(4.5–4.8)         |
| Test results*                 | 4.7<br>(4.4–4.9)                                                                 | 4.3<br>(4.0–4.6)    | 4.8<br>(4.5–5.1)    | 5.0<br>(4.5–5.4)    | 3.5<br>(3.1–3.9)    | 3.7<br>(3.3–4.3)    | 4.5<br>(3.3–5.6)    | 4.3<br>(2.7–5.9)    | 4.5<br>(4.4–4.6)         |
| Throat complaint              | 4.1<br>(3.9–4.2)                                                                 | 3.9<br>(3.6–4.1)    | 3.2<br>(2.9–3.4)    | 3.0<br>(2.7–3.3)    | 3.9<br>(3.5–4.3)    | 2.8<br>(2.4–3.3)    | 3.6<br>(2.8–4.3)    | 3.2<br>(2.5–3.9)    | 3.7<br>(3.6–3.8)         |
| Back complaint*               | 3.6<br>(3.5–3.7)                                                                 | 3.4<br>(3.3–3.6)    | 3.4<br>(3.0–3.7)    | 3.5<br>(3.1–3.9)    | 3.4<br>(3.1–3.7)    | 3.8<br>(3.3–4.3)    | 3.3<br>(2.7–3.9)    | 3.1<br>(2.3–4.0)    | 3.5<br>(3.4–3.6)         |
| Rash*                         | 2.8<br>(2.7–2.9)                                                                 | 2.9<br>(2.7–3.0)    | 2.8<br>(2.6–2.9)    | 2.8<br>(2.5–3.0)    | 2.7<br>(2.5–2.9)    | 2.8<br>(2.5–3.2)    | 3.0<br>(2.5–3.6)    | 3.2<br>(2.4–4.0)    | 2.8<br>(2.8–2.9)         |

(continued)

Table A4.7b (continued): Most frequent patient reasons for encounter by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)

| Patient reasons for encounter     | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                   | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Upper respiratory tract infection | 2.4<br>(2.2–2.5)                                                                 | 2.9<br>(2.6–3.1)   | 2.3<br>(2.0–2.6)  | 2.2<br>(1.8–2.6) | 2.6<br>(2.1–3.0) | 1.9<br>(1.1–2.6)  | 3.0<br>(1.9–4.1) | 1.6<br>(0.9–2.3) | 2.4<br>(2.3–2.6)         |
| Abdominal pain*                   | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.3)                                                                 | 2.1<br>(2.0–2.2)   | 1.9<br>(1.8–2.0)  | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.3) | 2.1<br>(1.8–2.3) | 1.9<br>(1.6–2.2)  | 2.3<br>(1.8–2.7) | 2.1<br>(1.5–2.6) | 2.1<br>(2.0–2.2)         |
| Fever                             | 2.4<br>(2.1–2.6)                                                                 | 1.9<br>(1.6–2.1)   | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.1)  | 1.7<br>(1.4–2.0) | 2.0<br>(1.4–2.5) | 1.4<br>(0.8–1.9)  | 2.0<br>(1.3–2.7) | 2.8<br>(1.9–3.6) | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.2)         |
| Depression*                       | 1.9<br>(1.8–2.1)                                                                 | 2.2<br>(2.0–2.4)   | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.1)  | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.3) | 2.2<br>(1.9–2.5) | 2.0<br>(1.5–2.5)  | 2.4<br>(1.8–2.9) | 1.5<br>(1.0–1.9) | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.1)         |
| Headache                          | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.3)                                                                 | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.0)   | 1.8<br>(1.6–1.9)  | 1.8<br>(1.7–2.0) | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.1) | 1.8<br>(1.4–2.1)  | 2.2<br>(1.7–2.7) | 2.0<br>(1.3–2.6) | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.0)         |
| Hypertension/high blood pressure* | 2.3<br>(2.0–2.5)                                                                 | 2.0<br>(1.7–2.4)   | 1.6<br>(1.2–1.9)  | 1.7<br>(1.2–2.2) | 1.7<br>(1.2–2.2) | 1.7<br>(0.8–2.6)  | 2.2<br>(0.7–3.7) | 1.4<br>(0.0–2.9) | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.1)         |
| Ear pain                          | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)                                                                 | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.8)   | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.1)  | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.1) | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.1) | 1.6<br>(1.2–1.9)  | 1.7<br>(1.2–2.2) | 2.8<br>(2.2–3.4) | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)         |
| Weakness/tiredness                | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)                                                                 | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.8)   | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.8)  | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.8) | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.8) | 1.4<br>(1.0–1.7)  | 1.7<br>(1.3–2.1) | 1.9<br>(1.2–2.6) | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)         |
| Sneeze/nasal congestion           | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.6)   | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.4)  | 1.0<br>(0.6–1.3) | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.7) | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.4)  | 1.2<br>(0.5–1.9) | 1.4<br>(0.5–2.3) | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)         |
| Diarrhoea                         | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.5)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)   | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)  | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.4) | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6) | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.3)  | 1.5<br>(1.1–1.9) | 2.3<br>(1.6–3.0) | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.4)         |
| Skin complaint                    | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)   | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.8)  | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.7) | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.5) | 1.4<br>(1.1–1.8)  | 1.1<br>(0.6–1.6) | 1.5<br>(1.0–2.1) | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)         |
| Knee complaint                    | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.4)   | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)  | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.7) | 1.4<br>(1.1–1.6) | 1.5<br>(1.0–2.0)  | 1.7<br>(0.1–3.4) | 1.7<br>(0.8–2.5) | 1.3<br>(1.3–1.4)         |
| Pain, chest NOS                   | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.3)                                                                 | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)   | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)  | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3) | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2) | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.3)  | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.6) | 1.5<br>(1.0–2.1) | 1.2<br>(1.2–1.3)         |
| Foot/toe complaint                | 1.2<br>(1.2–1.3)                                                                 | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)   | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)  | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3) | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.3) | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.7)  | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.7) | 1.3<br>(0.8–1.7) | 1.2<br>(1.2–1.2)         |
| Sleep disturbance                 | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.4)                                                                 | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)   | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)  | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.5) | 1.4<br>(1.1–1.7) | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.6)  | 1.0<br>(0.5–1.6) | 1.5<br>(0.9–2.1) | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)         |

(continued)

**Table A4.7b (continued): Most frequent patient reasons for encounter by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Patient reasons for encounter | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                               | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Administrative procedure NOS  | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.5)   | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)  | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.3) | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.6) | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.7)  | 1.3<br>(0.8–1.8) | 1.4<br>(0.7–2.0) | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)         |
| Asthma                        | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.4)   | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.3)  | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.3) | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.4) | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.2)  | 1.2<br>(0.7–1.7) | 1.2<br>(0.5–1.9) | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.2)         |
| Vertigo/dizziness             | 1.2<br>(1.2–1.3)                                                                 | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)   | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)  | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.2) | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.3) | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.2)  | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.3) | 1.3<br>(0.2–2.4) | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.2)         |
| Vomiting                      | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)   | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2)  | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.3) | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.6) | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.2)  | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.2) | 1.4<br>(1.0–1.7) | 1.1<br>(1.1–1.2)         |
| Neck complaint                | 1.1<br>(1.1–1.2)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)   | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.4)  | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.4) | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.3) | 1.4<br>(0.9–1.8)  | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.4) | 0.8<br>(0.3–1.3) | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)         |
| Swelling*                     | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)                                                                 | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)   | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)  | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3) | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2) | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.2)  | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.5) | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.6) | 1.1<br>(1.1–1.2)         |
| Shoulder complaint            | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2)   | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2)  | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.3) | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.3) | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.6)  | 1.1<br>(0.4–1.9) | 1.4<br>(0.8–1.9) | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)         |
| <i>Subtotal (n)</i>           | <i>155,169</i>                                                                   | <i>92,884</i>      | <i>74,669</i>     | <i>32,889</i>    | <i>29,975</i>    | <i>10,143</i>     | <i>6,329</i>     | <i>4,243</i>     | <i>410,273</i>           |
| <b>Total RFEs (n)</b>         | <b>286,045</b>                                                                   | <b>169,492</b>     | <b>136,163</b>    | <b>60,260</b>    | <b>55,386</b>    | <b>19,051</b>     | <b>11,671</b>    | <b>7,589</b>     | <b>745,656</b>           |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one RFE can be recorded at each encounter.

\* Includes multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 5).

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). NOS—not otherwise specified; RFEs—reasons for encounter.

**Table A4.8a: Number of problems managed at an encounter by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Number of problems managed at encounter | Per cent of encounters, 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|                                         | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)  | Qld<br>(n=93,300)   | WA<br>(n=41,200)    | SA<br>(n=38,100)    | Tas<br>(n=13,300)   | ACT<br>(n=7,800)    | NT<br>(n=5,200)     | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| One problem                             | 64.5<br>(63.7–65.2)                                              | 63.7<br>(62.8–64.6) | 66.2<br>(65.2–67.2) | 64.5<br>(63.0–66.0) | 66.0<br>(64.4–67.6) | 65.6<br>(62.8–68.3) | 67.4<br>(63.8–71.0) | 64.2<br>(59.5–68.9) | 64.8<br>(64.4–65.3)      |
| Two problems                            | 24.7<br>(24.3–25.2)                                              | 25.3<br>(24.7–25.8) | 23.8<br>(23.2–24.4) | 24.8<br>(23.9–25.7) | 24.2<br>(23.2–25.2) | 24.3<br>(22.7–25.9) | 23.8<br>(21.3–26.3) | 25.2<br>(22.6–27.8) | 24.6<br>(24.4–24.9)      |
| Three problems                          | 8.3<br>(8.1–8.6)                                                 | 8.5<br>(8.2–8.9)    | 7.9<br>(7.5–8.3)    | 8.5<br>(7.9–9.1)    | 7.8<br>(7.2–8.4)    | 7.8<br>(6.7–8.9)    | 7.1<br>(5.8–8.4)    | 8.0<br>(6.1–9.9)    | 8.2<br>(8.1–8.4)         |
| Four problems                           | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.7)                                                 | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.7)    | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.3)    | 2.2<br>(1.9–2.6)    | 2.1<br>(1.8–2.4)    | 2.4<br>(1.8–3.0)    | 1.7<br>(1.2–2.2)    | 2.6<br>(1.3–3.9)    | 2.3<br>(2.2–2.4)         |

**Table A4.8b: Number of problems managed at an encounter by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Number of problems managed at encounter | Per cent of encounters, 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|                                         | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)  | Qld<br>(n=93,300)   | WA<br>(n=41,200)    | SA<br>(n=38,100)    | Tas<br>(n=13,300)   | ACT<br>(n=7,800)    | NT<br>(n=5,200)     | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| One problem                             | 65.2<br>(64.5–65.9)                                              | 64.5<br>(63.6–65.5) | 66.3<br>(65.3–67.3) | 64.9<br>(63.4–66.4) | 66.8<br>(65.2–68.4) | 66.6<br>(63.9–69.3) | 66.3<br>(62.6–70.0) | 60.7<br>(55.2–66.1) | 65.4<br>(64.9–65.8)      |
| Two problems                            | 24.4<br>(24.0–24.8)                                              | 24.9<br>(24.3–25.4) | 23.7<br>(23.2–24.3) | 24.6<br>(23.7–25.5) | 23.8<br>(22.8–24.8) | 23.7<br>(22.1–25.2) | 24.2<br>(21.7–26.7) | 26.6<br>(23.8–29.4) | 24.3<br>(24.1–24.6)      |
| Three problems                          | 8.1<br>(7.8–8.4)                                                 | 8.3<br>(7.9–8.6)    | 7.9<br>(7.5–8.3)    | 8.3<br>(7.7–8.9)    | 7.5<br>(6.9–8.1)    | 7.5<br>(6.5–8.6)    | 7.7<br>(6.3–9.1)    | 9.2<br>(6.6–11.7)   | 8.1<br>(7.9–8.2)         |
| Four problems                           | 2.4<br>(2.2–2.5)                                                 | 2.4<br>(2.1–2.6)    | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.3)    | 2.2<br>(1.9–2.5)    | 2.0<br>(1.7–2.3)    | 2.2<br>(1.6–2.8)    | 1.8<br>(1.3–2.4)    | 3.6<br>(1.8–5.4)    | 2.3<br>(2.2–2.4)         |

**Table A4.9a: Distribution of problems managed across ICPC-2 chapter, by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Problem managed             | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|                             | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)  | Qld<br>(n=93,300)   | WA<br>(n=41,200)    | SA<br>(n=38,100)    | Tas<br>(n=13,300)   | ACT<br>(n=7,800)    | NT<br>(n=5,200)     | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Respiratory                 | 22.2<br>(21.8–22.6)                                                              | 22.3<br>(21.8–22.9) | 20.7<br>(20.1–21.3) | 20.4<br>(19.5–21.3) | 21.6<br>(20.7–22.5) | 18.8<br>(17.4–20.2) | 24.1<br>(22.0–26.3) | 21.1<br>(18.8–23.3) | 21.7<br>(21.4–21.9)      |
| Musculoskeletal             | 17.5<br>(17.1–17.9)                                                              | 16.8<br>(16.3–17.3) | 16.8<br>(16.0–17.5) | 18.0<br>(17.2–18.9) | 18.1<br>(17.1–19.1) | 20.0<br>(18.4–21.5) | 17.8<br>(14.8–20.8) | 16.3<br>(14.4–18.3) | 17.4<br>(17.1–17.6)      |
| Skin                        | 15.9<br>(15.6–16.2)                                                              | 16.0<br>(15.6–16.4) | 19.1<br>(18.5–19.7) | 16.9<br>(16.3–17.5) | 15.5<br>(14.8–16.0) | 16.7<br>(14.6–18.7) | 14.9<br>(13.5–16.2) | 19.2<br>(17.7–20.7) | 16.6<br>(16.4–16.8)      |
| Circulatory                 | 17.9<br>(17.4–18.4)                                                              | 17.7<br>(17.0–18.3) | 14.3<br>(13.7–14.8) | 15.3<br>(14.4–16.2) | 15.7<br>(14.8–16.6) | 17.1<br>(15.4–18.7) | 12.9<br>(10.8–14.9) | 12.4<br>(9.9–14.8)  | 16.6<br>(16.3–16.9)      |
| General & unspecified       | 14.7<br>(14.4–15.1)                                                              | 14.8<br>(14.3–15.3) | 15.9<br>(15.4–16.5) | 14.9<br>(14.1–15.6) | 14.5<br>(13.7–15.3) | 15.7<br>(14.3–17.1) | 16.4<br>(14.7–18.1) | 16.0<br>(13.8–18.1) | 15.0<br>(14.8–15.3)      |
| Psychological               | 10.8<br>(10.4–11.3)                                                              | 12.4<br>(11.9–13.0) | 10.6<br>(10.1–11.1) | 11.0<br>(10.3–11.7) | 12.5<br>(11.5–13.5) | 13.1<br>(11.6–14.6) | 9.6<br>(8.2–11.0)   | 11.3<br>(9.2–13.3)  | 11.3<br>(11.1–11.6)      |
| Digestive                   | 10.5<br>(10.3–10.7)                                                              | 10.0<br>(9.8–10.3)  | 9.7<br>(9.4–10.0)   | 10.0<br>(9.5–10.4)  | 9.5<br>(9.0–9.9)    | 9.1<br>(8.4–9.7)    | 9.3<br>(8.4–10.3)   | 10.0<br>(8.9–11.0)  | 10.0<br>(9.9–10.2)       |
| Endocrine & metabolic       | 10.3<br>(10.0–10.6)                                                              | 10.2<br>(9.8–10.6)  | 8.8<br>(8.4–9.3)    | 10.8<br>(10.2–11.4) | 9.9<br>(9.3–10.4)   | 8.9<br>(8.1–9.7)    | 7.9<br>(6.7–9.1)    | 9.9<br>(7.9–11.9)   | 9.9<br>(9.8–10.1)        |
| Female genital system       | 7.1<br>(6.8–7.4)                                                                 | 7.4<br>(6.9–7.8)    | 7.5<br>(6.9–8.0)    | 7.9<br>(7.3–8.6)    | 6.9<br>(6.3–7.6)    | 6.6<br>(5.6–7.6)    | 7.7<br>(6.5–8.9)    | 7.8<br>(5.8–9.7)    | 7.3<br>(7.1–7.5)         |
| Pregnancy & family planning | 4.0<br>(3.8–4.2)                                                                 | 4.4<br>(4.1–4.7)    | 4.8<br>(4.5–5.1)    | 5.0<br>(4.5–5.5)    | 3.7<br>(3.3–4.1)    | 4.1<br>(3.2–4.9)    | 5.2<br>(4.1–6.2)    | 6.0<br>(4.8–7.1)    | 4.3<br>(4.2–4.5)         |
| Ear                         | 4.2<br>(4.1–4.3)                                                                 | 4.2<br>(4.0–4.3)    | 3.9<br>(3.7–4.0)    | 4.5<br>(4.2–4.7)    | 4.5<br>(4.3–4.8)    | 3.9<br>(3.5–4.4)    | 4.2<br>(3.5–4.9)    | 5.8<br>(5.0–6.6)    | 4.3<br>(4.2–4.4)         |
| Neurological                | 4.0<br>(3.8–4.1)                                                                 | 4.2<br>(4.0–4.4)    | 3.9<br>(3.7–4.0)    | 3.9<br>(3.7–4.2)    | 4.2<br>(3.9–4.5)    | 4.4<br>(3.9–4.9)    | 4.0<br>(3.5–4.4)    | 3.6<br>(3.0–4.1)    | 4.0<br>(3.9–4.1)         |
| Urology                     | 3.0<br>(2.9–3.1)                                                                 | 3.0<br>(2.9–3.1)    | 2.9<br>(2.7–3.0)    | 2.9<br>(2.7–3.1)    | 2.8<br>(2.6–3.0)    | 3.1<br>(2.8–3.5)    | 2.7<br>(2.3–3.2)    | 3.2<br>(2.5–3.8)    | 3.0<br>(2.9–3.0)         |
| Eye                         | 2.7<br>(2.7–2.8)                                                                 | 2.6<br>(2.5–2.7)    | 2.6<br>(2.5–2.7)    | 2.9<br>(2.7–3.1)    | 2.7<br>(2.5–2.9)    | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.4)    | 2.6<br>(2.2–3.0)    | 2.4<br>(1.8–2.8)    | 2.7<br>(2.6–2.7)         |

(continued)

Table A4.9a (continued): Distribution of problems managed across ICPC-2 chapter, by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)

| Problem managed           | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                           | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Blood                     | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.9)                                                                 | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)   | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)  | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.6) | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.7) | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.5)  | 1.7<br>(1.2–2.1) | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.6) | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)         |
| Male genital system       | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)                                                                 | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)   | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.6)  | 1.7<br>(1.4–2.0) | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.5) | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.4)  | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.5) | 1.8<br>(1.4–2.3) | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.4)         |
| Social problems           | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)   | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)  | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1) | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.2) | 1.0<br>(0.6–1.3)  | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.3) | 1.3<br>(0.5–2.0) | 0.9<br>(0.9–1.0)         |
| <b>Total problems (n)</b> | <b>281,554</b>                                                                   | <b>170,735</b>     | <b>136,129</b>    | <b>61,185</b>    | <b>55,569</b>    | <b>19,545</b>     | <b>11,159</b>    | <b>7,749</b>     | <b>743,625</b>           |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one problem can be managed at each encounter.  
 Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample).

Table A4.9b: Distribution of problems managed across ICPC-2 chapter, by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)

| Problem managed       | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|                       | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)  | Qld<br>(n=93,300)   | WA<br>(n=41,200)    | SA<br>(n=38,100)    | Tas<br>(n=13,300)   | ACT<br>(n=7,800)    | NT<br>(n=5,200)     | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Respiratory           | 22.7<br>(22.3–23.2)                                                              | 23.0<br>(22.4–23.6) | 21.0<br>(20.4–21.6) | 20.9<br>(20.0–21.8) | 22.3<br>(21.4–23.3) | 19.4<br>(18.1–20.8) | 24.1<br>(21.9–26.2) | 22.1<br>(19.7–24.6) | 22.2<br>(21.9–22.5)      |
| Musculoskeletal       | 17.2<br>(16.8–17.6)                                                              | 16.5<br>(16.0–16.9) | 16.7<br>(16.0–17.4) | 17.7<br>(16.9–18.6) | 17.7<br>(16.7–18.6) | 19.4<br>(17.9–21.0) | 18.1<br>(15.3–20.9) | 17.2<br>(15.1–19.3) | 17.1<br>(16.8–17.3)      |
| Skin                  | 16.0<br>(15.6–16.3)                                                              | 16.1<br>(15.7–16.5) | 19.2<br>(18.6–19.8) | 17.0<br>(16.4–17.6) | 15.5<br>(14.8–16.0) | 16.7<br>(14.7–18.7) | 14.7<br>(13.4–16.1) | 18.7<br>(17.0–20.4) | 16.7<br>(16.4–16.9)      |
| Circulatory           | 16.9<br>(16.4–17.4)                                                              | 16.6<br>(16.1–17.2) | 14.1<br>(13.6–14.7) | 15.0<br>(14.1–15.9) | 14.8<br>(14.0–15.7) | 15.8<br>(14.3–17.3) | 14.7<br>(12.4–17.0) | 17.1<br>(13.1–21.1) | 16.0<br>(15.7–16.2)      |
| General & unspecified | 14.7<br>(14.3–15.1)                                                              | 14.9<br>(14.4–15.4) | 15.8<br>(15.2–16.3) | 14.9<br>(14.2–15.7) | 14.6<br>(13.8–15.3) | 15.9<br>(14.5–17.2) | 16.5<br>(14.7–18.3) | 16.1<br>(13.7–18.5) | 15.0<br>(14.8–15.3)      |
| Psychological         | 10.6<br>(10.2–11.1)                                                              | 12.1<br>(11.5–12.7) | 10.5<br>(10.0–11.0) | 10.7<br>(10.1–11.4) | 12.2<br>(11.1–13.2) | 12.9<br>(11.3–14.4) | 9.7<br>(8.3–11.1)   | 11.9<br>(9.6–14.1)  | 11.1<br>(10.9–11.4)      |
| Digestive             | 10.4<br>(10.2–10.6)                                                              | 10.0<br>(9.8–10.2)  | 9.7<br>(9.4–9.9)    | 10.0<br>(9.6–10.4)  | 9.4<br>(9.0–9.9)    | 9.0<br>(8.3–9.6)    | 9.5<br>(8.5–10.5)   | 9.9<br>(8.7–11.0)   | 10.0<br>(9.9–10.1)       |
| Endocrine & metabolic | 10.0<br>(9.8–10.3)                                                               | 10.0<br>(9.6–10.4)  | 8.8<br>(8.4–9.3)    | 10.6<br>(10.0–11.2) | 9.6<br>(9.0–10.2)   | 8.6<br>(7.8–9.4)    | 8.4<br>(7.1–9.8)    | 11.0<br>(8.5–13.4)  | 9.8<br>(9.6–9.9)         |

(continued)

Table A4.9b (continued): Distribution of problems managed across ICPC-2 chapter, by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)

| Problem managed             | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                             | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Female genital system       | 7.1<br>(6.8–7.4)                                                                 | 7.3<br>(6.9–7.8)   | 7.4<br>(6.9–8.0)  | 7.7<br>(7.1–8.4) | 6.9<br>(6.3–7.5) | 6.5<br>(5.5–7.5)  | 7.3<br>(6.1–8.5) | 7.2<br>(5.4–9.0) | 7.3<br>(7.1–7.4)         |
| Ear                         | 4.3<br>(4.2–4.5)                                                                 | 4.4<br>(4.2–4.6)   | 4.7<br>(4.5–4.9)  | 4.8<br>(4.5–5.0) | 4.8<br>(4.5–5.1) | 4.3<br>(3.8–4.8)  | 4.2<br>(3.5–4.9) | 5.6<br>(4.8–6.5) | 4.5<br>(4.4–4.6)         |
| Pregnancy & family planning | 4.0<br>(3.8–4.2)                                                                 | 4.2<br>(3.9–4.5)   | 4.6<br>(4.3–5.0)  | 4.7<br>(4.3–5.2) | 3.6<br>(3.2–4.0) | 4.0<br>(3.2–4.9)  | 4.3<br>(3.4–5.2) | 4.7<br>(3.7–5.6) | 4.2<br>(4.1–4.3)         |
| Neurological                | 3.9<br>(3.8–4.1)                                                                 | 4.1<br>(3.9–4.3)   | 3.9<br>(3.7–4.0)  | 3.9<br>(3.6–4.1) | 4.1<br>(3.8–4.4) | 4.4<br>(3.9–4.9)  | 4.0<br>(3.5–4.5) | 3.5<br>(2.9–4.1) | 4.0<br>(3.9–4.1)         |
| Urology                     | 3.0<br>(2.9–3.1)                                                                 | 2.9<br>(2.8–3.0)   | 2.9<br>(2.7–3.0)  | 2.9<br>(2.7–3.1) | 2.7<br>(2.5–2.9) | 3.1<br>(2.7–3.4)  | 2.8<br>(2.4–3.3) | 3.5<br>(2.7–4.3) | 2.9<br>(2.9–3.0)         |
| Eye                         | 2.7<br>(2.6–2.8)                                                                 | 2.6<br>(2.5–2.7)   | 2.6<br>(2.4–2.7)  | 3.0<br>(2.8–3.2) | 2.7<br>(2.5–2.9) | 2.2<br>(1.9–2.4)  | 2.7<br>(2.3–3.2) | 2.5<br>(1.9–3.1) | 2.7<br>(2.6–2.7)         |
| Blood                       | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.8)                                                                 | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)   | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)  | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.6) | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.6) | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.5)  | 1.8<br>(1.3–2.2) | 1.5<br>(1.1–2.0) | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.6)         |
| Male genital system         | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.4)                                                                 | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)   | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.6)  | 1.7<br>(1.4–2.0) | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.5) | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.4)  | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.6) | 2.3<br>(1.6–2.9) | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.4)         |
| Social problems             | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.0)   | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)  | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1) | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.2) | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.3)  | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.3) | 1.1<br>(0.5–1.8) | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)         |
| <b>Total problems (n)</b>   | <b>276,796</b>                                                                   | <b>167,658</b>     | <b>134,865</b>    | <b>60,437</b>    | <b>54,642</b>    | <b>19,171</b>     | <b>11,194</b>    | <b>7,986</b>     | <b>732,749</b>           |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one problem can be managed at each encounter.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample).

**Table A4.10a: Most frequently managed problems by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Problem managed                    | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                    | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Hypertension*                      | 9.7<br>(9.4–10.1)                                                                | 9.5<br>(9.0–9.9)   | 7.2<br>(6.8–7.6)  | 8.0<br>(7.4–8.6) | 8.0<br>(7.4–8.5) | 9.1<br>(7.9–10.2) | 6.6<br>(5.4–7.9) | 6.8<br>(5.2–8.3) | 8.8<br>(8.6–9.0)         |
| Upper respiratory tract infection  | 6.4<br>(6.2–6.7)                                                                 | 6.2<br>(5.9–6.5)   | 5.6<br>(5.3–5.9)  | 5.3<br>(4.8–5.7) | 6.1<br>(5.5–6.6) | 4.2<br>(3.6–4.7)  | 7.1<br>(5.8–8.4) | 5.9<br>(4.8–7.0) | 6.0<br>(5.9–6.2)         |
| Immunisation/vaccination—all*      | 5.0<br>(4.7–5.2)                                                                 | 4.7<br>(4.4–5.1)   | 5.0<br>(4.7–5.4)  | 5.1<br>(4.3–5.8) | 3.8<br>(3.3–4.3) | 5.1<br>(4.0–6.3)  | 4.9<br>(3.5–6.3) | 2.5<br>(1.2–3.8) | 4.8<br>(4.6–5.0)         |
| Depression*                        | 3.5<br>(3.3–3.7)                                                                 | 4.1<br>(3.9–4.3)   | 3.8<br>(3.6–4.0)  | 3.9<br>(3.6–4.2) | 4.0<br>(3.6–4.4) | 4.2<br>(3.7–4.8)  | 3.7<br>(3.1–4.4) | 3.4<br>(2.7–4.2) | 3.8<br>(3.7–3.9)         |
| Asthma                             | 2.8<br>(2.7–2.9)                                                                 | 3.1<br>(2.9–3.2)   | 3.0<br>(2.8–3.2)  | 2.6<br>(2.4–2.8) | 3.1<br>(2.8–3.3) | 2.4<br>(2.0–2.7)  | 2.6<br>(2.2–3.0) | 3.3<br>(2.2–4.4) | 2.9<br>(2.8–3.0)         |
| Diabetes—all*                      | 2.8<br>(2.7–2.9)                                                                 | 3.0<br>(2.8–3.2)   | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.6)  | 2.9<br>(2.6–3.1) | 2.9<br>(2.7–3.2) | 2.5<br>(2.1–2.9)  | 1.9<br>(1.3–2.4) | 3.7<br>(2.6–4.8) | 2.8<br>(2.7–2.9)         |
| Lipid disorder                     | 3.2<br>(3.1–3.3)                                                                 | 2.8<br>(2.6–3.0)   | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.1)  | 2.9<br>(2.7–3.2) | 2.7<br>(2.4–3.0) | 2.4<br>(2.0–2.8)  | 2.1<br>(1.6–2.6) | 2.0<br>(1.2–2.8) | 2.8<br>(2.7–2.9)         |
| Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis     | 2.7<br>(2.5–2.8)                                                                 | 3.1<br>(2.9–3.3)   | 2.8<br>(2.6–2.9)  | 2.4<br>(2.1–2.7) | 2.8<br>(2.5–3.1) | 2.5<br>(2.1–2.9)  | 2.4<br>(1.7–3.1) | 2.8<br>(2.0–3.6) | 2.8<br>(2.7–2.8)         |
| Back complaint*                    | 2.6<br>(2.4–2.7)                                                                 | 2.7<br>(2.5–2.8)   | 2.6<br>(2.3–3.0)  | 2.7<br>(2.4–3.0) | 2.7<br>(2.4–2.9) | 3.4<br>(2.9–3.9)  | 2.6<br>(2.0–3.1) | 2.8<br>(2.1–3.6) | 2.6<br>(2.5–2.7)         |
| Osteoarthritis*                    | 2.6<br>(2.4–2.7)                                                                 | 2.3<br>(2.1–2.4)   | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.4)  | 2.7<br>(2.4–3.0) | 2.5<br>(2.1–2.8) | 3.2<br>(2.7–3.7)  | 1.9<br>(1.4–2.4) | 1.7<br>(1.2–2.2) | 2.4<br>(2.4–2.5)         |
| Female genital check-up/Pap smear* | 1.9<br>(1.8–2.1)                                                                 | 2.2<br>(2.0–2.4)   | 2.1<br>(1.8–2.3)  | 2.3<br>(1.9–2.6) | 1.8<br>(1.5–2.1) | 1.6<br>(1.2–2.0)  | 2.1<br>(1.6–2.6) | 2.2<br>(1.3–3.1) | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.1)         |
| General check-up*                  | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.8)                                                                 | 1.8<br>(1.6–1.9)   | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.2)  | 2.2<br>(1.9–2.5) | 2.2<br>(2.0–2.4) | 2.0<br>(1.7–2.3)  | 1.6<br>(1.2–2.0) | 3.5<br>(2.4–4.5) | 1.9<br>(1.8–1.9)         |
| Contact dermatitis                 | 1.9<br>(1.8–2.0)                                                                 | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.1)   | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.6)  | 1.8<br>(1.7–2.0) | 1.9<br>(1.8–2.1) | 2.0<br>(1.7–2.4)  | 1.9<br>(1.6–2.3) | 1.7<br>(1.2–2.1) | 1.9<br>(1.8–1.9)         |
| Prescription—all*                  | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.9)                                                                 | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0)   | 2.1<br>(1.8–2.3)  | 2.0<br>(1.7–2.3) | 1.7<br>(1.4–2.0) | 2.2<br>(1.6–2.7)  | 2.1<br>(1.5–2.7) | 1.2<br>(0.6–1.7) | 1.8<br>(1.8–1.9)         |

(continued)

Table A4.10a (continued): Most frequently managed problems by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)

| Problem managed               | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                               | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Sprain/strain*                | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.8)                                                                 | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)   | 1.8<br>(1.6–1.9)  | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.9) | 2.1<br>(1.8–2.3) | 1.8<br>(1.5–2.2)  | 1.9<br>(1.4–2.4) | 1.6<br>(1.0–2.1) | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.8)         |
| Anxiety*                      | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.8)                                                                 | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.2)   | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.7)  | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6) | 2.1<br>(1.8–2.3) | 2.3<br>(1.9–2.6)  | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.4) | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.8) | 1.7<br>(1.7–1.8)         |
| Urinary tract infection*      | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.8)                                                                 | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.8)   | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)  | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.9) | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.9) | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0)  | 1.8<br>(1.5–2.1) | 1.7<br>(1.3–2.1) | 1.7<br>(1.7–1.7)         |
| Oesophageal disease           | 1.8<br>(1.8–1.9)                                                                 | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)   | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.8)  | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.6) | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.8) | 2.0<br>(1.6–2.3)  | 1.4<br>(1.0–1.8) | 1.5<br>(1.0–1.9) | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.7)         |
| Sleep disturbance             | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.8)                                                                 | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)   | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)  | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.8) | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.1) | 1.9<br>(1.5–2.3)  | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.5) | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.7) | 1.6<br>(1.6–1.7)         |
| Menopausal symptom/complaint  | 1.5<br>(1.5–1.6)                                                                 | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.6)   | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.8)  | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.1) | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0) | 1.5<br>(1.2–1.8)  | 1.7<br>(1.3–2.0) | 1.6<br>(1.1–2.0) | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.6)         |
| Sinusitis acute/chronic       | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.5)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)   | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)  | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.6) | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.6) | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.5)  | 2.0<br>(1.5–2.5) | 1.6<br>(1.2–2.1) | 1.4<br>(1.4–1.5)         |
| Acute otitis media/myringitis | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.4)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)   | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)  | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.6) | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.8) | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.6)  | 2.0<br>(1.4–2.5) | 2.0<br>(1.5–2.4) | 1.4<br>(1.4–1.5)         |
| Viral disease, other/NOS      | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)                                                                 | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.6)   | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.4)  | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.4) | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.7) | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.5)  | 1.9<br>(1.2–2.5) | 2.0<br>(1.3–2.6) | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.4)         |
| Ischaemic heart disease*      | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)                                                                 | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)   | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)  | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.4) | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.4) | 1.4<br>(1.0–1.7)  | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.4) | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.6) | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.4)         |
| Cardiac check-up*             | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)                                                                 | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.7)   | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)  | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.3) | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.6) | 1.4<br>(0.9–1.7)  | 1.3<br>(0.8–1.8) | 0.6<br>(0.2–1.0) | 1.3<br>(1.3–1.4)         |
| Tonsillitis*                  | 1.1<br>(1.1–1.2)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)   | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)  | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1) | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4) | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.3)  | 1.5<br>(1.2–1.8) | 1.4<br>(1.1–1.8) | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.2)         |
| Solar keratosis/sunburn       | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)   | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0)  | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3) | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1) | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.5)  | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.2) | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.5) | 1.1<br>(1.1–1.2)         |
| Fracture*                     | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)   | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)  | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1) | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2) | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)  | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.5) | 1.4<br>(0.9–1.9) | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)         |

(continued)

**Table A4.10a (continued): Most frequently managed problems by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Problem managed                     | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                     | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Gastroenteritis, presumed infection | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)   | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)  | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0) | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4) | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9)  | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.3) | 1.3<br>(0.8–1.8) | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.0)         |
| Test results*                       | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)   | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)  | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.2) | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8) | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.1)  | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.0) | 0.4<br>(0.1–0.6) | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.0)         |
| Subtotal (n)                        | 133,643                                                                          | 81,545             | 62,185            | 28,028           | 25,998           | 9,174             | 5,128            | 3,389            | 349,559                  |
| <b>Total problems (n)</b>           | <b>281,554</b>                                                                   | <b>170,735</b>     | <b>136,129</b>    | <b>61,185</b>    | <b>55,569</b>    | <b>19,545</b>     | <b>11,159</b>    | <b>7,749</b>     | <b>743,625</b>           |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one problem can be managed at each encounter.

\* Includes multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 5).

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). NOS—not otherwise specified.

**Table A4.10b: Most frequently managed problems by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Problem managed                   | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
|                                   | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)   | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Hypertension*                     | 9.3<br>(9.0–9.6)                                                                 | 9.0<br>(8.6–9.4)   | 7.2<br>(6.8–7.5)  | 7.8<br>(7.2–8.4) | 7.6<br>(7.0–8.1) | 8.4<br>(7.3–9.5)  | 7.5<br>(6.1–8.9) | 8.7<br>(6.3–11.0) | 8.5<br>(8.3–8.7)         |
| Upper respiratory tract infection | 6.7<br>(6.5–7.0)                                                                 | 6.7<br>(6.3–7.0)   | 5.7<br>(5.4–6.1)  | 5.5<br>(5.1–6.0) | 6.6<br>(5.9–7.1) | 4.6<br>(4.0–5.2)  | 6.8<br>(5.6–8.0) | 5.7<br>(4.6–6.8)  | 6.4<br>(6.2–6.5)         |
| Immunisation/vaccination—all*     | 5.0<br>(4.7–5.3)                                                                 | 4.9<br>(4.4–5.3)   | 5.1<br>(4.6–5.5)  | 5.2<br>(4.3–6.1) | 3.9<br>(3.3–4.5) | 5.4<br>(4.2–6.5)  | 5.2<br>(3.3–7.1) | 3.1<br>(0.0–6.1)  | 4.9<br>(4.7–5.1)         |
| Depression*                       | 3.4<br>(3.3–3.6)                                                                 | 4.0<br>(3.8–4.3)   | 3.8<br>(3.6–4.0)  | 3.8<br>(3.5–4.1) | 3.9<br>(3.5–4.3) | 4.1<br>(3.6–4.7)  | 3.6<br>(3.0–4.2) | 3.6<br>(2.8–4.4)  | 3.7<br>(3.6–3.8)         |
| Asthma                            | 2.9<br>(2.8–3.0)                                                                 | 3.2<br>(3.0–3.4)   | 3.1<br>(2.9–3.2)  | 2.7<br>(2.4–2.9) | 3.2<br>(2.9–3.5) | 2.5<br>(2.1–2.8)  | 2.5<br>(2.1–2.9) | 3.4<br>(2.2–4.5)  | 3.0<br>(2.9–3.1)         |
| Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis    | 2.7<br>(2.5–2.8)                                                                 | 3.2<br>(3.0–3.4)   | 2.8<br>(2.6–3.0)  | 2.4<br>(2.1–2.8) | 2.9<br>(2.5–3.2) | 2.6<br>(2.1–3.1)  | 2.4<br>(1.5–3.3) | 2.8<br>(1.7–3.8)  | 2.8<br>(2.7–2.9)         |
| Lipid disorder                    | 3.1<br>(3.0–3.2)                                                                 | 2.8<br>(2.6–2.9)   | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.2)  | 2.9<br>(2.6–3.2) | 2.7<br>(2.3–3.0) | 2.3<br>(1.9–2.7)  | 2.4<br>(1.7–3.0) | 2.4<br>(1.1–3.6)  | 2.7<br>(2.6–2.8)         |

(continued)

Table A4.10b (continued): Most frequently managed problems by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)

| Problem managed                    | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                    | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Diabetes—all*                      | 2.7<br>(2.6–2.8)                                                                 | 2.9<br>(2.7–3.0)   | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.6)  | 2.8<br>(2.5–3.1) | 2.9<br>(2.6–3.1) | 2.4<br>(2.0–2.8)  | 2.1<br>(1.3–2.8) | 4.4<br>(3.0–5.8) | 2.7<br>(2.6–2.8)         |
| Back complaint*                    | 2.5<br>(2.4–2.7)                                                                 | 2.6<br>(2.4–2.8)   | 2.6<br>(2.2–3.0)  | 2.6<br>(2.3–3.0) | 2.6<br>(2.4–2.9) | 3.4<br>(2.8–3.9)  | 2.6<br>(2.0–3.1) | 2.6<br>(1.8–3.3) | 2.6<br>(2.5–2.7)         |
| Osteoarthritis*                    | 2.4<br>(2.3–2.5)                                                                 | 2.1<br>(2.0–2.3)   | 2.2<br>(2.0–2.4)  | 2.6<br>(2.3–2.9) | 2.3<br>(1.9–2.7) | 3.0<br>(2.4–3.5)  | 2.1<br>(1.3–2.9) | 2.6<br>(1.5–3.7) | 2.3<br>(2.2–2.4)         |
| Female genital check-up/Pap smear* | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.2)                                                                 | 2.1<br>(1.8–2.4)   | 2.0<br>(1.7–2.4)  | 2.2<br>(1.7–2.6) | 1.8<br>(1.3–2.3) | 1.6<br>(0.9–2.3)  | 2.0<br>(1.4–2.5) | 2.1<br>(0.8–3.4) | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.1)         |
| Dermatitis, contact/allergic       | 1.9<br>(1.8–2.0)                                                                 | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.1)   | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.7)  | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.0) | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.1) | 2.0<br>(1.6–2.5)  | 1.9<br>(1.5–2.2) | 1.7<br>(1.0–2.4) | 1.9<br>(1.8–1.9)         |
| General check-up*                  | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.8)                                                                 | 1.8<br>(1.5–2.0)   | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.1)  | 2.2<br>(1.8–2.5) | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.4) | 1.9<br>(1.6–2.2)  | 1.7<br>(1.0–2.3) | 3.4<br>(2.4–4.3) | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)         |
| Prescription—all*                  | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.9)                                                                 | 1.7<br>(1.5–2.0)   | 2.0<br>(1.7–2.4)  | 2.0<br>(1.5–2.5) | 1.6<br>(1.2–2.1) | 2.0<br>(1.2–2.9)  | 2.2<br>(1.4–3.0) | 1.4<br>(0.3–2.4) | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)         |
| Sprain/strain*                     | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.8)                                                                 | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0)   | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0)  | 1.7<br>(1.3–2.0) | 2.1<br>(1.8–2.4) | 1.9<br>(1.4–2.3)  | 1.9<br>(1.3–2.4) | 1.3<br>(0.7–1.9) | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)         |
| Anxiety*                           | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.8)                                                                 | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.1)   | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.7)  | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6) | 2.1<br>(1.7–2.3) | 2.2<br>(1.8–2.5)  | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.6) | 1.4<br>(0.7–2.1) | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.8)         |
| Urinary tract infection*           | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.7)                                                                 | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.8)   | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)  | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.9) | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.8) | 1.8<br>(1.5–2.0)  | 1.8<br>(1.4–2.2) | 1.8<br>(1.1–2.5) | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.7)         |
| Oesophageal disease                | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)                                                                 | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)   | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.8)  | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6) | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.8) | 1.9<br>(1.5–2.3)  | 1.6<br>(1.0–2.2) | 1.7<br>(1.0–2.4) | 1.6<br>(1.6–1.7)         |
| Menopausal symptom/complaint       | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.7)                                                                 | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.7)   | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.9)  | 1.8<br>(1.5–2.1) | 1.8<br>(1.5–2.0) | 1.5<br>(1.1–1.8)  | 1.7<br>(1.3–2.1) | 1.6<br>(1.0–2.2) | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)         |
| Acute otitis media/myringitis      | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)                                                                 | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.7)   | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.8)  | 1.7<br>(1.4–2.0) | 1.8<br>(1.5–2.1) | 1.6<br>(1.1–2.1)  | 1.9<br>(1.2–2.6) | 1.8<br>(1.4–2.3) | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)         |
| Sleep disturbance                  | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)                                                                 | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.7)   | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6)  | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.8) | 1.8<br>(1.5–2.0) | 1.8<br>(1.4–2.2)  | 1.3<br>(0.7–1.9) | 1.8<br>(0.9–2.6) | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.6)         |

(continued)

**Table A4.10b (continued): Most frequently managed problems by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Problem managed                     | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                     | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Viral disease, other/NOS            | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.7)                                                                 | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.8)   | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.5)  | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.6) | 1.6<br>(1.2–1.9) | 1.3<br>(0.7–1.8)  | 1.8<br>(0.9–2.7) | 1.8<br>(1.0–2.5) | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.6)         |
| Sinusitis acute/chronic             | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.5)   | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.6)  | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.7) | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6) | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.6)  | 1.9<br>(1.4–2.4) | 1.5<br>(1.0–2.0) | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.5)         |
| Ischaemic heart disease*            | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.5)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.5)   | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.4)  | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.4) | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.4) | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.6)  | 1.3<br>(0.5–2.0) | 2.0<br>(0.5–3.5) | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)         |
| Tonsillitis*                        | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4)                                                                 | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6)   | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4)  | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.3) | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.6) | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.6)  | 1.4<br>(1.0–1.8) | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.7) | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)         |
| Cardiac check-up*                   | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.4)                                                                 | 1.5<br>(1.2–1.7)   | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.4)  | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.5) | 1.3<br>(0.8–1.7) | 1.3<br>(0.6–1.9)  | 1.4<br>(0.4–2.5) | 0.8<br>(0.0–2.8) | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.4)         |
| Fracture*                           | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.2)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)   | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.4)  | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.2) | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.3) | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.1)  | 1.1<br>(0.6–1.5) | 1.4<br>(0.7–2.0) | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)         |
| Solar keratosis/sunburn             | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)   | 1.8<br>(1.5–2.0)  | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.3) | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.1) | 1.0<br>(0.3–1.7)  | 1.0<br>(0.3–1.6) | 1.2<br>(0.5–1.9) | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)         |
| Gastroenteritis, presumed infection | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.2)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)   | 0.8<br>(0.7–1.0)  | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.1) | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.5) | 0.8<br>(0.4–1.1)  | 1.0<br>(0.5–1.4) | 1.2<br>(0.5–2.0) | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)         |
| Test results*                       | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.2)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.1)   | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.2)  | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.3) | 0.7<br>(0.4–0.9) | 0.8<br>(0.2–1.4)  | 0.8<br>(0.2–1.4) | 0.4<br>(0.0–1.4) | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)         |
| <i>Subtotal (n)</i>                 | <i>131,621</i>                                                                   | <i>80,631</i>      | <i>62,131</i>     | <i>27,839</i>    | <i>26,214</i>    | <i>8,958</i>      | <i>5,228</i>     | <i>3,572</i>     | <i>346,036</i>           |
| <b>Total problems (n)</b>           | <b>276,796</b>                                                                   | <b>167,658</b>     | <b>134,865</b>    | <b>60,437</b>    | <b>54,642</b>    | <b>19,171</b>     | <b>11,194</b>    | <b>7,986</b>     | <b>732,749</b>           |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one problem can be managed at each encounter.

\* Includes multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 5).

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). NOS—not otherwise specified.

**Table A4.11a: Most frequently managed new problems by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| New problem managed                              | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                               |                               |                               |                   |                               |                               |                          |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                                  | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300)             | WA<br>(n=41,200)              | SA<br>(n=38,100)              | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800)              | NT<br>(n=5,200)               | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Upper respiratory tract infection                | 4.5<br>(4.3–4.7)                                                                 | 4.4<br>(4.1–4.7)   | 4.0<br>(3.7–4.3)              | 3.6<br>(3.1–3.9)              | 4.4<br>(3.8–4.9)              | 2.9<br>(2.4–3.3)  | 4.5<br>(3.3–5.7)              | 4.0<br>(3.1–4.9)              | 4.2<br>(4.1–4.4)         |
| Immunisation/vaccination—all*                    | 2.4<br>(2.1–2.7)                                                                 | 2.3<br>(1.9–2.7)   | 2.5<br>(2.1–2.9)              | 2.3<br>(1.4–3.1)              | 1.9<br>(1.2–2.6)              | 2.0<br>(0.9–3.0)  | 1.8<br>(0.3–3.3)              | 1.1<br>(0.1–2.0)              | 2.3<br>(2.1–2.5)         |
| Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis                   | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)                                                                 | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.1)   | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.9)              | 1.5<br>(1.2–1.7)              | 1.7<br>(1.4–2.0)              | 1.6<br>(1.1–2.0)  | 1.2<br>(0.2–2.1)              | 2.0<br>(1.1–2.8)              | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.8)         |
| Sprain/strain*                                   | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)   | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.2)              | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.1)              | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.3)              | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.3)  | 0.9<br>(0.3–1.5)              | 0.8<br>(0.3–1.2)              | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.0)         |
| Urinary tract infection*                         | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.0)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)   | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)              | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.0)              | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1)              | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.3)  | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.3)              | 1.0<br>(0.5–1.4)              | 0.9<br>(0.9–1.0)         |
| Viral disease, other/NOS                         | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.2)   | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)              | 0.8<br>(0.4–1.2)              | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.4)              | 0.8<br>(0.2–1.4)  | 1.2<br>(0.2–2.2)              | 1.5<br>(0.7–2.3)              | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)         |
| Acute otitis media/myringitis                    | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.0)   | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)              | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.1)              | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.2)              | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.1)  | 1.1<br>(0.4–1.7)              | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.7)              | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)         |
| Sinusitis acute/chronic                          | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)   | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1)              | 0.8<br>(0.7–1.0)              | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.1)              | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.1)  | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.2)              | 1.0<br>(0.3–1.6)              | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)         |
| Tonsillitis*                                     | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.0)   | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)              | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.9)              | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.1)              | 0.7<br>(0.4–1.0)  | 0.9<br>(0.4–1.4)              | 1.0<br>(0.5–1.5)              | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)         |
| Dermatitis, contact/allergic                     | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)   | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)              | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9)              | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9)              | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.1)  | 0.6<br>(0.2–1.1)              | 0.5<br>(0.0–1.1)              | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)         |
| Solar keratosis/sunburn <sup>+</sup>             | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6)                                                                 | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5)   | 0.8 <sup>+</sup><br>(0.5–1.1) | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7)              | 0.4<br>(0.1–0.7)              | 0.4<br>(0.0–0.7)  | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.9)              | 0.4<br>(0.0–0.8)              | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)         |
| Gastroenteritis, presumed infection <sup>+</sup> | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9)   | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.8)              | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.9)              | 0.9 <sup>+</sup><br>(0.6–1.2) | 0.5<br>(0.2–0.9)  | 0.7 <sup>+</sup><br>(0.2–1.2) | 1.1 <sup>+</sup><br>(0.2–1.9) | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)         |
| General check-up**                               | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.8)                                                                 | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.8)   | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.0)              | 0.9 <sup>+</sup><br>(0.5–1.2) | 0.9 <sup>+</sup><br>(0.5–1.2) | 0.7<br>(0.4–0.9)  | 0.5<br>(0.0–1.1)              | 2.0 <sup>+</sup><br>(0.7–3.4) | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)         |

(continued)

**Table A4.11a (continued): Most frequently managed new problems by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| New problem managed           | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                               |                  |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                               | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300)             | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)               | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Back complaint**              | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)                                                                 | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.7)   | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.8)  | 0.7<br>(0.4–1.0) | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.7) | 0.8 <sup>+</sup><br>(0.5–1.1) | 0.5<br>(0.0–0.9) | 0.5<br>(0.0–1.3)              | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.6)         |
| Otitis externa <sup>+</sup>   | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)   | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.7)  | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6) | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6) | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.5)              | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.7) | 1.2 <sup>+</sup><br>(0.7–1.7) | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.5)         |
| Subtotal (n)                  | 32,934                                                                           | 19,989             | 16,498            | 6,575            | 6,669            | 1,968                         | 1,250            | 1,009                         | 86,892                   |
| <b>Total new problems (n)</b> | <b>97,502</b>                                                                    | <b>58,905</b>      | <b>49,034</b>     | <b>20,683</b>    | <b>18,976</b>    | <b>6,160</b>                  | <b>3,528</b>     | <b>3,049</b>                  | <b>257,027</b>           |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one problem can be managed at each encounter.

\* Includes multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 5).

+ Indicates a problem managed in the ten most frequently managed new problems for a state, not included in the ten most frequently managed new problems for Australia.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). NOS—not otherwise specified.

**Table A4.11b: Most frequently managed new problems by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| New problem managed               | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                   | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Upper respiratory tract infection | 4.7<br>(4.5–5.0)                                                                 | 4.7<br>(4.4–5.0)   | 4.1<br>(3.8–4.4)  | 3.7<br>(3.3–4.2) | 4.7<br>(4.1–5.2) | 3.2<br>(2.7–3.7)  | 4.3<br>(3.1–5.4) | 3.8<br>(2.9–4.7) | 4.5<br>(4.3–4.6)         |
| Immunisation/vaccination—all*     | 2.4<br>(2.1–2.7)                                                                 | 2.4<br>(2.0–2.8)   | 2.5<br>(2.1–2.9)  | 2.3<br>(1.5–3.2) | 1.9<br>(1.3–2.6) | 2.0<br>(1.0–3.0)  | 1.9<br>(0.2–3.7) | 1.1<br>(0.0–2.2) | 2.3<br>(2.1–2.5)         |
| Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis    | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.8)                                                                 | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.2)   | 1.8<br>(1.6–1.9)  | 1.5<br>(1.2–1.8) | 1.8<br>(1.5–2.1) | 1.6<br>(1.2–2.1)  | 1.1<br>(0.2–2.0) | 2.0<br>(1.0–3.0) | 1.7<br>(1.7–1.8)         |
| Acute otitis media/myringitis     | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.2)   | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2)  | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.2) | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.4) | 1.0<br>(0.6–1.4)  | 1.0<br>(0.4–1.7) | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.6) | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)         |
| Viral disease, other/NOS          | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.2)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.3)   | 0.8<br>(0.7–1.0)  | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.2) | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.5) | 0.8<br>(0.2–1.4)  | 1.2<br>(0.2–2.2) | 1.3<br>(0.6–2.1) | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)         |
| Sprain/strain*                    | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)   | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.2)  | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.1) | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.3) | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.3)  | 0.9<br>(0.3–1.5) | 0.7<br>(0.3–1.1) | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.0)         |
| Urinary tract infection*          | 0.9<br>(0.9–1.0)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.0)   | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)  | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.0) | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1) | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.2)  | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.3) | 0.9<br>(0.3–1.5) | 0.9<br>(0.9–1.0)         |

(continued)

**Table A4.11b (continued): Most frequently managed new problems by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| New problem managed                              | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                               |                               |                               |                               |                   |                               |                               |                          |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                                  | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)            | Qld<br>(n=93,300)             | WA<br>(n=41,200)              | SA<br>(n=38,100)              | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800)              | NT<br>(n=5,200)               | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Tonsillitis*                                     | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.0)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.2)              | 0.8<br>(0.7–1.0)              | 0.7<br>(0.4–0.9)              | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.2)              | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.1)  | 0.8<br>(0.3–1.3)              | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.4)              | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)         |
| Sinusitis acute/chronic                          | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–1.0)              | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1)              | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)              | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.1)              | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.1)  | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.2)              | 0.9<br>(0.3–1.5)              | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)         |
| Dermatitis, contact/allergic                     | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.0)              | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)              | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9)              | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)              | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.1)  | 0.6<br>(0.1–1.0)              | 0.5<br>(0.0–1.0)              | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)         |
| Gastroenteritis, presumed infection <sup>+</sup> | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)                                                                 | 0.8 <sup>+</sup><br>(0.7–1.0) | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.8)              | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.9)              | 0.9 <sup>+</sup><br>(0.6–1.2) | 0.6<br>(0.2–0.9)  | 0.6 <sup>+</sup><br>(0.2–1.1) | 1.0<br>(0.2–1.8)              | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)         |
| Solar keratosis/sunburn <sup>+</sup>             | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.5)              | 0.8 <sup>+</sup><br>(0.5–1.1) | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7)              | 0.4<br>(0.1–0.6)              | 0.3<br>(0.0–0.7)  | 0.3<br>(0.0–1.0)              | 0.4<br>(0.0–0.9)              | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)         |
| General check-up**                               | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.8)                                                                 | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.8)              | 0.7<br>(0.5–0.9)              | 0.8 <sup>+</sup><br>(0.5–1.2) | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.2)              | 0.6<br>(0.3–0.9)  | 0.5<br>(0.0–1.2)              | 1.7<br>(0.6–2.9)              | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)         |
| Otitis externa <sup>+</sup>                      | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.6)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)              | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.7)              | 0.5<br>(0.2–0.7)              | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.5)              | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.5)  | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.7)              | 1.1 <sup>+</sup><br>(0.6–1.6) | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.5)         |
| Gastrointestinal infection <sup>+</sup>          | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.6)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.5)              | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.6)              | 0.4<br>(0.0–0.8)              | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.8)              | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.8)  | 0.4<br>(0.0–1.0)              | 1.0 <sup>+</sup><br>(0.1–1.8) | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)         |
| Boil/carbuncle <sup>+</sup>                      | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.4)              | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.5)              | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.5)              | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.5)              | 0.3<br>(0.0–0.6)  | 0.3<br>(0.0–0.6)              | 0.9 <sup>+</sup><br>(0.2–1.7) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)         |
| <i>Subtotal (n)</i>                              | <i>33,951</i>                                                                    | <i>19,800</i>                 | <i>16,755</i>                 | <i>6,745</i>                  | <i>6,866</i>                  | <i>2,002</i>      | <i>1,231</i>                  | <i>997</i>                    | <i>89,262</i>            |
| <b>Total new problems (n)</b>                    | <b>98,051</b>                                                                    | <b>58,603</b>                 | <b>48,882</b>                 | <b>20,729</b>                 | <b>19,116</b>                 | <b>6,215</b>      | <b>3,436</b>                  | <b>2,927</b>                  | <b>257,958</b>           |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one problem can be managed at each encounter.

\* Includes multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 5).

+ Indicates a problem managed in the ten most frequently managed new problems for a state, not included in the ten most frequently managed new problems for Australia.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). NOS—not otherwise specified.

**Table A4.12a: Summary of management by state/territory, per 100 problems managed, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Management type      | Rate per 100 problems, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|                      | NSW<br>(n=281,554)                                                             | Vic<br>(n=170,735)  | Qld<br>(n=136,129)  | WA<br>(n=611,85)    | SA<br>(n=555,69)    | Tas<br>(n=195,45)   | ACT<br>(n=111,59)   | NT<br>(n=7,749)     | Australia<br>(n=743,625) |
| Medications          | 75.1<br>(74.1–76.1)                                                            | 71.3<br>(70.1–72.5) | 70.0<br>(68.8–71.3) | 68.5<br>(66.6–70.5) | 68.7<br>(66.6–70.8) | 69.8<br>(66.1–73.6) | 64.5<br>(61.4–67.5) | 70.2<br>(63.5–76.8) | 71.9<br>(71.3–72.5)      |
| Prescribed           | 63.6<br>(62.5–64.6)                                                            | 60.4<br>(59.1–61.7) | 58.0<br>(56.7–59.3) | 56.0<br>(54.0–58.0) | 56.5<br>(54.2–58.7) | 58.9<br>(54.9–63.0) | 55.5<br>(52.1–58.8) | 59.4<br>(52.9–65.9) | 60.4<br>(59.8–61.0)      |
| Advised OTC          | 6.7<br>(6.4–7.0)                                                               | 5.6<br>(5.2–5.9)    | 6.0<br>(5.6–6.4)    | 5.1<br>(4.6–5.6)    | 5.8<br>(5.2–6.4)    | 5.2<br>(4.4–6.0)    | 6.4<br>(5.0–7.7)    | 7.5<br>(5.8–9.1)    | 6.1<br>(5.9–6.2)         |
| GP- supplied         | 4.8<br>(4.4–5.2)                                                               | 5.4<br>(4.7–6.0)    | 6.0<br>(5.3–6.7)    | 7.4<br>(5.8–9.0)    | 6.4<br>(5.2–7.6)    | 5.7<br>(4.1–7.3)    | 2.6<br>(1.9–3.3)    | 3.3<br>(1.9–4.7)    | 5.5<br>(5.2–5.8)         |
| Other treatments     | 33.7<br>(32.8–34.7)                                                            | 34.4<br>(33.2–35.5) | 36.5<br>(35.2–37.8) | 33.3<br>(31.6–35.1) | 33.2<br>(31.3–35.1) | 36.0<br>(32.8–39.1) | 31.4<br>(26.9–36.0) | 36.8<br>(30.8–42.7) | 34.4<br>(33.8–34.9)      |
| Clinical             | 25.0<br>(24.2–25.9)                                                            | 25.7<br>(24.7–26.8) | 24.7<br>(23.6–25.9) | 23.9<br>(22.3–25.5) | 24.6<br>(22.9–26.4) | 25.7<br>(23.0–28.4) | 24.3<br>(20.2–28.3) | 27.9<br>(22.6–33.2) | 25.1<br>(24.6–25.5)      |
| Procedural           | 8.7<br>(8.4–9.0)                                                               | 8.6<br>(8.3–9.0)    | 11.8<br>(11.2–12.4) | 9.4<br>(8.8–10.1)   | 8.6<br>(7.9–9.2)    | 10.3<br>(9.0–11.5)  | 7.2<br>(5.8–8.5)    | 8.9<br>(7.1–10.6)   | 9.3<br>(9.1–9.5)         |
| Referrals            | 5.1<br>(4.8–5.3)                                                               | 4.8<br>(4.5–5.1)    | 4.3<br>(4.0–4.7)    | 5.1<br>(4.6–5.7)    | 4.4<br>(3.9–4.9)    | 5.2<br>(4.3–6.1)    | 5.4<br>(4.1–6.7)    | 5.4<br>(4.0–6.8)    | 4.8<br>(4.7–5.0)         |
| Specialist           | 3.4<br>(3.3–3.6)                                                               | 3.0<br>(2.8–3.2)    | 2.8<br>(2.5–3.0)    | 3.3<br>(3.0–3.7)    | 2.8<br>(2.4–3.1)    | 3.2<br>(2.6–3.8)    | 3.3<br>(2.5–4.1)    | 3.4<br>(2.5–4.3)    | 3.2<br>(3.1–3.3)         |
| Allied health        | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)                                                               | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)    | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)    | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.3)    | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.3)    | 1.4<br>(1.0–1.8)    | 1.6<br>(1.1–2.1)    | 1.3<br>(0.7–1.8)    | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)         |
| Hospital             | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)                                                               | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)    | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.3)    | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)    | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)    | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)    | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.4)    | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)         |
| Emergency department | —                                                                              | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)    | —                   | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)         |
| Other referral       | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                                                               | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)    | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.3)    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)         |

(continued)

**Table A4.12a (continued): Summary of management by state/territory, per 100 problems managed, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Management type                                  | Rate per 100 problems, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|                                                  | NSW<br>(n=281,554)                                                             | Vic<br>(n=170,735)  | Qld<br>(n=136,129)  | WA<br>(n=61,185)    | SA<br>(n=55,569)    | Tas<br>(n=19,545)   | ACT<br>(n=11,159)   | NT<br>(n=7,749)     | Australia<br>(n=743,625) |
| <b>Number of problems 2000–2003<sup>+</sup></b>  | <b>(n=168,375)</b>                                                             | <b>(n=103,778)</b>  | <b>(n=78,130)</b>   | <b>(n=36,625)</b>   | <b>(n=30,824)</b>   | <b>(n=12,565)</b>   | <b>(n=6,941)</b>    | <b>(n=4,628)</b>    | <b>(n=441,866)</b>       |
| Pathology <sup>+</sup>                           | 21.5<br>(20.8–22.2)                                                            | 22.7<br>(21.7–23.7) | 24.6<br>(23.4–25.9) | 26.3<br>(24.6–28.1) | 21.3<br>(19.6–23.0) | 20.8<br>(18.6–23.0) | 24.1<br>(20.7–27.4) | 27.2<br>(21.9–32.4) | 22.8<br>(22.3–23.3)      |
| <b>Number of problems 1999–2003<sup>++</sup></b> | <b>(n=227,621)</b>                                                             | <b>(n=135,589)</b>  | <b>(n=109,438)</b>  | <b>(n=50,151)</b>   | <b>(n=44,734)</b>   | <b>(n=16,406)</b>   | <b>(n=8,662)</b>    | <b>(n=5,841)</b>    | <b>(n=598,442)</b>       |
| Imaging <sup>++</sup>                            | 5.7<br>(5.5–5.9)                                                               | 5.1<br>(4.9–5.3)    | 6.0<br>(5.6–6.3)    | 6.0<br>(5.6–6.4)    | 4.4<br>(4.0–4.8)    | 5.0<br>(4.5–5.6)    | 6.5<br>(5.5–7.6)    | 5.2<br>(4.2–6.3)    | 5.5<br>(5.4–5.7)         |

(a) Figures will not total 100 as multiple events may occur for the management of each problem at encounter.

— <0.05 per 100 problems.

+ Limited to April 2000 to March 2003 inclusive due to older pathology codes in Years 1 and 2.

++ Limited to April 1999 to March 2003 inclusive due to older imaging codes in Year 1.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). OTC—over-the-counter; GP—General practitioner.

**Table A4.12b: Summary of management by state/territory, per 100 problems managed, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Management type  | Rate per 100 problems, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|                  | NSW<br>(n=276,796)                                                             | Vic<br>(n=167,658)  | Qld<br>(n=134,865)  | WA<br>(n=60,437)    | SA<br>(n=54,642)    | Tas<br>(n=19,171)   | ACT<br>(n=11,194)   | NT<br>(n=7,986)     | Australia<br>(n=732,749) |
| Medications      | 75.2<br>(74.2–76.1)                                                            | 71.4<br>(70.2–72.5) | 70.2<br>(68.9–71.4) | 68.8<br>(66.9–70.8) | 69.0<br>(66.9–71.1) | 70.0<br>(66.2–73.7) | 65.0<br>(61.8–68.2) | 72.5<br>(65.3–79.6) | 72.1<br>(71.5–72.7)      |
| Prescribed       | 63.3<br>(62.2–64.3)                                                            | 60.1<br>(58.8–61.4) | 58.2<br>(56.9–59.5) | 56.0<br>(54.1–58.0) | 56.4<br>(54.1–58.6) | 58.7<br>(54.7–62.6) | 56.3<br>(52.7–59.8) | 62.4<br>(55.3–69.6) | 60.3<br>(59.6–60.9)      |
| Advised OTC      | 7.0<br>(6.7–7.3)                                                               | 5.9<br>(5.5–6.2)    | 6.1<br>(5.7–6.5)    | 5.3<br>(4.8–5.8)    | 6.1<br>(5.5–6.8)    | 5.5<br>(4.6–6.4)    | 6.2<br>(4.9–7.5)    | 6.8<br>(5.2–8.4)    | 6.3<br>(6.1–6.5)         |
| GP-supplied      | 4.9<br>(4.5–5.3)                                                               | 5.4<br>(4.8–6.0)    | 6.0<br>(5.2–6.7)    | 7.5<br>(5.9–9.1)    | 6.5<br>(5.3–7.7)    | 5.8<br>(4.3–7.3)    | 2.6<br>(1.9–3.3)    | 3.3<br>(1.8–4.7)    | 5.5<br>(5.2–5.8)         |
| Other treatments | 34.0<br>(33.1–34.9)                                                            | 34.7<br>(33.5–35.8) | 36.6<br>(35.2–37.9) | 33.3<br>(31.5–35.0) | 33.4<br>(31.5–35.3) | 36.3<br>(33.1–39.5) | 30.7<br>(26.2–35.2) | 34.6<br>(28.5–40.7) | 34.5<br>(34.0–35.1)      |
| Clinical         | 25.3<br>(24.5–26.1)                                                            | 26.1<br>(25.0–27.1) | 24.8<br>(23.6–25.9) | 23.9<br>(22.3–25.4) | 24.9<br>(23.1–26.6) | 26.1<br>(23.3–28.8) | 23.6<br>(19.7–27.5) | 26.4<br>(20.9–31.9) | 25.2<br>(24.7–25.7)      |
| Procedural       | 8.7<br>(8.4–9.0)                                                               | 8.6<br>(8.2–9.0)    | 11.8<br>(11.2–12.4) | 9.4<br>(8.7–10.0)   | 8.5<br>(7.9–9.2)    | 10.3<br>(9.0–11.5)  | 7.1<br>(5.7–8.5)    | 8.3<br>(6.6–9.9)    | 9.3<br>(9.1–9.5)         |

(continued)

Table A4.12b (continued): Summary of management by state/territory, per 100 problems managed, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)

| Management type                                  | Rate per 100 problems, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                          |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|                                                  | NSW<br>(n=276,796)                                                             | Vic<br>(n=167,658)  | Qld<br>(n=134,865)  | WA<br>(n=60,437)    | SA<br>(n=54,642)    | Tas<br>(n=19,171)   | ACT<br>(n=11,194)   | NT<br>(n=7,986)     | Australia<br>(n=732,749) |
| Referrals                                        | 4.8<br>(4.6–5.0)                                                               | 4.5<br>(4.2–4.7)    | 4.0<br>(3.7–4.3)    | 4.8<br>(4.3–5.3)    | 4.2<br>(3.7–4.7)    | 5.0<br>(4.1–5.9)    | 5.1<br>(3.9–6.3)    | 5.0<br>(3.6–6.4)    | 4.5<br>(4.4–4.7)         |
| Specialist                                       | 3.4<br>(3.3–3.6)                                                               | 3.0<br>(2.8–3.2)    | 2.8<br>(2.5–3.0)    | 3.3<br>(2.9–3.6)    | 2.8<br>(2.4–3.1)    | 3.2<br>(2.6–3.8)    | 3.3<br>(2.5–4.1)    | 3.2<br>(2.4–4.1)    | 3.1<br>(3.0–3.2)         |
| Allied health                                    | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)                                                               | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)    | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)    | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2)    | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.3)    | 1.4<br>(1.0–1.8)    | 4.6<br>(1.1–2.0)    | 1.3<br>(0.7–1.9)    | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)         |
| Hospital                                         | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)                                                               | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)    | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.3)    | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)    | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)    | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)    | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.4)    | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)         |
| Emergency department                             | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)                                                               | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)    | —                   | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)         |
| Other referral                                   | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                                                               | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)    | 0.9<br>(0.1–0.1)    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)    | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)    | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.3)    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)         |
| <b>Number of problems 2000–2003<sup>+</sup></b>  | <b>(n=108,944)</b>                                                             | <b>(n=67,238)</b>   | <b>(n=56,226)</b>   | <b>(n=23,179)</b>   | <b>(n=19,104)</b>   | <b>(n=7,633)</b>    | <b>(n=3,941)</b>    | <b>(n=3,626)</b>    | <b>(n=289,890)</b>       |
| Pathology <sup>+</sup>                           | 22.1<br>(21.2–23.0)                                                            | 23.1<br>(21.9–24.3) | 25.3<br>(23.7–26.8) | 26.0<br>(23.9–28.0) | 22.2<br>(19.9–24.4) | 21.9<br>(19.1–24.7) | 28.4<br>(24.0–32.9) | 26.6<br>(19.9–33.3) | 23.4<br>(22.8–24.0)      |
| <b>Number of problems 1999–2003<sup>++</sup></b> | <b>(n=223,729)</b>                                                             | <b>(n=133,201)</b>  | <b>(n=108,392)</b>  | <b>(n=49,543)</b>   | <b>(n=43,911)</b>   | <b>(n=16,072)</b>   | <b>(n=8,689)</b>    | <b>(n=6,100)</b>    | <b>(n=589,636)</b>       |
| Imaging <sup>++</sup>                            | 5.7<br>(5.6–5.9)                                                               | 5.1<br>(4.9–5.3)    | 6.0<br>(5.6–6.3)    | 5.9<br>(5.5–6.3)    | 4.4<br>(4.0–4.8)    | 5.1<br>(4.5–5.6)    | 6.4<br>(5.4–7.5)    | 5.0<br>(4.0–6.1)    | 5.5<br>(5.4–5.7)         |

(a) Figures will not total 100 as multiple events may occur for the management of each problem at encounter.

— <0.05 per 100 problems.

+ Limited to April 2000 to March 2003 inclusive due to older pathology codes in Years 1 and 2.

++ Limited to April 1999 to March 2003 inclusive due to older imaging codes in Year 1.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). OTC—over-the-counter; GP—General practitioner.

Table A4.13a: Encounters by state/territory at which management was recorded, crude rates (1998–2003)

| Management type                                   | Per cent of total encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                                   | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                                    | Vic<br>(n=114,000)         | Qld<br>(n=93,300)          | WA<br>(n=41,200)           | SA<br>(n=38,100)           | Tas<br>(n=13,300)          | ACT<br>(n=7,800)           | NT<br>(n=5,200)            | Australia<br>(n=502,100)   |
| <b>At least one management type</b>               | <b>92.3</b><br>(91.9–92.6)                                                            | <b>91.7</b><br>(91.3–92.1) | <b>91.2</b><br>(90.7–91.7) | <b>91.1</b><br>(90.2–91.8) | <b>91.1</b><br>(90.3–92.0) | <b>91.7</b><br>(90.5–92.8) | <b>88.8</b><br>(86.5–91.0) | <b>91.8</b><br>(89.8–93.7) | <b>91.7</b><br>(91.5–91.9) |
| <b>At least one medication or other treatment</b> | <b>83.7</b><br>(83.2–84.1)                                                            | <b>83.4</b><br>(82.8–83.9) | <b>82.6</b><br>(81.9–83.2) | <b>81.6</b><br>(80.5–82.6) | <b>82.0</b><br>(81.0–83.1) | <b>82.8</b><br>(81.2–84.4) | <b>78.8</b><br>(76.2–81.3) | <b>83.0</b><br>(80.5–85.5) | <b>83.0</b><br>(82.7–83.3) |
| <b>At least one medication</b>                    | <b>68.4</b><br>(67.8–69.0)                                                            | <b>66.4</b><br>(65.7–67.1) | <b>64.5</b><br>(63.7–65.3) | <b>64.9</b><br>(63.8–66.1) | <b>64.6</b><br>(63.4–65.9) | <b>65.1</b><br>(63.0–67.2) | <b>62.5</b><br>(59.8–65.1) | <b>66.1</b><br>(62.5–69.7) | <b>66.5</b><br>(66.1–66.8) |
| At least one prescription                         | 59.5<br>(58.8–60.2)                                                                   | 57.5<br>(56.6–58.4)        | 55.3<br>(54.4–56.3)        | 54.8<br>(53.2–56.3)        | 54.3<br>(52.6–56.0)        | 56.4<br>(53.7–59.0)        | 55.4<br>(52.5–58.2)        | 57.6<br>(53.4–61.8)        | 57.3<br>(56.9–57.7)        |
| At least one OTC advised                          | 8.7<br>(8.4–9.1)                                                                      | 7.5<br>(7.1–7.9)           | 7.8<br>(7.3–8.3)           | 6.8<br>(6.2–7.4)           | 7.6<br>(6.9–8.4)           | 6.9<br>(5.8–7.9)           | 8.1<br>(6.4–9.8)           | 10.0<br>(7.8–12.2)         | 8.0<br>(7.8–8.2)           |
| At least one GP-supplied                          | 5.4<br>(5.0–5.8)                                                                      | 6.0<br>(5.4–6.6)           | 6.3<br>(5.6–6.9)           | 7.8<br>(6.4–9.1)           | 7.2<br>(6.0–8.4)           | 6.4<br>(4.9–7.9)           | 3.2<br>(2.3–4.1)           | 4.1<br>(2.4–5.7)           | 6.0<br>(5.7–6.3)           |
| <b>At least one other treatment</b>               | <b>38.1</b><br>(37.3–39.0)                                                            | <b>39.5</b><br>(38.3–40.6) | <b>40.8</b><br>(39.6–42.0) | <b>38.3</b><br>(36.5–40.0) | <b>37.9</b><br>(36.0–39.9) | <b>40.7</b><br>(37.4–44.0) | <b>34.8</b><br>(30.2–39.5) | <b>40.4</b><br>(34.7–46.1) | <b>39.0</b><br>(38.4–39.5) |
| At least one clinical treatment                   | 29.0<br>(28.1–29.8)                                                                   | 30.2<br>(29.1–31.3)        | 28.7<br>(27.5–29.8)        | 28.1<br>(26.4–29.9)        | 28.7<br>(26.9–30.6)        | 30.2<br>(27.1–33.2)        | 27.7<br>(23.4–32.0)        | 31.4<br>(25.9–36.9)        | 29.2<br>(28.6–29.7)        |
| At least one therapeutic procedure                | 11.8<br>(11.4–12.2)                                                                   | 11.8<br>(11.4–12.3)        | 15.5<br>(14.8–16.2)        | 12.7<br>(11.9–13.5)        | 11.6<br>(10.7–12.4)        | 13.8<br>(12.2–15.4)        | 9.5<br>(7.7–11.2)          | 11.8<br>(9.9–13.7)         | 12.6<br>(12.3–12.8)        |
| <b>At least one referral</b>                      | <b>11.7</b><br>(11.4–12.0)                                                            | <b>11.2</b><br>(10.8–11.5) | <b>10.3</b><br>(9.8–10.7)  | <b>11.6</b><br>(11.0–12.1) | <b>11.2</b><br>(10.5–11.8) | <b>11.2</b><br>(10.2–12.2) | <b>11.4</b><br>(9.8–12.9)  | <b>12.0</b><br>(10.6–13.4) | <b>11.2</b><br>(11.1–11.4) |
| At least one referral to a specialist             | 4.9<br>(4.7–5.1)                                                                      | 4.4<br>(4.1–4.7)           | 3.9<br>(3.6–4.2)           | 4.8<br>(4.3–5.3)           | 3.9<br>(3.4–4.4)           | 4.5<br>(3.7–5.4)           | 4.5<br>(3.4–5.6)           | 5.0<br>(3.6–6.4)           | 4.5<br>(4.4–4.6)           |
| At least one referral to allied health            | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)                                                                      | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.7)           | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4)           | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.8)           | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.8)           | 2.0<br>(1.4–2.6)           | 2.2<br>(1.5–2.9)           | 1.9<br>(1.1–2.6)           | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)           |
| At least one referral to hospital                 | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)                                                                      | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)           | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)           | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5)           | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)           | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)           | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)           | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.6)           | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.3)           |
| At least one referral to emergency department     | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                                                                      | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)           | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)           | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)           | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)           | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)           | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)           | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)           | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)           |

(continued)

Table A4.13a (continued): Encounters by state/territory at which management was recorded, crude rates (1998–2003)

| Management type                   | Per cent of total encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                                   |                                   |                                   |                                   |                                   |                                   |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                   | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                                    | Vic<br>(n=114,000)                | Qld<br>(n=93,300)                 | WA<br>(n=41,200)                  | SA<br>(n=38,100)                  | Tas<br>(n=13,300)                 | ACT<br>(n=7,800)                  | NT<br>(n=5,200)                   | Australia<br>(n=502,100)          |
| At least one referral NOS         | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)                                                                      | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)                  | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                  | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)                  | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)                  | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)                  | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)                  | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.4)                  | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)                  |
| <b>At least one investigation</b> | <b>20.3</b><br><b>(19.9–20.7)</b>                                                     | <b>19.7</b><br><b>(19.2–20.3)</b> | <b>21.4</b><br><b>(20.7–22.1)</b> | <b>21.8</b><br><b>(20.9–22.6)</b> | <b>19.2</b><br><b>(18.2–20.1)</b> | <b>20.4</b><br><b>(18.9–21.9)</b> | <b>20.8</b><br><b>(18.9–22.7)</b> | <b>23.6</b><br><b>(20.8–26.3)</b> | <b>20.4</b><br><b>(20.2–20.7)</b> |
| At least one pathology order      | 14.4<br>(14.1–14.8)                                                                   | 14.5<br>(14.0–15.0)               | 15.8<br>(15.2–16.4)               | 16.0<br>(15.2–16.7)               | 14.5<br>(13.7–15.3)               | 15.1<br>(13.8–16.5)               | 14.6<br>(13.0–16.2)               | 18.3<br>(15.7–20.9)               | 14.9<br>(14.7–15.1)               |
| At least one imaging order        | 7.4<br>(7.2–7.6)                                                                      | 6.8<br>(6.5–7.0)                  | 7.5<br>(7.1–7.9)                  | 7.7<br>(7.3–8.2)                  | 5.8<br>(5.3–6.3)                  | 6.5<br>(5.9–7.1)                  | 8.1<br>(6.9–9.3)                  | 7.4<br>(6.2–8.7)                  | 7.2<br>(7.0–7.3)                  |

(a) Figures will not total 100 as multiple events may occur at each encounter or for the management of each problem at encounter.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). OTC—over-the-counter; GP—General practitioner; NOS—not otherwise specified.

Table A4.13b: Encounters by state/territory at which management was recorded, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)

| Management type                                   | Per cent of total encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                                   |                                   |                                   |                                   |                                   |                                   |                                   |                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                                   | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                                    | Vic<br>(n=114,000)                | Qld<br>(n=93,300)                 | WA<br>(n=41,200)                  | SA<br>(n=38,100)                  | Tas<br>(n=13,300)                 | ACT<br>(n=7,800)                  | NT<br>(n=5,200)                   | Australia<br>(n=502,100)          |
| <b>At least one management type</b>               | <b>92.4</b><br><b>(92.0–92.7)</b>                                                     | <b>91.7</b><br><b>(91.3–92.2)</b> | <b>91.3</b><br><b>(90.8–91.8)</b> | <b>91.1</b><br><b>(90.2–91.9)</b> | <b>91.2</b><br><b>(90.3–92.0)</b> | <b>91.7</b><br><b>(90.6–92.8)</b> | <b>89.0</b><br><b>(86.8–91.2)</b> | <b>92.1</b><br><b>(90.0–94.2)</b> | <b>91.8</b><br><b>(91.5–92.0)</b> |
| <b>At least one medication or other treatment</b> | <b>83.8</b><br><b>(83.3–84.2)</b>                                                     | <b>83.5</b><br><b>(82.9–84.1)</b> | <b>82.7</b><br><b>(82.1–83.4)</b> | <b>81.7</b><br><b>(80.6–82.7)</b> | <b>82.1</b><br><b>(81.1–83.2)</b> | <b>82.8</b><br><b>(81.2–84.4)</b> | <b>79.0</b><br><b>(76.5–81.5)</b> | <b>83.8</b><br><b>(81.0–86.5)</b> | <b>83.1</b><br><b>(82.8–83.4)</b> |
| <b>At least one medication</b>                    | <b>68.4</b><br><b>(67.8–69.0)</b>                                                     | <b>66.4</b><br><b>(65.7–67.1)</b> | <b>64.7</b><br><b>(63.9–65.4)</b> | <b>65.1</b><br><b>(63.9–66.2)</b> | <b>64.7</b><br><b>(63.5–65.9)</b> | <b>65.0</b><br><b>(62.9–67.1)</b> | <b>62.9</b><br><b>(60.2–65.6)</b> | <b>68.0</b><br><b>(64.1–71.9)</b> | <b>66.5</b><br><b>(66.2–66.9)</b> |
| At least one prescription                         | 59.2<br>(58.5–59.9)                                                                   | 57.2<br>(56.3–58.1)               | 55.5<br>(54.5–56.4)               | 54.7<br>(53.1–56.3)               | 51.2<br>(52.5–55.8)               | 56.0<br>(53.4–58.6)               | 55.9<br>(53.0–58.8)               | 60.0<br>(55.6–64.3)               | 57.2<br>(56.7–57.6)               |
| At least one OTC advised                          | 9.1<br>(8.7–9.5)                                                                      | 7.9<br>(7.4–8.3)                  | 7.9<br>(7.4–8.4)                  | 7.1<br>(6.4–7.7)                  | 7.9<br>(7.2–8.7)                  | 7.1<br>(6.0–8.3)                  | 7.9<br>(6.3–9.5)                  | 9.5<br>(7.4–11.7)                 | 8.3<br>(8.0–8.5)                  |
| At least one GP-supplied                          | 5.4<br>(5.0–5.8)                                                                      | 6.0<br>(5.4–6.6)                  | 6.3<br>(5.6–6.9)                  | 7.8<br>(6.5–9.2)                  | 7.2<br>(6.0–8.4)                  | 6.4<br>(4.9–7.8)                  | 3.2<br>(2.3–4.1)                  | 4.2<br>(2.4–5.9)                  | 6.0<br>(5.7–6.3)                  |
| <b>At least one other treatment</b>               | <b>38.2</b><br><b>(37.3–39.1)</b>                                                     | <b>39.5</b><br><b>(38.4–40.7)</b> | <b>40.8</b><br><b>(39.6–42.0)</b> | <b>38.1</b><br><b>(36.3–39.9)</b> | <b>37.9</b><br><b>(36.0–39.9)</b> | <b>40.7</b><br><b>(37.4–44.0)</b> | <b>34.4</b><br><b>(29.8–39.0)</b> | <b>39.4</b><br><b>(33.7–45.2)</b> | <b>39.0</b><br><b>(38.4–39.5)</b> |

(continued)

Table A4.13b (continued): Encounters by state/territory at which management was recorded, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)

| Management type                               | Per cent of total encounters <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                                   |                                   |                                   |                                   |                                   |                                   |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                               | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                                   | Vic<br>(n=114,000)                | Qld<br>(n=93,300)                 | WA<br>(n=41,200)                  | SA<br>(n=38,100)                  | Tas<br>(n=13,300)                 | ACT<br>(n=7,800)                  | NT<br>(n=5,200)                   | Australia<br>(n=502,100)          |
| At least one clinical treatment               | 29.1<br>(28.2–30.0)                                                                  | 30.4<br>(29.3–31.5)               | 28.7<br>(27.5–29.8)               | 28.1<br>(26.3–29.8)               | 28.9<br>(27.0–30.8)               | 30.3<br>(27.2–33.4)               | 27.3<br>(23.0–31.5)               | 30.7<br>(25.2–36.3)               | 29.2<br>(28.7–29.8)               |
| At least one therapeutic procedure            | 11.7<br>(11.3–12.1)                                                                  | 11.7<br>(11.2–12.2)               | 15.5<br>(14.8–16.1)               | 12.6<br>(11.8–13.4)               | 11.4<br>(10.6–12.2)               | 13.6<br>(12.0–15.2)               | 9.5<br>(7.7–11.3)                 | 11.6<br>(9.6–13.5)                | 12.5<br>(12.2–12.7)               |
| <b>At least one referral</b>                  | <b>11.6</b><br><b>(11.3–11.9)</b>                                                    | <b>11.0</b><br><b>(10.7–11.3)</b> | <b>10.2</b><br><b>(9.8–10.7)</b>  | <b>11.4</b><br><b>(10.9–12.0)</b> | <b>11.0</b><br><b>(10.4–11.6)</b> | <b>11.1</b><br><b>(10.1–12.2)</b> | <b>11.4</b><br><b>(9.9–13.0)</b>  | <b>12.0</b><br><b>(10.3–13.6)</b> | <b>11.1</b><br><b>(11.0–11.3)</b> |
| At least one referral to a specialist         | 4.9<br>(4.6–5.1)                                                                     | 4.3<br>(4.1–4.6)                  | 3.9<br>(3.6–4.2)                  | 4.7<br>(4.2–5.2)                  | 3.9<br>(3.4–4.4)                  | 4.5<br>(3.7–5.3)                  | 4.6<br>(3.4–5.7)                  | 4.9<br>(3.5–6.3)                  | 4.5<br>(4.3–4.6)                  |
| At least one referral to allied health        | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)                                                                     | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.7)                  | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4)                  | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.8)                  | 1.5<br>(1.2–1.7)                  | 2.0<br>(1.4–2.6)                  | 2.2<br>(1.5–2.9)                  | 2.0<br>(1.0–3.0)                  | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.5)                  |
| At least one referral to hospital             | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)                                                                     | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.3)                  | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)                  | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5)                  | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)                  | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.4)                  | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.3)                  | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.6)                  | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.3)                  |
| At least one referral to emergency department | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                                                                     | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                  | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)                  | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)                  | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)                  | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)                  | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)                  | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.3)                  | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                  |
| At least one referral NOS                     | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)                                                                     | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)                  | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                  | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)                  | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)                  | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)                  | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)                  | 0.3<br>(0.0–0.5)                  | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)                  |
| <b>At least one investigation</b>             | <b>20.1</b><br><b>(19.7–20.5)</b>                                                    | <b>19.4</b><br><b>(18.9–19.9)</b> | <b>21.4</b><br><b>(20.7–22.0)</b> | <b>21.4</b><br><b>(20.5–22.2)</b> | <b>18.9</b><br><b>(17.9–19.8)</b> | <b>20.0</b><br><b>(18.5–21.5)</b> | <b>20.7</b><br><b>(18.8–22.6)</b> | <b>23.5</b><br><b>(20.7–26.2)</b> | <b>20.2</b><br><b>(20.0–20.5)</b> |
| At least one pathology order                  | 14.3<br>(13.9–14.6)                                                                  | 14.3<br>(13.8–14.7)               | 15.8<br>(15.2–16.3)               | 15.7<br>(14.9–16.4)               | 14.2<br>(13.4–15.0)               | 14.8<br>(13.4–16.1)               | 14.5<br>(13.0–16.1)               | 18.3<br>(15.7–20.9)               | 14.7<br>(14.5–14.9)               |
| At least one imaging order                    | 7.4<br>(7.2–7.6)                                                                     | 6.7<br>(6.4–6.9)                  | 7.5<br>(7.1–7.8)                  | 7.6<br>(7.1–8.0)                  | 5.8<br>(5.3–6.3)                  | 6.5<br>(5.8–7.1)                  | 8.1<br>(6.9–9.3)                  | 7.4<br>(6.2–8.6)                  | 7.1<br>(7.0–7.2)                  |

(a) Figures will not total 100 as multiple events may occur at each encounter or for the management of each problem at encounter.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). OTC—over-the-counter; GP—General practitioner; NOS—not otherwise specified.

Table A4.14a: Distribution of medications prescribed by group and subgroup, by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)

| Group/subgroup            | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|                           | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)         | Qld<br>(n=93,300)          | WA<br>(n=41,200)           | SA<br>(n=38,100)           | Tas<br>(n=13,300)          | ACT<br>(n=7,800)           | NT<br>(n=5,200)            | Australia<br>(n=502,100)   |
| <b>Antibiotics</b>        | <b>15.2</b><br>(14.9–15.6)                                                       | <b>15.0</b><br>(14.5–15.5) | <b>15.1</b><br>(14.6–15.6) | <b>13.1</b><br>(12.4–13.8) | <b>13.7</b><br>(12.9–14.5) | <b>12.9</b><br>(11.8–13.9) | <b>16.3</b><br>(14.4–18.2) | <b>19.3</b><br>(16.3–22.3) | <b>14.9</b><br>(14.6–15.1) |
| Broad-spectrum penicillin | 5.3<br>(5.1–5.5)                                                                 | 5.3<br>(5.0–5.5)           | 5.2<br>(4.9–5.5)           | 4.6<br>(4.2–5.1)           | 4.8<br>(4.3–5.3)           | 3.5<br>(3.0–4.1)           | 5.1<br>(4.0–6.1)           | 6.1<br>(4.7–7.4)           | 5.1<br>(5.0–5.3)           |
| Other antibiotics         | 3.2<br>(3.1–3.4)                                                                 | 3.2<br>(3.0–3.4)           | 3.2<br>(3.1–3.4)           | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.7)           | 3.1<br>(2.9–3.4)           | 3.5<br>(3.0–4.1)           | 3.9<br>(3.1–4.7)           | 2.8<br>(2.0–3.5)           | 3.2<br>(3.1–3.3)           |
| Penicillin                | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.3)                                                                 | 2.4<br>(2.2–2.6)           | 2.2<br>(2.0–2.4)           | 2.3<br>(2.1–2.6)           | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.1)           | 1.9<br>(1.6–2.2)           | 2.2<br>(1.7–2.7)           | 4.7<br>(3.6–5.9)           | 2.2<br>(2.2–2.3)           |
| Cephalosporins            | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.1)                                                                 | 1.8<br>(1.6–1.9)           | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.0)           | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6)           | 1.7<br>(1.4–1.9)           | 1.7<br>(1.3–2.2)           | 2.1<br>(1.4–2.8)           | 1.5<br>(0.9–2.1)           | 1.8<br>(1.8–1.9)           |
| Tetracyclines             | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)                                                                 | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)           | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)           | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)           | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)           | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.2)           | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.4)           | 1.7<br>(1.0–2.3)           | 1.1<br>(1.1–1.2)           |
| Anti-infectives           | 0.8<br>(0.7–1.0)                                                                 | 0.6<br>(0.6–0.7)           | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)           | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)           | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)           | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.7)           | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.6)           | 1.4<br>(0.9–1.8)           | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)           |
| <b>Cardiovascular</b>     | <b>15.5</b><br>(14.9–16.1)                                                       | <b>14.3</b><br>(13.6–15.0) | <b>11.1</b><br>(10.5–11.7) | <b>12.4</b><br>(11.4–13.3) | <b>11.7</b><br>(10.7–12.7) | <b>12.8</b><br>(11.0–14.6) | <b>10.3</b><br>(8.5–12.0)  | <b>10.7</b><br>(7.8–13.7)  | <b>13.7</b><br>(13.3–14.0) |
| Anti-hypertensives        | 8.4<br>(8.1–8.7)                                                                 | 7.9<br>(7.5–8.4)           | 5.8<br>(5.4–6.1)           | 6.3<br>(5.7–6.8)           | 6.1<br>(5.5–6.6)           | 7.2<br>(6.2–8.3)           | 5.7<br>(4.6–6.9)           | 5.8<br>(4.2–7.4)           | 7.4<br>(7.2–7.5)           |
| Other CVS drugs           | 2.9<br>(2.7–3.0)                                                                 | 2.4<br>(2.3–2.6)           | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.0)           | 2.6<br>(2.4–2.8)           | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.4)           | 2.2<br>(1.9–2.6)           | 2.0<br>(1.5–2.5)           | 1.9<br>(1.2–2.5)           | 2.5<br>(2.4–2.5)           |
| Beta-blockers             | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)                                                                 | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.8)           | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.7)           | 1.8<br>(1.5–2.0)           | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.8)           | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.9)           | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.1)           | 1.4<br>(0.9–1.9)           | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.7)           |
| Anti-angina               | 1.3<br>(1.3–1.4)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)           | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)           | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)           | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)           | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.1)           | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.0)           | 1.0<br>(0.5–1.4)           | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.2)           |
| <b>CNS</b>                | <b>11.4</b><br>(11.0–11.8)                                                       | <b>10.3</b><br>(9.9–10.8)  | <b>10.1</b><br>(9.6–10.5)  | <b>10.1</b><br>(9.3–10.8)  | <b>10.8</b><br>(9.9–11.6)  | <b>12.3</b><br>(10.8–13.8) | <b>8.0</b><br>(6.9–9.0)    | <b>10.1</b><br>(8.1–12.1)  | <b>10.7</b><br>(10.5–10.9) |
| Simple analgesics         | 4.8<br>(4.6–5.1)                                                                 | 3.9<br>(3.7–4.2)           | 3.7<br>(3.4–3.9)           | 3.9<br>(3.5–4.2)           | 3.6<br>(3.2–4.1)           | 4.9<br>(4.0–5.8)           | 2.6<br>(1.9–3.2)           | 2.1<br>(1.6–2.7)           | 4.2<br>(4.1–4.3)           |

(continued)

Table A4.14a (continued): Distribution of medications prescribed by group and subgroup, by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)

| Group/subgroup               | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                                |                                |                                |                                |                                 |                                |                                |                                |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                              | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)             | Qld<br>(n=93,300)              | WA<br>(n=41,200)               | SA<br>(n=38,100)               | Tas<br>(n=13,300)               | ACT<br>(n=7,800)               | NT<br>(n=5,200)                | Australia<br>(n=502,100)       |
| Compound analgesics          | 2.7<br>(2.6–2.8)                                                                 | 2.7<br>(2.5–2.8)               | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.7)               | 2.8<br>(2.5–3.1)               | 3.2<br>(2.9–3.5)               | 2.8<br>(2.4–3.2)                | 2.3<br>(1.8–2.7)               | 3.6<br>(2.7–4.5)               | 2.7<br>(2.6–2.8)               |
| Narcotic analgesics          | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.8)                                                                 | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.9)               | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.8)               | 1.5<br>(1.2–1.8)               | 1.9<br>(1.5–2.3)               | 2.6<br>(2.0–3.3)                | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.7)               | 2.1<br>(1.2–3.0)               | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.8)               |
| Anti-emetic/anti-nauseants   | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.5)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)               | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.7)               | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.4)               | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.5)               | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.4)                | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.5)               | 1.4<br>(1.0–1.9)               | 1.4<br>(1.4–1.5)               |
| <b>Psychological</b>         | <b>7.2</b><br><b>(6.9–7.4)</b>                                                   | <b>8.3</b><br><b>(7.9–8.7)</b> | <b>7.6</b><br><b>(7.3–7.9)</b> | <b>7.4</b><br><b>(6.8–7.9)</b> | <b>8.3</b><br><b>(7.5–9.0)</b> | <b>9.2</b><br><b>(8.1–10.2)</b> | <b>6.4</b><br><b>(5.5–7.2)</b> | <b>6.4</b><br><b>(5.1–7.6)</b> | <b>7.6</b><br><b>(7.5–7.8)</b> |
| Anti-depressants             | 2.9<br>(2.7–3.0)                                                                 | 3.2<br>(3.0–3.3)               | 3.3<br>(3.1–3.5)               | 3.2<br>(2.9–3.4)               | 3.0<br>(2.7–3.3)               | 3.5<br>(3.0–4.1)                | 3.1<br>(2.6–3.6)               | 2.7<br>(2.1–3.2)               | 3.1<br>(3.0–3.2)               |
| Anti-anxiety agents          | 1.9<br>(1.8–2.0)                                                                 | 2.4<br>(2.2–2.5)               | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.1)               | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.9)               | 2.3<br>(2.0–2.6)               | 2.7<br>(2.3–3.2)                | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.6)               | 1.4<br>(0.8–1.9)               | 2.0<br>(2.0–2.1)               |
| Sedatives/hypnotics          | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)                                                                 | 2.1<br>(2.0–2.2)               | 1.8<br>(1.6–1.9)               | 2.2<br>(1.9–2.4)               | 2.2<br>(1.9–2.4)               | 2.4<br>(2.0–2.7)                | 1.5<br>(1.1–1.9)               | 1.9<br>(1.4–2.4)               | 1.9<br>(1.9–2.0)               |
| <b>Musculoskeletal</b>       | <b>6.2</b><br><b>(6.0–6.4)</b>                                                   | <b>5.8</b><br><b>(5.5–6.0)</b> | <b>5.3</b><br><b>(5.0–5.5)</b> | <b>6.0</b><br><b>(5.6–6.4)</b> | <b>4.9</b><br><b>(4.6–5.3)</b> | <b>5.4</b><br><b>(4.8–6.0)</b>  | <b>5.0</b><br><b>(4.1–5.8)</b> | <b>6.5</b><br><b>(5.1–7.9)</b> | <b>5.8</b><br><b>(5.7–5.9)</b> |
| NSAID                        | 5.1<br>(4.9–5.2)                                                                 | 4.8<br>(4.6–5.0)               | 4.5<br>(4.3–4.7)               | 5.0<br>(4.7–5.4)               | 4.2<br>(3.8–4.5)               | 5.0<br>(4.1–5.1)                | 4.4<br>(3.6–5.2)               | 5.5<br>(4.3–6.7)               | 4.8<br>(4.7–4.9)               |
| <b>Hormones</b>              | <b>6.1</b><br><b>(5.9–6.3)</b>                                                   | <b>5.9</b><br><b>(5.7–6.2)</b> | <b>5.9</b><br><b>(5.6–6.2)</b> | <b>6.1</b><br><b>(5.6–6.5)</b> | <b>5.9</b><br><b>(5.4–6.3)</b> | <b>5.8</b><br><b>(5.0–6.7)</b>  | <b>5.2</b><br><b>(4.4–5.9)</b> | <b>6.6</b><br><b>(5.4–7.9)</b> | <b>6.0</b><br><b>(5.9–6.1)</b> |
| Sex hormones/anabolic agents | 2.1<br>(2.0–2.2)                                                                 | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.1)               | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.7)               | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.8)               | 2.3<br>(2.0–2.6)               | 2.4<br>(2.0–2.7)                | 2.5<br>(2.0–3.0)               | 2.5<br>(1.8–3.2)               | 2.2<br>(2.2–2.3)               |
| Hypoglycaemic agents         | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.2)                                                                 | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.2)               | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.6)               | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.9)               | 1.9<br>(1.6–2.1)               | 1.5<br>(1.1–1.9)                | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.5)               | 2.2<br>(1.4–3.0)               | 1.9<br>(1.8–1.9)               |
| Cortico-steroids             | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.3)                                                                 | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)               | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)               | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.2)               | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)               | 1.5<br>(1.2–1.7)                | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.3)               | 1.3<br>(0.8–1.8)               | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.3)               |
| <b>Respiratory</b>           | <b>6.7</b><br><b>(6.4–6.9)</b>                                                   | <b>5.9</b><br><b>(5.6–6.2)</b> | <b>5.9</b><br><b>(5.6–6.2)</b> | <b>4.4</b><br><b>(4.0–4.8)</b> | <b>5.7</b><br><b>(5.1–6.3)</b> | <b>4.2</b><br><b>(3.6–4.9)</b>  | <b>5.1</b><br><b>(4.2–6.0)</b> | <b>5.8</b><br><b>(3.5–8.0)</b> | <b>6.0</b><br><b>(5.9–6.2)</b> |

(continued)

Table A4.14a (continued): Distribution of medications prescribed by group and subgroup, by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)

| Group/subgroup                 | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                                |                                |                                |                                |                                |                                |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)             | Qld<br>(n=93,300)              | WA<br>(n=41,200)               | SA<br>(n=38,100)               | Tas<br>(n=13,300)              | ACT<br>(n=7,800)               | NT<br>(n=5,200)                | Australia<br>(n=502,100)       |
| Bronchodilator/spasm relaxants | 3.2<br>(3.1–3.4)                                                                 | 3.1<br>(2.9–3.2)               | 3.1<br>(2.9–3.3)               | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.1)               | 3.2<br>(2.8–3.5)               | 2.4<br>(2.0–2.8)               | 2.4<br>(1.8–2.9)               | 2.8<br>(1.6–3.9)               | 3.0<br>(2.9–3.1)               |
| Asthma preventives             | 2.4<br>(2.3–2.5)                                                                 | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.2)               | 2.2<br>(2.0–2.3)               | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.1)               | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.2)               | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.9)               | 2.2<br>(1.8–2.6)               | 2.6<br>(1.6–3.6)               | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.3)               |
| <b>Allergy, immune system</b>  | <b>4.9</b><br><b>(4.7–5.2)</b>                                                   | <b>4.7</b><br><b>(4.3–5.0)</b> | <b>4.9</b><br><b>(4.5–5.3)</b> | <b>4.9</b><br><b>(4.2–5.6)</b> | <b>3.7</b><br><b>(3.2–4.2)</b> | <b>4.7</b><br><b>(3.6–5.7)</b> | <b>5.2</b><br><b>(3.8–6.5)</b> | <b>3.7</b><br><b>(1.9–5.5)</b> | <b>4.8</b><br><b>(4.6–4.9)</b> |
| Immunisation                   | 4.1<br>(3.9–4.3)                                                                 | 4.0<br>(3.7–4.4)               | 4.3<br>(4.0–4.7)               | 4.3<br>(3.6–5.0)               | 3.2<br>(2.7–3.6)               | 4.3<br>(3.2–5.3)               | 4.5<br>(3.1–5.8)               | 2.9<br>(1.2–4.5)               | 4.1<br>(3.9–4.2)               |
| <b>Skin</b>                    | <b>4.6</b><br><b>(4.5–4.8)</b>                                                   | <b>4.3</b><br><b>(4.2–4.5)</b> | <b>3.9</b><br><b>(3.7–4.1)</b> | <b>3.9</b><br><b>(3.6–4.1)</b> | <b>3.6</b><br><b>(3.4–3.9)</b> | <b>4.9</b><br><b>(3.1–6.7)</b> | <b>4.0</b><br><b>(3.4–4.5)</b> | <b>4.5</b><br><b>(3.6–5.3)</b> | <b>4.3</b><br><b>(4.2–4.4)</b> |
| Topical steroids               | 2.9<br>(2.8–3.0)                                                                 | 3.0<br>(2.8–3.1)               | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.4)               | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.7)               | 2.6<br>(2.4–2.8)               | 3.2<br>(2.2–4.2)               | 2.3<br>(1.9–2.8)               | 2.6<br>(2.0–3.2)               | 2.7<br>(2.7–2.8)               |
| <b>Digestive</b>               | <b>4.6</b><br><b>(4.4–4.7)</b>                                                   | <b>3.9</b><br><b>(3.8–4.1)</b> | <b>3.6</b><br><b>(3.4–3.8)</b> | <b>3.5</b><br><b>(3.3–3.8)</b> | <b>3.4</b><br><b>(3.2–3.7)</b> | <b>3.9</b><br><b>(3.4–4.4)</b> | <b>3.2</b><br><b>(2.6–3.8)</b> | <b>3.3</b><br><b>(2.4–4.1)</b> | <b>4.0</b><br><b>(3.9–4.1)</b> |
| Anti-ulcerants                 | 2.5<br>(2.4–2.6)                                                                 | 2.3<br>(2.1–2.4)               | 2.1<br>(2.0–2.2)               | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.3)               | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.0)               | 2.4<br>(2.0–2.7)               | 1.7<br>(1.3–2.1)               | 2.0<br>(1.5–2.6)               | 2.3<br>(2.2–2.3)               |
| <b>Blood</b>                   | <b>1.9</b><br><b>(1.8–2.0)</b>                                                   | <b>1.8</b><br><b>(1.7–2.0)</b> | <b>1.6</b><br><b>(1.4–1.7)</b> | <b>1.7</b><br><b>(1.6–1.9)</b> | <b>1.6</b><br><b>(1.5–1.8)</b> | <b>1.5</b><br><b>(1.2–1.8)</b> | <b>1.5</b><br><b>(1.0–1.9)</b> | <b>1.2</b><br><b>(0.6–1.7)</b> | <b>1.8</b><br><b>(1.7–1.8)</b> |
| Other blood drugs              | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)               | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)               | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)               | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)               | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.1)               | 0.7<br>(0.5–1.0)               | 0.8<br>(0.3–1.2)               | 0.9<br>(0.9–0.9)               |
| <b>Ear, nose topical</b>       | <b>2.2</b><br><b>(2.1–2.3)</b>                                                   | <b>1.8</b><br><b>(1.7–1.9)</b> | <b>2.2</b><br><b>(2.1–2.3)</b> | <b>2.2</b><br><b>(2.0–2.4)</b> | <b>1.6</b><br><b>(1.5–1.8)</b> | <b>1.5</b><br><b>(1.3–1.7)</b> | <b>2.1</b><br><b>(1.4–2.8)</b> | <b>3.4</b><br><b>(2.5–4.3)</b> | <b>2.1</b><br><b>(2.0–2.1)</b> |
| Topical nasal                  | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.3)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)               | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)               | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)               | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.0)               | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)               | 1.6<br>(0.9–2.2)               | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.5)               | 1.1<br>(1.1–1.2)               |
| Topical otic                   | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)               | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)               | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.2)               | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)               | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.9)               | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7)               | 2.3<br>(1.6–2.9)               | 0.9<br>(0.9–0.9)               |

(continued)

Table A4.14a (continued): Distribution of medications prescribed by group and subgroup, by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)

| Group/subgroup               | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                          |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|                              | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)      | Qld<br>(n=93,300)       | WA<br>(n=41,200)        | SA<br>(n=38,100)        | Tas<br>(n=13,300)       | ACT<br>(n=7,800)        | NT<br>(n=5,200)         | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| <b>Urogenital</b>            | <b>2.1</b><br>(2.0–2.2)                                                          | <b>2.4</b><br>(2.3–2.6) | <b>1.7</b><br>(1.6–1.8) | <b>1.9</b><br>(1.7–2.1) | <b>2.0</b><br>(1.8–2.2) | <b>2.1</b><br>(1.7–2.5) | <b>1.3</b><br>(1.0–1.6) | <b>1.7</b><br>(1.2–2.1) | <b>2.1</b><br>(2.0–2.1)  |
| Diuretics                    | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)                                                                 | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)        | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.2)        | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6)        | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.7)        | 1.5<br>(1.1–1.9)        | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.2)        | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.6)        | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.5)         |
| <b>Contraceptives</b>        | <b>1.6</b><br>(1.5–1.7)                                                          | <b>1.8</b><br>(1.7–1.9) | <b>2.1</b><br>(2.0–2.3) | <b>1.9</b><br>(1.7–2.2) | <b>1.7</b><br>(1.5–1.9) | <b>1.9</b><br>(1.5–2.2) | <b>2.7</b><br>(2.1–3.2) | <b>2.3</b><br>(1.9–2.8) | <b>1.8</b><br>(1.8–1.9)  |
| Contraceptive oral/systemic  | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)                                                                 | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)        | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.2)        | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.1)        | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.9)        | 1.9<br>(1.5–2.2)        | 2.7<br>(2.1–3.2)        | 2.3<br>(1.9–2.8)        | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)         |
| <b>Nutrition, metabolism</b> | <b>1.7</b><br>(1.5–1.8)                                                          | <b>1.6</b><br>(1.4–1.7) | <b>1.2</b><br>(1.1–1.3) | <b>1.3</b><br>(1.1–1.5) | <b>1.1</b><br>(0.9–1.4) | <b>1.1</b><br>(0.8–1.3) | <b>1.3</b><br>(0.9–1.6) | <b>0.8</b><br>(0.5–1.1) | <b>1.5</b><br>(1.4–1.5)  |
| <b>Eye medications</b>       | <b>1.7</b><br>(1.6–1.8)                                                          | <b>1.5</b><br>(1.4–1.6) | <b>1.5</b><br>(1.4–1.6) | <b>1.6</b><br>(1.4–1.8) | <b>1.5</b><br>(1.3–1.6) | <b>1.3</b><br>(1.1–1.5) | <b>1.5</b><br>(1.2–1.8) | <b>1.6</b><br>(1.3–2.0) | <b>1.6</b><br>(1.5–1.6)  |
| Anti-infectives eye          | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.0)        | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)        | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)        | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1)        | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)        | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.4)        | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.4)        | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.0)         |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b>         | <b>0.4</b><br>(0.4–0.5)                                                          | <b>0.5</b><br>(0.4–0.7) | <b>0.5</b><br>(0.4–0.5) | <b>0.4</b><br>(0.2–0.6) | <b>0.4</b><br>(0.3–0.6) | <b>0.3</b><br>(0.2–0.4) | <b>0.4</b><br>(0.2–0.6) | <b>0.3</b><br>(0.2–0.5) | <b>0.5</b><br>(0.4–0.5)  |
| <b>Anti-neoplastics</b>      | <b>0.4</b><br>(0.4–0.4)                                                          | <b>0.3</b><br>(0.3–0.4) | <b>0.3</b><br>(0.3–0.4) | <b>0.3</b><br>(0.3–0.4) | <b>0.3</b><br>(0.2–0.3) | <b>0.7</b><br>(0.5–0.9) | <b>0.2</b><br>(0.1–0.3) | <b>0.3</b><br>(0.1–0.5) | <b>0.4</b><br>(0.3–0.4)  |
| <b>Surgical preparations</b> | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.2)                                                          | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.2) | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.2) | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.2) | <b>0.2</b><br>(0.0–0.5) | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.0–0.1) | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.0–0.2) | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.0–0.3) | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.2)  |
| <b>Diagnostic agents</b>     | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.1)                                                          | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.1) | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.1) | —                       | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.1) | —                       | —                       | —                       | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.1)  |

(a) Figures will not add to 100 because multiple prescriptions could be written at each encounter and only the most frequently prescribed medications are included in this table.

— <0.05 per 100 encounters. Confidence intervals could not be calculated due to small sample size.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). CVS—cardiovascular system; CNS—central nervous system; NSAID—non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug.

**Table A4.14b: Distribution of medications prescribed by group and subgroup, by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Group/subgroup            | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|                           | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)         | Qld<br>(n=93,300)          | WA<br>(n=41,200)           | SA<br>(n=38,100)           | Tas<br>(n=13,300)          | ACT<br>(n=7,800)           | NT<br>(n=5,200)            | Australia<br>(n=502,100)   |
| <b>Antibiotics</b>        | <b>15.6</b><br>(15.2–16.0)                                                       | <b>15.5</b><br>(15.0–16.0) | <b>15.3</b><br>(14.8–15.9) | <b>13.4</b><br>(12.7–14.2) | <b>14.2</b><br>(13.4–15.0) | <b>13.5</b><br>(12.4–14.5) | <b>15.8</b><br>(13.9–17.6) | <b>18.7</b><br>(15.6–21.8) | <b>15.2</b><br>(15.0–15.5) |
| Broad-spectrum penicillin | 5.5<br>(5.3–5.7)                                                                 | 5.6<br>(5.3–5.9)           | 5.4<br>(5.1–5.7)           | 4.9<br>(4.4–5.3)           | 5.1<br>(4.6–5.6)           | 3.9<br>(3.3–4.5)           | 5.0<br>(4.0–6.0)           | 5.8<br>(4.6–7.1)           | 5.4<br>(5.3–5.5)           |
| Other antibiotics         | 3.3<br>(3.1–3.4)                                                                 | 3.2<br>(3.0–3.4)           | 3.3<br>(3.1–3.5)           | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.8)           | 3.2<br>(2.9–3.8)           | 3.6<br>(3.1–4.1)           | 3.8<br>(3.0–4.6)           | 2.7<br>(2.0–3.5)           | 3.2<br>(3.1–3.3)           |
| Penicillin                | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.3)                                                                 | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.6)           | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.4)           | 2.4<br>(2.1–2.6)           | 2.0<br>(1.7–2.2)           | 2.0<br>(1.6–2.4)           | 2.1<br>(1.6–2.5)           | 4.8<br>(3.5–6.0)           | 2.3<br>(2.2–2.4)           |
| Cephalosporins            | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.2)                                                                 | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0)           | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.1)           | 1.5<br>(1.2–1.7)           | 1.7<br>(1.4–2.0)           | 1.8<br>(1.4–2.3)           | 2.1<br>(1.4–2.8)           | 1.3<br>(0.8–1.9)           | 1.9<br>(1.8–2.0)           |
| Tetracyclines             | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)                                                                 | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)           | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)           | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)           | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)           | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.2)           | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.3)           | 1.7<br>(1.1–2.4)           | 1.1<br>(1.1–1.2)           |
| Anti-infectives           | 0.8<br>(0.7–1.0)                                                                 | 0.6<br>(0.6–0.7)           | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)           | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)           | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.5)           | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.8)           | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.5)           | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.6)           | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)           |
| <b>Cardiovascular</b>     | <b>14.7</b><br>(14.2–15.3)                                                       | <b>13.5</b><br>(12.8–14.2) | <b>11.0</b><br>(10.5–11.6) | <b>12.1</b><br>(11.2–13.1) | <b>11.1</b><br>(10.2–12.0) | <b>11.9</b><br>(10.2–13.6) | <b>11.7</b><br>(9.7–13.8)  | <b>15.4</b><br>(10.5–20.3) | <b>13.2</b><br>(12.8–13.5) |
| Anti-hypertensives        | 8.0<br>(7.7–8.3)                                                                 | 7.5<br>(7.1–7.9)           | 5.7<br>(5.4–6.1)           | 6.1<br>(5.6–6.6)           | 5.8<br>(5.3–6.3)           | 6.7<br>(5.7–7.7)           | 6.6<br>(5.3–7.9)           | 8.3<br>(5.6–10.9)          | 7.1<br>(6.9–7.3)           |
| Other CVS drugs           | 2.8<br>(2.6–2.9)                                                                 | 2.4<br>(2.2–2.5)           | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.0)           | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.8)           | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.3)           | 2.1<br>(1.8–2.4)           | 2.3<br>(1.7–2.8)           | 2.5<br>(1.6–3.4)           | 2.4<br>(2.3–2.5)           |
| Beta-blockers             | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.8)                                                                 | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.7)           | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.7)           | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.9)           | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.7)           | 1.5<br>(1.2–1.8)           | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.3)           | 1.7<br>(1.0–2.3)           | 1.6<br>(1.6–1.7)           |
| Anti-angina               | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.3)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)           | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)           | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)           | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1)           | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)           | 1.0<br>(0.6–1.3)           | 1.9<br>(0.9–2.8)           | 1.1<br>(1.1–1.1)           |
| <b>CNS</b>                | <b>11.2</b><br>(10.8–11.6)                                                       | <b>10.1</b><br>(9.7–10.6)  | <b>10.0</b><br>(9.5–10.5)  | <b>10.0</b><br>(9.2–10.7)  | <b>10.6</b><br>(9.7–11.4)  | <b>12.1</b><br>(10.6–13.6) | <b>8.2</b><br>(7.1–9.2)    | <b>10.9</b><br>(8.8–12.9)  | <b>10.6</b><br>(10.3–10.8) |
| Simple analgesics         | 4.8<br>(4.5–5.0)                                                                 | 3.9<br>(3.7–4.2)           | 3.7<br>(3.4–3.9)           | 3.9<br>(3.6–4.3)           | 3.6<br>(3.1–4.1)           | 4.9<br>(3.9–5.8)           | 2.8<br>(2.1–3.5)           | 2.7<br>(1.9–3.5)           | 4.2<br>(4.0–4.3)           |

(continued)

**Table A4.14b (continued): Distribution of medications prescribed by group and subgroup, by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Group/subgroup                 | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                                |                                |                                |                                |                                |                                |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)             | Qld<br>(n=93,300)              | WA<br>(n=41,200)               | SA<br>(n=38,100)               | Tas<br>(n=13,300)              | ACT<br>(n=7,800)               | NT<br>(n=5,200)                | Australia<br>(n=502,100)       |
| Compound analgesics            | 2.6<br>(2.5–2.8)                                                                 | 2.6<br>(2.5–2.8)               | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.7)               | 2.7<br>(2.4–3.0)               | 3.1<br>(2.8–3.4)               | 2.8<br>(2.4–3.2)               | 2.3<br>(1.8–2.7)               | 3.6<br>(2.7–4.5)               | 2.7<br>(2.6–2.7)               |
| Narcotic analgesics            | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.8)                                                                 | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.8)               | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.8)               | 1.5<br>(1.1–1.8)               | 1.9<br>(1.5–2.3)               | 2.6<br>(1.9–3.2)               | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.7)               | 2.0<br>(1.2–2.8)               | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)               |
| Anti-emetic/anti-nauseants     | 1.4<br>(1.4–1.5)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)               | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)               | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.4)               | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.5)               | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.4)               | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.4)               | 1.7<br>(1.1–2.4)               | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.4)               |
| <b>Psychological</b>           | <b>7.0</b><br><b>(6.7–7.3)</b>                                                   | <b>8.0</b><br><b>(7.6–8.4)</b> | <b>7.5</b><br><b>(7.2–7.9)</b> | <b>7.2</b><br><b>(6.6–7.7)</b> | <b>8.0</b><br><b>(7.3–8.6)</b> | <b>8.9</b><br><b>(7.8–9.9)</b> | <b>6.5</b><br><b>(5.6–7.3)</b> | <b>6.9</b><br><b>(5.6–8.3)</b> | <b>7.4</b><br><b>(7.3–7.6)</b> |
| Anti-depressants               | 2.8<br>(2.7–3.0)                                                                 | 3.1<br>(2.9–3.3)               | 3.3<br>(3.1–3.5)               | 3.1<br>(2.8–3.3)               | 2.9<br>(2.6–3.2)               | 3.5<br>(2.9–4.0)               | 3.0<br>(2.5–3.5)               | 2.9<br>(2.3–3.5)               | 3.0<br>(2.9–3.1)               |
| Anti-anxiety agents            | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)                                                                 | 2.3<br>(2.1–2.4)               | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.1)               | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.8)               | 2.2<br>(1.9–2.5)               | 2.6<br>(2.2–3.0)               | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.6)               | 1.3<br>(0.8–1.9)               | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.0)               |
| Sedatives/hypnotics            | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.8)                                                                 | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.1)               | 1.8<br>(1.6–1.9)               | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.4)               | 2.1<br>(1.8–2.3)               | 2.2<br>(1.9–2.6)               | 1.6<br>(1.2–2.1)               | 2.4<br>(1.6–3.1)               | 1.9<br>(1.8–1.9)               |
| <b>Respiratory</b>             | <b>6.8</b><br><b>(6.5–7.1)</b>                                                   | <b>6.0</b><br><b>(5.7–6.3)</b> | <b>6.0</b><br><b>(5.6–6.3)</b> | <b>4.5</b><br><b>(4.1–4.9)</b> | <b>5.8</b><br><b>(5.2–6.4)</b> | <b>4.3</b><br><b>(3.6–5.0)</b> | <b>5.2</b><br><b>(4.2–6.1)</b> | <b>6.5</b><br><b>(4.2–8.8)</b> | <b>6.1</b><br><b>(6.0–6.3)</b> |
| Bronchodilator/spasm relaxants | 3.3<br>(3.2–3.4)                                                                 | 3.1<br>(2.9–3.3)               | 3.2<br>(3.0–3.4)               | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.1)               | 3.2<br>(2.8–3.6)               | 2.4<br>(2.0–2.8)               | 2.4<br>(1.8–3.0)               | 3.1<br>(1.9–4.4)               | 3.1<br>(3.0–3.2)               |
| Asthma preventives             | 2.4<br>(2.3–2.5)                                                                 | 2.1<br>(2.0–2.2)               | 2.2<br>(2.0–2.3)               | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.1)               | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.2)               | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.9)               | 2.2<br>(1.8–2.7)               | 2.9<br>(1.9–3.9)               | 2.2<br>(2.2–2.3)               |
| <b>Hormones</b>                | <b>6.0</b><br><b>(5.8–6.2)</b>                                                   | <b>5.8</b><br><b>(5.6–6.1)</b> | <b>5.9</b><br><b>(5.6–6.2)</b> | <b>6.0</b><br><b>(5.6–6.4)</b> | <b>5.8</b><br><b>(5.4–6.3)</b> | <b>5.7</b><br><b>(4.8–6.5)</b> | <b>5.4</b><br><b>(4.6–6.2)</b> | <b>7.3</b><br><b>(5.9–8.7)</b> | <b>5.9</b><br><b>(5.8–6.0)</b> |
| Sex hormones/anabolic agents   | 2.1<br>(2.0–2.2)                                                                 | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.1)               | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.7)               | 2.5<br>(2.2–2.7)               | 2.3<br>(2.0–2.5)               | 2.3<br>(2.0–2.7)               | 2.5<br>(2.0–3.0)               | 2.5<br>(1.8–3.3)               | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.3)               |
| Hypoglycaemic agents           | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.1)                                                                 | 1.9<br>(1.8–2.1)               | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.6)               | 1.7<br>(1.4–1.9)               | 1.8<br>(1.5–2.1)               | 1.4<br>(1.0–1.8)               | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.6)               | 2.7<br>(1.7–3.6)               | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)               |
| Cortico-steroids               | 1.2<br>(1.2–1.3)                                                                 | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)               | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)               | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.2)               | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)               | 1.4<br>(1.1–1.7)               | 1.0<br>(0.6–1.4)               | 1.4<br>(0.9–1.9)               | 1.2<br>(1.2–1.3)               |

(continued)

Table A4.14b (continued): Distribution of medications prescribed by group and subgroup, by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)

| Group/subgroup                | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|                               | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)      | Qld<br>(n=93,300)       | WA<br>(n=41,200)        | SA<br>(n=38,100)        | Tas<br>(n=13,300)       | ACT<br>(n=7,800)        | NT<br>(n=5,200)         | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| <b>Musculoskeletal</b>        | <b>6.1</b><br>(5.9–6.3)                                                          | <b>5.6</b><br>(5.3–5.8) | <b>5.3</b><br>(5.0–5.5) | <b>5.9</b><br>(5.5–6.3) | <b>4.8</b><br>(4.5–5.2) | <b>5.3</b><br>(4.7–5.8) | <b>5.1</b><br>(4.2–6.0) | <b>6.9</b><br>(5.2–8.5) | <b>5.7</b><br>(5.6–5.8)  |
| NSAID                         | 5.0<br>(4.8–5.1)                                                                 | 4.7<br>(4.4–4.9)        | 4.5<br>(4.3–4.7)        | 4.9<br>(4.5–5.2)        | 4.1<br>(3.8–4.4)        | 4.5<br>(4.0–5.0)        | 4.4<br>(3.7–5.2)        | 5.9<br>(4.4–7.3)        | 4.7<br>(4.6–4.8)         |
| <b>Allergy, immune system</b> | <b>5.0</b><br>(4.7–5.2)                                                          | <b>4.8</b><br>(4.5–5.2) | <b>4.9</b><br>(4.6–5.3) | <b>5.0</b><br>(4.3–5.7) | <b>3.9</b><br>(3.4–4.4) | <b>4.9</b><br>(3.8–6.0) | <b>5.4</b><br>(3.9–7.0) | <b>3.9</b><br>(2.1–5.7) | <b>4.9</b><br>(4.7–5.0)  |
| Immunisation                  | 4.1<br>(3.9–4.4)                                                                 | 4.2<br>(3.8–4.5)        | 4.3<br>(4.0–4.7)        | 4.5<br>(3.8–5.1)        | 3.4<br>(2.9–3.8)        | 4.5<br>(3.4–5.5)        | 4.7<br>(3.2–6.3)        | 3.0<br>(1.3–4.7)        | 4.2<br>(4.0–4.3)         |
| <b>Skin</b>                   | <b>4.7</b><br>(4.5–4.8)                                                          | <b>4.4</b><br>(4.2–4.6) | <b>3.9</b><br>(3.7–4.1) | <b>3.9</b><br>(3.7–4.2) | <b>3.7</b><br>(3.4–3.9) | <b>5.0</b><br>(3.2–6.7) | <b>3.8</b><br>(3.2–4.4) | <b>4.4</b><br>(3.5–5.4) | <b>4.3</b><br>(4.2–4.4)  |
| Topical steroids              | 2.9<br>(2.8–3.0)                                                                 | 3.0<br>(2.9–3.1)        | 2.3<br>(2.1–2.4)        | 2.5<br>(2.4–2.7)        | 2.6<br>(2.4–2.8)        | 3.3<br>(2.2–4.3)        | 2.3<br>(1.8–2.7)        | 2.6<br>(2.0–3.2)        | 2.8<br>(2.7–2.8)         |
| <b>Digestive</b>              | <b>4.4</b><br>(4.3–4.6)                                                          | <b>3.8</b><br>(3.6–4.0) | <b>4.0</b><br>(3.4–3.8) | <b>3.5</b><br>(3.2–3.7) | <b>3.4</b><br>(3.1–3.6) | <b>3.7</b><br>(3.2–4.2) | <b>3.4</b><br>(2.8–4.1) | <b>3.8</b><br>(2.7–4.8) | <b>3.9</b><br>(3.8–4.0)  |
| Anti-ulcerants                | 2.4<br>(2.3–2.5)                                                                 | 2.2<br>(2.0–2.3)        | 2.1<br>(2.0–2.2)        | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.2)        | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0)        | 2.3<br>(1.9–2.6)        | 1.9<br>(1.4–2.3)        | 2.3<br>(1.7–3.0)        | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.2)         |
| <b>Ear, nose topical</b>      | <b>2.2</b><br>(2.1–2.3)                                                          | <b>1.8</b><br>(1.7–1.9) | <b>2.3</b><br>(2.1–2.4) | <b>2.2</b><br>(2.0–2.4) | <b>1.7</b><br>(1.5–1.8) | <b>1.5</b><br>(1.3–1.8) | <b>2.0</b><br>(1.4–2.7) | <b>3.2</b><br>(2.3–4.1) | <b>2.1</b><br>(2.0–2.1)  |
| Topical nasal                 | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)        | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)        | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)        | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.0)        | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)        | 1.5<br>(0.9–2.1)        | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.4)        | 1.1<br>(1.1–1.2)         |
| Topical otic                  | 0.9<br>(0.9–1.0)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)        | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)        | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2)        | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)        | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9)        | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7)        | 2.2<br>(1.5–2.8)        | 0.9<br>(0.9–1.0)         |
| <b>Urogenital</b>             | <b>2.0</b><br>(1.9–2.1)                                                          | <b>2.3</b><br>(2.1–2.4) | <b>1.7</b><br>(1.5–1.8) | <b>1.9</b><br>(1.7–2.1) | <b>1.9</b><br>(1.7–2.1) | <b>2.0</b><br>(1.6–2.3) | <b>1.5</b><br>(1.1–1.9) | <b>2.2</b><br>(1.5–3.0) | <b>2.0</b><br>(1.9–2.0)  |
| Diuretics                     | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)                                                                 | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.8)        | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)        | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6)        | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6)        | 1.4<br>(1.0–1.7)        | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.5)        | 1.7<br>(1.1–2.3)        | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.4)         |

(continued)

Table A4.14b (continued): Distribution of medications prescribed by group and subgroup, by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)

| Group/subgroup               | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                          |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|                              | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)      | Qld<br>(n=93,300)       | WA<br>(n=41,200)        | SA<br>(n=38,100)        | Tas<br>(n=13,300)       | ACT<br>(n=7,800)        | NT<br>(n=5,200)         | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| <b>Contraceptives</b>        | <b>1.6</b><br>(1.5–1.7)                                                          | <b>1.8</b><br>(1.6–1.9) | <b>2.1</b><br>(1.9–2.2) | <b>1.9</b><br>(1.7–2.1) | <b>1.7</b><br>(1.5–1.9) | <b>1.8</b><br>(1.5–2.2) | <b>2.2</b><br>(1.8–2.7) | <b>1.9</b><br>(1.5–2.4) | <b>1.8</b><br>(1.7–1.8)  |
| Contraceptive oral/systemic  | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)                                                                 | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.9)        | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.2)        | 1.9<br>(1.6–2.1)        | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.9)        | 1.8<br>(1.5–2.2)        | 2.2<br>(1.8–2.7)        | 1.9<br>(1.5–2.4)        | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.8)         |
| <b>Blood</b>                 | <b>1.8</b><br>(1.7–1.9)                                                          | <b>1.7</b><br>(1.5–1.8) | <b>1.5</b><br>(1.4–1.7) | <b>1.7</b><br>(1.5–1.9) | <b>1.5</b><br>(1.4–1.7) | <b>1.4</b><br>(1.1–1.7) | <b>1.7</b><br>(1.2–2.2) | <b>1.8</b><br>(0.7–2.9) | <b>1.7</b><br>(1.6–1.7)  |
| Other blood drugs            | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.0)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)        | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)        | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)        | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)        | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)        | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.2)        | 1.2<br>(0.3–2.1)        | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)         |
| <b>Eye medications</b>       | <b>1.7</b><br>(1.6–1.8)                                                          | <b>1.5</b><br>(1.4–1.6) | <b>1.5</b><br>(1.4–1.6) | <b>1.7</b><br>(1.5–1.8) | <b>1.5</b><br>(1.3–1.6) | <b>1.3</b><br>(1.1–1.5) | <b>1.6</b><br>(1.2–1.9) | <b>1.7</b><br>(1.3–2.1) | <b>1.6</b><br>(1.5–1.6)  |
| Anti-infectives eye          | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)        | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)        | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2)        | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)        | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.1)        | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.4)        | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.4)        | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.0)         |
| <b>Nutrition, metabolism</b> | <b>1.6</b><br>(1.5–1.7)                                                          | <b>1.5</b><br>(1.4–1.7) | <b>1.2</b><br>(1.1–1.3) | <b>1.3</b><br>(1.1–1.4) | <b>1.1</b><br>(0.8–1.3) | <b>1.0</b><br>(0.8–1.2) | <b>1.4</b><br>(1.0–1.8) | <b>0.9</b><br>(0.6–1.3) | <b>1.4</b><br>(1.3–1.5)  |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b>         | <b>0.4</b><br>(0.4–0.5)                                                          | <b>0.5</b><br>(0.4–0.7) | <b>0.5</b><br>(0.4–0.5) | <b>0.4</b><br>(0.2–0.6) | <b>0.4</b><br>(0.3–0.5) | <b>0.3</b><br>(0.2–0.4) | <b>0.4</b><br>(0.2–0.6) | <b>0.3</b><br>(0.1–0.5) | <b>0.5</b><br>(0.4–0.5)  |
| <b>Anti-neoplastics</b>      | <b>0.4</b><br>(0.3–0.4)                                                          | <b>0.3</b><br>(0.3–0.4) | <b>0.3</b><br>(0.3–0.4) | <b>0.3</b><br>(0.2–0.4) | <b>0.3</b><br>(0.2–0.3) | <b>0.6</b><br>(0.4–0.8) | <b>0.3</b><br>(0.1–0.4) | <b>0.3</b><br>(0.1–0.5) | <b>0.4</b><br>(0.3–0.4)  |
| <b>Surgical preparations</b> | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.1)                                                          | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.2) | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.2) | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.2) | <b>0.2</b><br>(0.0–0.5) | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.0–0.1) | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.0–0.2) | <b>0.2</b><br>(0.0–0.3) | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.2)  |
| <b>Diagnostic agents</b>     | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.1)                                                          | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.1) | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.1) | —                       | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.1) | —                       | —                       | —                       | <b>0.1</b><br>(0.1–0.1)  |

(a) Figures will not add to 100 because multiple prescriptions could be written at each encounter and only the most frequently prescribed medications are included in this table.

— <0.05 per 100 encounters. Confidence intervals could not be calculated due to small sample size.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). CVS—cardiovascular system; CNS—central nervous system; NSAID—non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug.

**Table A4.15a: Most frequently prescribed medications by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Generic medication                | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                   | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Paracetamol                       | 4.0<br>(3.8–4.2)                                                                 | 3.1<br>(2.8–3.3)   | 2.9<br>(2.7–3.1)  | 3.1<br>(2.7–3.4) | 2.9<br>(2.5–3.4) | 3.9<br>(3.1–4.6)  | 2.0<br>(1.4–2.6) | 1.4<br>(0.9–1.9) | 3.4<br>(3.2–3.5)         |
| Amoxicillin                       | 3.1<br>(2.9–3.2)                                                                 | 3.2<br>(2.9–3.4)   | 2.7<br>(2.5–2.9)  | 2.5<br>(2.2–2.8) | 2.6<br>(2.2–2.8) | 2.3<br>(1.8–2.7)  | 2.4<br>(1.8–2.9) | 2.3<br>(1.6–2.9) | 2.9<br>(2.8–3.0)         |
| Paracetamol/codeine               | 2.1<br>(2.0–2.2)                                                                 | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.4)   | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.1)  | 2.4<br>(2.1–2.6) | 2.4<br>(2.1–2.6) | 2.6<br>(2.2–2.9)  | 1.7<br>(1.3–2.1) | 3.1<br>(2.3–4.0) | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.2)         |
| Salbutamol                        | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.1)                                                                 | 2.2<br>(2.0–2.3)   | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.2)  | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.4) | 2.1<br>(1.8–2.3) | 1.7<br>(1.4–2.0)  | 1.4<br>(1.0–1.8) | 2.3<br>(1.2–3.4) | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.0)         |
| Cephalexin                        | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.3)                                                                 | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.8)   | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.1)  | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.9) | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0) | 1.4<br>(1.1–1.8)  | 1.7<br>(1.3–2.0) | 2.3<br>(1.5–3.0) | 1.9<br>(1.9–2.0)         |
| Roxithromycin                     | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.7)                                                                 | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.7)   | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)  | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4) | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0) | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.9)  | 2.2<br>(1.6–2.7) | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.5) | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.6)         |
| Amoxicillin/potassium clavulanate | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)                                                                 | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)   | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.9)  | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.8) | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.7) | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.2)  | 1.5<br>(0.9–2.1) | 3.0<br>(1.8–4.1) | 1.5<br>(1.5–1.6)         |
| Influenza virus vaccine           | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.6)                                                                 | 1.7<br>(1.4–1.9)   | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6)  | 2.0<br>(1.4–2.5) | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.5) | 1.5<br>(0.8–2.3)  | 2.0<br>(1.0–3.0) | 1.0<br>(0.1–1.9) | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)         |
| Temazepam                         | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)                                                                 | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)   | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)  | 1.7<br>(1.4–1.9) | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.8) | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.9)  | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.6) | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.7) | 1.4<br>(1.4–1.5)         |
| Cefaclor monohydrate              | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)                                                                 | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.6)   | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6)  | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.1) | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.5) | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.4)  | 2.2<br>(1.6–2.9) | 1.1<br>(0.6–1.7) | 1.3<br>(1.3–1.4)         |
| Levonorgestrel/ethinyloestradiol  | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)                                                                 | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.4)   | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)  | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.6) | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4) | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.5)  | 1.8<br>(1.4–2.2) | 1.7<br>(1.2–2.1) | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.3)         |
| Diclofenac sodium systemic        | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)   | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)  | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.4) | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.4) | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.5)  | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.4) | 2.2<br>(1.4–3.0) | 1.1<br>(1.1–1.2)         |
| Diazepam                          | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)   | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)  | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.1) | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.4) | 1.5<br>(1.2–1.8)  | 0.7<br>(0.4–1.0) | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.2) | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)         |

(continued)

Table A4.15a (continued): Most frequently prescribed medications by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)

| Generic medication     | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                        | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Celecoxib              | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)   | 0.9<br>(0.7–0.9)  | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1) | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9) | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.3)  | 1.2<br>(0.7–1.7) | 0.5<br>(0.2–0.8) | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.0)         |
| Atenolol               | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.0)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.0)   | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)  | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1) | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3) | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)  | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5) | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.2) | 0.9<br>(0.9–1.0)         |
| Doxycycline            | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.0)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)   | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)  | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9) | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1) | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)  | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.2) | 1.6<br>(0.9–2.2) | 0.9<br>(0.9–1.0)         |
| Simvastatin            | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.0)   | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)  | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1) | 0.8<br>(0.7–1.0) | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.2)  | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.0) | 0.6<br>(0.3–1.0) | 0.9<br>(0.9–0.9)         |
| Betamethasone topical  | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)   | 0.6<br>(0.6–0.7)  | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9) | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1) | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.4)  | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.7) | 1.0<br>(0.6–1.4) | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)         |
| Atorvastatin           | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)   | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)  | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8) | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9) | 0.7<br>(0.5–0.8)  | 0.7<br>(0.5–1.0) | 0.6<br>(0.3–1.0) | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)         |
| Chloramphenicol eye    | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)   | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)  | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0) | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9) | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.7)  | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.3) | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.3) | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)         |
| Ranitidine             | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)   | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)  | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9) | 0.8<br>(0.7–1.0) | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.9)  | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.7) | 1.0<br>(0.6–1.5) | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)         |
| Frusamide (furosemide) | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)   | 0.6<br>(0.6–0.7)  | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8) | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.0) | 0.7<br>(0.5–1.0)  | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7) | 0.7<br>(0.4–0.9) | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)         |
| Metformin              | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)   | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)  | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9) | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.9) | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.7)  | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.6) | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.3) | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)         |
| Aspirin                | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)   | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)  | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9) | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7) | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.3)  | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.8) | 0.7<br>(0.3–1.0) | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)         |
| Warfarin sodium        | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)   | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)  | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8) | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9) | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)  | 0.6<br>(0.3–0.8) | 0.7<br>(0.2–1.1) | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)         |
| Oxazepam               | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)   | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)  | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7) | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1) | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.1)  | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.5) | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.7) | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)         |
| Erythromycin           | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)                                                                 | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)   | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)  | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5) | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6) | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)  | 1.0<br>(0.4–1.6) | 1.0<br>(0.4–1.5) | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)         |

(continued)

**Table A4.15a (continued): Most frequently prescribed medications by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Generic medication                      | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                         | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Irbesartan                              | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)   | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)  | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7) | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7) | 0.7<br>(0.5–0.9)  | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.9) | 0.7<br>(0.3–1.0) | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)         |
| Amlodipine                              | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)   | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)  | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7) | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6) | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7)  | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.5) | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7) | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.7)         |
| Prochlorperazine                        | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)                                                                 | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)   | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7)  | 0.7<br>(0.5–0.7) | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8) | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.7)  | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.6) | 0.4<br>(0.1–0.7) | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.7)         |
| <i>Subtotal (n)</i>                     | 72,756                                                                           | 43,443             | 28,367            | 14,233           | 13,720           | 4,745             | 2,545            | 1,903            | 185,730                  |
| <b>Total prescribed medications (n)</b> | <b>178,962</b>                                                                   | <b>103,086</b>     | <b>78,993</b>     | <b>34,282</b>    | <b>31,382</b>    | <b>11,516</b>     | <b>6,189</b>     | <b>4,603</b>     | <b>449,013</b>           |

(a) Figures will not add to 100 because multiple prescriptions could be written at each encounter and only the most frequently prescribed medications are included in this table.  
 Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample).

**Table A4.15b: Most frequently prescribed medications by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Generic medication                | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                   | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Paracetamol                       | 4.0<br>(3.8–4.2)                                                                 | 3.1<br>(2.9–3.3)   | 2.9<br>(2.7–3.2)  | 3.1<br>(2.8–3.4) | 3.0<br>(2.5–3.4) | 3.9<br>(3.1–4.7)  | 2.2<br>(1.6–2.8) | 1.7<br>(1.1–2.3) | 3.4<br>(3.3–3.5)         |
| Amoxicillin                       | 3.3<br>(3.1–3.4)                                                                 | 3.4<br>(3.2–3.6)   | 2.8<br>(2.6–3.0)  | 2.7<br>(2.3–3.0) | 2.8<br>(2.4–3.1) | 2.5<br>(2.0–3.0)  | 2.3<br>(1.7–2.9) | 2.2<br>(1.5–2.8) | 3.1<br>(3.0–3.2)         |
| Paracetamol/codeine               | 2.1<br>(2.0–2.2)                                                                 | 2.2<br>(2.0–2.3)   | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.1)  | 2.3<br>(2.1–2.6) | 2.3<br>(2.1–2.5) | 2.5<br>(2.1–2.9)  | 1.7<br>(1.3–2.1) | 3.2<br>(2.3–4.0) | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.2)         |
| Salbutamol                        | 2.1<br>(2.0–2.2)                                                                 | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.4)   | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.2)  | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.5) | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.4) | 1.7<br>(1.4–2.0)  | 1.4<br>(1.0–1.8) | 2.5<br>(1.4–3.6) | 2.0<br>(2.0–2.1)         |
| Cephalexin                        | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.3)                                                                 | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.8)   | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.1)  | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0) | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0) | 1.5<br>(1.1–1.8)  | 1.6<br>(1.3–2.0) | 2.3<br>(1.5–3.1) | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.0)         |
| Amoxicillin/potassium clavulanate | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)                                                                 | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)   | 1.8<br>(1.6–1.9)  | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.9) | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.8) | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.2)  | 1.5<br>(0.9–2.0) | 2.8<br>(1.8–3.9) | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.6)         |

(continued)

**Table A4.15b (continued): Most frequently prescribed medications by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Generic medication                | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                   | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Roxithromycin                     | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.8)                                                                 | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.7)   | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)  | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4) | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0) | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.9)  | 2.1<br>(1.5–2.7) | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.5) | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.6)         |
| Influenza virus vaccine           | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6)                                                                 | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.8)   | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6)  | 2.0<br>(1.4–2.5) | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.4) | 1.4<br>(0.8–2.1)  | 2.3<br>(1.1–3.5) | 1.5<br>(0.1–2.9) | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)         |
| Cefaclor monohydrate              | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)                                                                 | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.7)   | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.6)  | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.2) | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.7) | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.5)  | 2.2<br>(1.6–2.9) | 1.1<br>(0.6–1.6) | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)         |
| Temazepam                         | 1.2<br>(1.2–1.3)                                                                 | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)   | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)  | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.8) | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.7) | 1.5<br>(1.3–1.8)  | 1.4<br>(1.0–1.7) | 1.6<br>(1.0–2.2) | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.4)         |
| Levonorgestrel/ethinylloestradiol | 1.1<br>(1.1–1.2)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)   | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)  | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6) | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4) | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.5)  | 1.5<br>(1.1–1.8) | 1.4<br>(1.0–1.8) | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.3)         |
| Diclofenac sodium systemic        | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)   | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)  | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.3) | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.3) | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.5)  | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.3) | 2.2<br>(1.4–2.9) | 1.1<br>(1.1–1.2)         |
| Diazepam                          | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.0)                                                                 | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)   | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)  | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.0) | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.4) | 1.5<br>(1.2–1.8)  | 0.7<br>(0.4–1.0) | 0.8<br>(0.4–1.2) | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)         |
| Celecoxib                         | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)   | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.0)  | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.1) | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.9) | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.2)  | 1.3<br>(0.8–1.8) | 0.6<br>(0.2–1.1) | 0.9<br>(0.9–1.0)         |
| Atenolol                          | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)   | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)  | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0) | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2) | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9)  | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6) | 1.1<br>(0.6–1.5) | 0.9<br>(0.9–1.0)         |
| Doxycycline                       | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)   | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)  | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9) | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1) | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.0)  | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.1) | 1.6<br>(1.0–2.3) | 0.9<br>(0.9–1.0)         |
| Simvastatin                       | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)   | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)  | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1) | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9) | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.1)  | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.2) | 0.9<br>(0.4–1.3) | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)         |
| Betamethasone topical             | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)   | 0.6<br>(0.6–0.7)  | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9) | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1) | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.3)  | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.7) | 1.0<br>(0.6–1.4) | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)         |
| Chloramphenicol eye               | 0.9<br>(0.9–1.0)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)   | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)  | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1) | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9) | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)  | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.3) | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.2) | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)         |
| Atorvastatin                      | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.0)                                                                 | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)   | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)  | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8) | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9) | 0.7<br>(0.5–0.8)  | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.1) | 0.8<br>(0.4–1.2) | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)         |

(continued)

Table A4.15b (continued): Most frequently prescribed medications by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)

| Generic medication                      | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                         | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Ranitidine                              | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)   | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)  | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9) | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9) | 0.7<br>(0.5–0.9)  | 0.7<br>(0.4–0.9) | 1.2<br>(0.7–1.7) | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.8)         |
| Frusemide (furosemide)                  | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)   | 0.6<br>(0.6–0.7)  | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8) | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9) | 0.7<br>(0.5–0.9)  | 0.7<br>(0.4–0.9) | 1.1<br>(0.6–1.6) | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)         |
| Erythromycin                            | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)   | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)  | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.5) | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6) | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)  | 1.0<br>(0.4–1.6) | 0.9<br>(0.4–1.4) | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)         |
| Metformin                               | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)   | 0.6<br>(0.6–0.7)  | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9) | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8) | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.7)  | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7) | 1.1<br>(0.6–1.5) | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)         |
| Aspirin                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)   | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)  | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9) | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7) | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.2)  | 0.6<br>(0.3–0.9) | 1.0<br>(0.4–1.5) | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)         |
| Warfarin sodium                         | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)                                                                 | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7)   | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)  | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7) | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9) | 0.7<br>(0.5–0.9)  | 0.7<br>(0.4–1.0) | 1.2<br>(0.3–2.0) | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)         |
| Oxazepam                                | 0.6<br>(0.6–0.7)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)   | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)  | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7) | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.0) | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)  | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.5) | 0.5<br>(0.2–0.7) | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.7)         |
| Irbesartan                              | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)   | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)  | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7) | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6) | 0.7<br>(0.5–0.9)  | 0.7<br>(0.5–0.9) | 1.0<br>(0.5–1.6) | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.7)         |
| Amlodipine                              | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)                                                                 | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)   | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)  | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7) | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6) | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.6)  | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5) | 0.8<br>(0.3–1.2) | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.7)         |
| Prochlorperazine                        | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)                                                                 | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7)   | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7)  | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7) | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8) | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.7)  | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.6) | 0.5<br>(0.1–0.9) | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7)         |
| <i>Subtotal (n)</i>                     | <i>71,609</i>                                                                    | <i>42,695</i>      | <i>32,279</i>     | <i>14,140</i>    | <i>13,537</i>    | <i>4,659</i>      | <i>2,596</i>     | <i>2,070</i>     | <i>183,585</i>           |
| <b>Total prescribed medications (n)</b> | <b>175,111</b>                                                                   | <b>100,699</b>     | <b>78,439</b>     | <b>33,871</b>    | <b>30,815</b>    | <b>11,243</b>     | <b>6,298</b>     | <b>4,986</b>     | <b>441,462</b>           |

(a) Figures will not add to 100 because multiple prescriptions could be written at each encounter and only the most frequently prescribed medications are included in this table.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample).

**Table A4.16a: Most frequent clinical treatments by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Treatment                            | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                   |                          |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
|                                      | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)   | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Advice/education*                    | 5.0<br>(4.6–5.3)                                                                 | 6.4<br>(5.8–7.0)   | 5.7<br>(5.0–6.4)  | 6.0<br>(5.1–6.8) | 5.3<br>(4.4–6.2) | 6.5<br>(4.9–8.1)  | 5.3<br>(2.9–7.7) | 7.4<br>(4.0–10.7) | 5.6<br>(5.3–5.9)         |
| Advice/education—treatment*          | 5.6<br>(5.2–5.9)                                                                 | 5.0<br>(4.6–5.4)   | 5.8<br>(5.3–6.4)  | 4.8<br>(4.2–5.5) | 5.3<br>(4.6–6.1) | 5.3<br>(4.2–6.4)  | 4.8<br>(3.2–6.3) | 6.2<br>(3.6–8.7)  | 5.4<br>(5.2–5.6)         |
| Counselling/advice—nutrition/weight* | 5.2<br>(4.9–5.5)                                                                 | 4.9<br>(4.5–5.2)   | 4.3<br>(3.9–4.7)  | 4.7<br>(4.1–5.2) | 4.3<br>(3.8–4.7) | 3.9<br>(2.9–5.0)  | 3.7<br>(2.6–4.8) | 4.0<br>(2.6–5.3)  | 4.8<br>(4.6–4.9)         |
| Counselling—problem*                 | 4.6<br>(4.2–5.0)                                                                 | 4.2<br>(3.7–4.6)   | 4.4<br>(3.8–4.9)  | 4.0<br>(3.2–4.7) | 4.4<br>(3.7–5.2) | 4.8<br>(3.6–5.9)  | 4.5<br>(2.6–6.5) | 3.8<br>(2.8–4.9)  | 4.4<br>(4.2–4.6)         |
| Counselling—psychological*           | 3.1<br>(2.8–3.3)                                                                 | 3.6<br>(3.3–3.9)   | 2.7<br>(2.5–2.9)  | 2.6<br>(2.3–2.9) | 3.5<br>(2.9–4.2) | 3.3<br>(2.6–4.1)  | 2.5<br>(1.8–3.2) | 2.6<br>(1.8–3.5)  | 3.1<br>(3.0–3.3)         |
| Advice/education—medication*         | 2.8<br>(2.6–3.0)                                                                 | 3.1<br>(2.8–3.3)   | 3.0<br>(2.7–3.3)  | 2.7<br>(2.4–3.0) | 2.9<br>(2.5–3.3) | 3.3<br>(2.6–4.0)  | 2.3<br>(1.5–3.0) | 2.6<br>(1.1–4.2)  | 2.9<br>(2.8–3.0)         |
| Counselling/advice—exercise*         | 2.1<br>(1.9–2.2)                                                                 | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.1)   | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.9)  | 1.9<br>(1.5–2.2) | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.6) | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.7)  | 2.3<br>(1.4–3.2) | 2.1<br>(1.1–3.1)  | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)         |
| Reassurance, support                 | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.7)                                                                 | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.1)   | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.6)  | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.8) | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.5) | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.5)  | 1.7<br>(1.0–2.5) | 1.5<br>(0.7–2.3)  | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)         |
| Other admin/document*                | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)                                                                 | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.8)   | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)  | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.4) | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.5) | 1.7<br>(1.3–2.1)  | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.7) | 2.2<br>(1.3–3.0)  | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)         |
| Sickness certificate                 | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)                                                                 | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.3)   | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)  | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.9) | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.5) | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.4)  | 1.2<br>(0.6–1.7) | 1.4<br>(0.6–2.1)  | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.0)         |
| Counselling/advice—smoking*          | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)                                                                 | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)   | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)  | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9) | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8) | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.1)  | 0.6<br>(0.2–0.9) | 1.9<br>(1.1–2.6)  | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)         |
| Observe/wait*                        | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)                                                                 | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)   | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)  | 0.7<br>(0.5–0.9) | 0.7<br>(0.4–0.9) | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.8)  | 0.6<br>(0.2–1.0) | 0.6<br>(0.2–1.0)  | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.6)         |
| Counselling/advice—health/body*      | 0.5<br>(0.5–0.6)                                                                 | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.5)   | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)  | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.7) | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.8) | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7)  | 1.2<br>(0.0–2.3) | 1.1<br>(0.0–2.2)  | 0.5<br>(0.5–0.6)         |
| Counselling/advice—alcohol*          | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.4)                                                                 | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.5)   | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)  | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5) | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5) | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6)  | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.4) | 0.8<br>(0.4–1.2)  | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.4)         |

(continued)

**Table A4.16a (continued): Most frequent clinical treatments by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Treatment                            | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                      | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Counselling/advice—lifestyle*        | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)                                                                 | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)   | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)  | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4) | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.5)  | 0.4<br>(0.1–0.7) | 1.0<br>(0.4–1.6) | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.4)         |
| Counselling/advice—prevention*       | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)                                                                 | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)   | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)  | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.5) | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6)  | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.4) | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5) | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)         |
| Family planning*                     | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)                                                                 | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)   | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)  | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4) | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)  | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5) | 0.6<br>(0.3–0.9) | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)         |
| Counselling/advice—relaxation*       | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)   | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)  | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4) | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7)  | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.5) | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.4) | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)         |
| Counselling/advice—relationship*     | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)   | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)  | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4) | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)  | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6) | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5) | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)         |
| Counselling/advice—drug abuse*       | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)   | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)  | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3) | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3) | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.4)  | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2) | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.3) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)         |
| <i>Subtotal (n)</i>                  | <i>69,179</i>                                                                    | <i>43,298</i>      | <i>33,059</i>     | <i>14,314</i>    | <i>13,492</i>    | <i>4,921</i>      | <i>2,664</i>     | <i>2,129</i>     | <i>183,056</i>           |
| <i>Total clinical treatments (n)</i> | <i>70,466</i>                                                                    | <i>43,950</i>      | <i>33,674</i>     | <i>14,606</i>    | <i>13,683</i>    | <i>5,020</i>      | <i>2,707</i>     | <i>2,162</i>     | <i>186,268</i>           |
| <b>Total other treatments (n)</b>    | <b>94,991</b>                                                                    | <b>58,695</b>      | <b>49,728</b>     | <b>20,378</b>    | <b>18,442</b>    | <b>7,027</b>      | <b>3,508</b>     | <b>2,848</b>     | <b>255,617</b>           |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one treatment can be recorded at each encounter.

\* Includes multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 5).

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample).

**Table A4.16b: Most frequent clinical treatments by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Treatment                            | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                   |                          |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
|                                      | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)   | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Advice/education*                    | 5.0<br>(4.6–5.4)                                                                 | 6.6<br>(5.9–7.2)   | 5.7<br>(5.1–6.4)  | 6.1<br>(5.2–6.9) | 5.4<br>(4.7–6.3) | 6.6<br>(5.0–8.2)  | 5.2<br>(2.8–7.5) | 7.7<br>(3.9–11.5) | 5.7<br>(5.4–5.9)         |
| Advice/education—treatment*          | 5.7<br>(5.3–6.0)                                                                 | 5.1<br>(4.7–5.6)   | 5.9<br>(5.3–6.4)  | 4.9<br>(4.3–5.6) | 5.5<br>(4.7–6.3) | 5.5<br>(4.3–6.6)  | 4.7<br>(3.1–6.2) | 5.8<br>(3.3–8.2)  | 5.5<br>(5.3–5.7)         |
| Counselling/advice—nutrition/weight* | 5.2<br>(4.9–5.5)                                                                 | 4.9<br>(4.5–5.2)   | 4.3<br>(3.9–4.7)  | 5.0<br>(4.1–5.1) | 4.3<br>(3.8–4.8) | 3.9<br>(2.8–4.9)  | 3.8<br>(2.7–4.9) | 4.1<br>(2.7–5.5)  | 4.8<br>(4.6–4.9)         |
| Counselling—problem*                 | 4.6<br>(4.2–5.0)                                                                 | 4.2<br>(3.7–4.6)   | 4.3<br>(3.8–4.9)  | 3.9<br>(3.2–4.6) | 4.4<br>(3.6–5.1) | 4.8<br>(3.6–5.9)  | 4.6<br>(2.6–6.5) | 3.8<br>(2.7–4.8)  | 4.4<br>(4.1–4.6)         |
| Counselling—psychological*           | 3.1<br>(2.8–3.3)                                                                 | 3.5<br>(3.2–3.8)   | 2.7<br>(2.5–2.9)  | 2.5<br>(2.2–2.8) | 3.5<br>(2.8–4.2) | 3.3<br>(2.5–4.0)  | 2.4<br>(1.7–3.1) | 2.4<br>(1.6–3.1)  | 3.1<br>(2.9–3.2)         |
| Advice/education—medication*         | 2.7<br>(2.5–2.9)                                                                 | 3.0<br>(2.7–3.2)   | 3.0<br>(2.7–3.2)  | 2.7<br>(2.4–3.0) | 2.8<br>(2.4–3.2) | 3.2<br>(2.5–3.9)  | 2.4<br>(1.6–3.1) | 3.0<br>(1.4–4.5)  | 2.8<br>(2.7–3.0)         |
| Counselling/advice—exercise*         | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.2)                                                                 | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0)   | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.9)  | 1.8<br>(1.5–2.1) | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.6) | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.7)  | 2.4<br>(1.4–3.2) | 2.3<br>(1.1–3.5)  | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)         |
| Reassurance, support                 | 1.6<br>(1.4–1.7)                                                                 | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.2)   | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.6)  | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.8) | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.5) | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.6)  | 1.8<br>(1.0–2.5) | 1.6<br>(0.6–2.6)  | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)         |
| Other admin/document*                | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)                                                                 | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.8)   | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)  | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4) | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.5) | 1.7<br>(1.3–2.0)  | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.6) | 2.0<br>(1.3–2.8)  | 1.4<br>(1.3–1.5)         |
| Sickness certificate                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)   | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)  | 0.7<br>(0.5–0.8) | 1.3<br>(1.0–1.6) | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.4)  | 1.0<br>(0.5–1.6) | 1.2<br>(0.6–1.8)  | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.0)         |
| Counselling/advice—smoking*          | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)                                                                 | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)   | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)  | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9) | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8) | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.1)  | 0.5<br>(0.2–0.8) | 1.8<br>(1.1–2.6)  | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)         |
| Observe/wait*                        | 0.5<br>(0.5–0.6)                                                                 | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)   | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)  | 0.7<br>(0.5–0.9) | 0.7<br>(0.4–0.9) | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.8)  | 0.6<br>(0.2–1.0) | 0.6<br>(0.2–1.0)  | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.6)         |
| Counselling/advice—health/body*      | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.6)                                                                 | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.5)   | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)  | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.7) | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.8) | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.8)  | 1.2<br>(0.1–2.3) | 1.1<br>(0.0–2.2)  | 0.5<br>(0.5–0.6)         |
| Counselling/advice—alcohol*          | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.4)                                                                 | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.5)   | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)  | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5) | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5) | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6)  | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.4) | 0.7<br>(0.4–1.1)  | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.4)         |

(continued)

**Table A4.16b (continued): Most frequent clinical treatments by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Treatment                            | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                      | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Counselling/advice—lifestyle*        | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)                                                                 | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)   | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)  | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4) | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.5)  | 0.4<br>(0.1–0.7) | 1.0<br>(0.3–1.6) | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.4)         |
| Counselling/advice—prevention*       | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)                                                                 | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)   | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)  | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.5) | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6)  | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.4) | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.5) | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)         |
| Counselling/advice—relationship*     | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)   | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)  | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4) | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)  | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.7) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4) | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)         |
| Family planning*                     | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)                                                                 | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)   | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)  | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4) | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)  | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4) | 0.5<br>(0.2–0.7) | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)         |
| Counselling/advice—relaxation*       | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)   | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)  | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4) | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7)  | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4) | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.3) | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)         |
| Counselling/advice—drug abuse*       | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)   | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)  | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3) | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3) | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.4)  | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1) | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.3) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)         |
| <i>Subtotal (n)</i>                  | 68,768                                                                           | 43,059             | 32,793            | 14,135           | 13,409           | 4,896             | 2,600            | 2,078            | 181,738                  |
| <i>Total clinical treatments (n)</i> | 70,053                                                                           | 43,709             | 33,393            | 14,420           | 13,601           | 4,996             | 2,641            | 2,107            | 184,919                  |
| <b>Total other treatments (n)</b>    | <b>94,131</b>                                                                    | <b>58,116</b>      | <b>49,300</b>     | <b>20,094</b>    | <b>18,253</b>    | <b>6,961</b>      | <b>3,434</b>     | <b>2,766</b>     | <b>253,055</b>           |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one treatment can be recorded at each encounter.

\* Includes multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 5).

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample).

**Table A4.17a: Most frequent procedural treatments by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Treatment                                                                 | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                                                           | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Excision/removal tissue/biopsy/<br>destruction/debridement/cauterisation* | 2.4<br>(2.2–2.6)                                                                 | 2.6<br>(2.4–2.7)   | 4.1<br>(3.8–4.3)  | 3.0<br>(2.7–3.2) | 2.3<br>(2.1–2.5) | 3.1<br>(2.5–3.8)  | 1.7<br>(1.3–2.1) | 3.0<br>(2.3–3.7) | 2.8<br>(2.7–2.9)         |
| Dressing/pressure/compression/<br>tamponade*                              | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)                                                                 | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.1)   | 2.3<br>(2.2–2.5)  | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0) | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.1) | 2.0<br>(1.6–2.4)  | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.6) | 1.4<br>(0.9–1.8) | 1.9<br>(1.9–2.0)         |
| Physical medicine/rehabilitation*                                         | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.2)                                                                 | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.9)   | 2.2<br>(1.8–2.6)  | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.9) | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.9) | 2.4<br>(1.5–3.2)  | 2.3<br>(1.2–3.4) | 1.1<br>(0.5–1.6) | 1.9<br>(1.8–2.0)         |
| Other therapeutic procedures/surgery<br>NEC*                              | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.3)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.3)   | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.6)  | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.3) | 1.4<br>(0.8–2.0) | 1.5<br>(1.0–2.1)  | 1.0<br>(0.2–1.7) | 0.5<br>(0.2–0.8) | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)         |
| Local injection/infiltration*                                             | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.3)   | 1.4<br>(1.1–1.6)  | 1.5<br>(1.1–2.0) | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9) | 1.3<br>(0.8–1.9)  | 0.6<br>(0.0–1.4) | 0.8<br>(0.0–1.6) | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)         |
| Incision/drainage/flushing/aspiration/<br>removal body fluid*             | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)   | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)  | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4) | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.4) | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.2)  | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.8) | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.8) | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)         |
| Pap smear                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)   | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4)  | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.3) | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.0) | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.4)  | 1.0<br>(0.6–1.3) | 1.6<br>(0.9–2.4) | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)         |
| Repair/fixation-suture/cast/prosthetic<br>device (apply/remove)*          | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)   | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.5)  | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0) | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.2) | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.1)  | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.8) | 1.0<br>(0.6–1.4) | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.0)         |
| Physical function test*                                                   | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.5)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)   | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)  | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4) | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5)  | 0.5<br>(0.2–0.7) | 1.3<br>(0.0–2.9) | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.5)         |
| Electrical tracings*                                                      | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.3)   | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)  | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5) | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.5)  | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2) | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6) | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)         |
| <i>Subtotal (n)</i>                                                       | 22,808                                                                           | 13,624             | 15,009            | 5,390            | 4,435            | 1,849             | 748              | 640              | 64,503                   |
| <i>Total procedural treatments (n)</i>                                    | 24,525                                                                           | 14,745             | 16,054            | 5,772            | 4,759            | 2,007             | 801              | 686              | 69,349                   |
| <b>Total other treatments (n)</b>                                         | <b>94,991</b>                                                                    | <b>58,695</b>      | <b>49,728</b>     | <b>20,378</b>    | <b>18,442</b>    | <b>20,378</b>     | <b>3,508</b>     | <b>2,848</b>     | <b>255,617</b>           |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one procedure can be described for each problem. Only procedures accounting for >=0.5% of other treatments are included.

\* Includes multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 5).

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). NEC—not elsewhere classified.

**Table A4.17b: Most frequent procedural treatments by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Treatment                                                                 | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                    |                   |                  |                  |                   |                  |                  |                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                                                           | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000) | Qld<br>(n=93,300) | WA<br>(n=41,200) | SA<br>(n=38,100) | Tas<br>(n=13,300) | ACT<br>(n=7,800) | NT<br>(n=5,200)  | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| Excision/removal tissue/biopsy/<br>destruction/debridement/cauterisation* | 2.4<br>(2.2–2.5)                                                                 | 2.5<br>(2.4–2.7)   | 4.1<br>(3.8–4.4)  | 3.0<br>(2.7–3.2) | 2.3<br>(2.0–2.5) | 3.1<br>(2.4–3.7)  | 1.7<br>(1.3–2.2) | 2.9<br>(2.1–3.6) | 2.8<br>(2.7–2.9)         |
| Dressing/pressure/compression/<br>tamponade*                              | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)                                                                 | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.0)   | 2.3<br>(2.2–2.5)  | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0) | 1.8<br>(1.5–2.0) | 2.0<br>(1.6–2.4)  | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.7) | 1.4<br>(0.9–2.0) | 1.9<br>(1.8–2.0)         |
| Physical medicine/rehabilitation*                                         | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.2)                                                                 | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.9)   | 2.2<br>(1.8–2.6)  | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.9) | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.9) | 2.3<br>(1.5–3.2)  | 2.2<br>(1.2–3.2) | 1.1<br>(0.6–1.6) | 1.9<br>(1.8–2.0)         |
| Other therapeutic procedures/surgery<br>NEC*                              | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.3)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.3)   | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.6)  | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.3) | 1.4<br>(0.8–2.0) | 1.5<br>(1.0–2.1)  | 1.0<br>(0.2–1.9) | 0.5<br>(0.2–0.7) | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)         |
| Local injection/infiltration*                                             | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2)   | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.6)  | 1.5<br>(1.0–1.9) | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9) | 1.3<br>(0.8–1.8)  | 0.7<br>(0.0–1.7) | 0.9<br>(0.0–2.1) | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)         |
| Incision/drainage/flushing/aspiration/<br>removal body fluid*             | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)   | 1.2<br>(1.2–1.3)  | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4) | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.3) | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.2)  | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.8) | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.7) | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)         |
| Pap smear                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.9–1.0)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)   | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4)  | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.3) | 0.8<br>(0.7–1.0) | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.4)  | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.2) | 1.5<br>(0.7–2.2) | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)         |
| Repair/fixation-suture/cast/prosthetic<br>device (apply/remove)*          | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)   | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.5)  | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0) | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.2) | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.1)  | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.8) | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.2) | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.0)         |
| Physical function test*                                                   | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.5)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)   | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)  | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.5)  | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6) | 1.1<br>(0.0–2.4) | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.5)         |
| Electrical tracings*                                                      | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.3)   | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)  | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)  | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2) | 0.5<br>(0.2–0.8) | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)         |
| <i>Subtotal (n)</i>                                                       | 22,400                                                                           | 13,328             | 14,887            | 5,300            | 4,336            | 1,810             | 741              | 611              | 63,413                   |
| <i>Total procedural treatments (n)</i>                                    | 24,078                                                                           | 14,407             | 15,907            | 5,674            | 4,653            | 1,965             | 793              | 660              | 68,136                   |
| <b>Total other treatments (n)</b>                                         | <b>94,131</b>                                                                    | <b>58,116</b>      | <b>49,300</b>     | <b>20,094</b>    | <b>18,253</b>    | <b>6,961</b>      | <b>3,434</b>     | <b>2,766</b>     | <b>253,055</b>           |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one procedure can be described for each problem. Only procedures accounting for >=0.5% of other treatments are included.

\* Includes multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 5).

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). NEC—not elsewhere classified.

Table A4.18a: Most frequent referrals to specialists and allied health professionals by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)

| Professional to whom patient referred             | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                          |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                                   | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)      | Qld<br>(n=93,300)       | WA<br>(n=41,200)        | SA<br>(n=38,100)        | Tas<br>(n=13,300)       | ACT<br>(n=7,800)        | NT<br>(n=5,200)         | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| <b>Medical specialist</b>                         | <b>8.7</b><br>(8.4–8.9)                                                          | <b>7.6</b><br>(7.3–7.8) | <b>7.2</b><br>(6.8–7.5) | <b>8.0</b><br>(7.6–8.4) | <b>7.5</b><br>(7.0–8.0) | <b>7.3</b><br>(6.6–8.0) | <b>7.7</b><br>(6.6–8.9) | <b>7.6</b><br>(6.4–8.8) | <b>7.9</b><br>(7.8–8.1)  |
| Referral; surgeon                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)        | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)        | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)        | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)        | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)        | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7)        | 1.5<br>(1.1–1.9)        | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)         |
| Referral; ophthalmologist                         | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)                                                                 | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)        | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7)        | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)        | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)        | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.7)        | 0.6<br>(0.3–0.9)        | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6)        | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)         |
| Referral; orthopaedic surgeon                     | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)                                                                 | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7)        | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)        | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)        | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9)        | 0.7<br>(0.5–0.8)        | 0.6<br>(0.3–0.9)        | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.1)        | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.7)         |
| Referral; dermatologist                           | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)                                                                 | 0.6<br>(0.6–0.7)        | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.5)        | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7)        | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)        | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.6)        | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.9)        | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6)        | 0.6<br>(0.6–0.7)         |
| Referral; gynaecologist                           | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7)                                                                 | 0.6<br>(0.6–0.7)        | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.6)        | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)        | 0.5<br>(0.5–0.6)        | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.7)        | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7)        | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.2)        | 0.6<br>(0.6–0.7)         |
| Referral; ENT                                     | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.6)                                                                 | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.5)        | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.5)        | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.6)        | 0.5<br>(0.5–0.6)        | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)        | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.9)        | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7)        | 0.5<br>(0.5–0.5)         |
| Referral; cardiologist                            | 0.5<br>(0.5–0.6)                                                                 | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)        | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.5)        | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5)        | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5)        | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.6)        | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.4)         |
| Referral; gastroenterologist                      | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.5)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)        | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)        | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)        | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)        | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)        | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.7)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)        | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.4)         |
| Referral; urologist                               | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.3)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.4)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)        | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.3)         |
| Referral; psychiatrist                            | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)        | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.5)        | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5)        | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.3)         |
| <i>Subtotal: top ten specialist referrals (n)</i> | <i>11,435</i>                                                                    | <i>5,898</i>            | <i>4,447</i>            | <i>2,229</i>            | <i>2,045</i>            | <i>653</i>              | <i>387</i>              | <i>277</i>              | <i>27,371</i>            |

(continued)

Table A4.18a (continued): Most frequent referrals to specialists and allied health professionals by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)

| Professional to whom patient referred                | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                          |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                                      | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)      | Qld<br>(n=93,300)       | WA<br>(n=41,200)        | SA<br>(n=38,100)        | Tas<br>(n=13,300)       | ACT<br>(n=7,800)        | NT<br>(n=5,200)         | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| <b>Allied health and other professionals</b>         | <b>2.9</b><br>(2.7–3.0)                                                          | <b>3.0</b><br>(2.8–3.2) | <b>2.5</b><br>(2.3–2.7) | <b>3.0</b><br>(2.7–3.2) | <b>3.2</b><br>(2.8–3.5) | <b>3.6</b><br>(2.9–4.2) | <b>3.6</b><br>(2.9–4.4) | <b>3.7</b><br>(2.8–4.5) | <b>2.9</b><br>(2.8–3.0)  |
| Referral; physiotherapy                              | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)        | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)        | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2)        | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.5)        | 1.6<br>(1.3–2.0)        | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.5)        | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.6)        | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)         |
| Referral; health professional                        | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.4)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.4)        | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)         |
| Referral; podiatrist/chiropracist                    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)        | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5)        | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.4)        | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)         |
| Referral; psychologist                               | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.4)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.4)        | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)         |
| Referral; dietitian/nutrition                        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)         |
| Referral; dentist                                    | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3)        | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.5)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)         |
| Referral (for); ECG                                  | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)         |
| Referral; acoustic testing                           | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                                                                 | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.3)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)         |
| Referral; counsellor                                 | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                                                                 | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)         |
| Referral; optometrist                                | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                                                                 | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | —                       | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)         |
| <i>Subtotal: top ten allied health referrals (n)</i> | <i>4,257</i>                                                                     | <i>2,685</i>            | <i>1,876</i>            | <i>963</i>              | <i>936</i>              | <i>393</i>              | <i>212</i>              | <i>143</i>              | <i>11,465</i>            |
| <b>Total specialist &amp; allied health refs (n)</b> | <b>21,856</b>                                                                    | <b>12,057</b>           | <b>9,022</b>            | <b>4,508</b>            | <b>4,063</b>            | <b>1,441</b>            | <b>887</b>              | <b>586</b>              | <b>54,420</b>            |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one referral can be recorded at each encounter.

— <0.05 per 100 encounters.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). ENT—ear, nose and throat; ECG—electrocardiogram; refs—referrals.

**Table A4.18b: Most frequent referrals to specialists and allied health professionals by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Professional to whom patient referred             | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                          |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                                   | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)      | Qld<br>(n=93,300)       | WA<br>(n=41,200)        | SA<br>(n=38,100)        | Tas<br>(n=13,300)       | ACT<br>(n=7,800)        | NT<br>(n=5,200)         | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| <b>Medical specialist</b>                         | <b>8.6</b><br>(8.4–8.8)                                                          | <b>7.5</b><br>(7.2–7.7) | <b>7.2</b><br>(6.8–7.5) | <b>7.9</b><br>(7.5–8.3) | <b>7.5</b><br>(7.0–7.9) | <b>7.3</b><br>(6.6–8.0) | <b>7.8</b><br>(6.6–9.0) | <b>7.5</b><br>(6.2–8.7) | <b>7.9</b><br>(7.7–8.0)  |
| Referral; surgeon                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–0.9)                                                                 | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)        | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)        | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)        | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.9)        | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)        | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7)        | 1.6<br>(1.1–2.0)        | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.8)         |
| Referral; ophthalmologist                         | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.8)                                                                 | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7)        | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7)        | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)        | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7)        | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.7)        | 0.7<br>(0.4–1.0)        | 0.5<br>(0.2–0.8)        | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)         |
| Referral; orthopaedic surgeon                     | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)                                                                 | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7)        | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.8)        | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.8)        | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9)        | 0.7<br>(0.5–0.8)        | 0.6<br>(0.3–0.9)        | 0.8<br>(0.4–1.2)        | 0.7<br>(0.7–0.7)         |
| Referral; dermatologist                           | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)                                                                 | 0.6<br>(0.6–0.7)        | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.5)        | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7)        | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)        | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.6)        | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.8)        | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.5)        | 0.6<br>(0.6–0.7)         |
| Referral; gynaecologist                           | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7)                                                                 | 0.6<br>(0.6–0.7)        | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.6)        | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.7)        | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)        | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.7)        | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7)        | 0.7<br>(0.4–0.9)        | 0.6<br>(0.6–0.6)         |
| Referral; ENT                                     | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.6)                                                                 | 0.5<br>(0.5–0.5)        | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.5)        | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.6)        | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.6)        | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.7)        | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.9)        | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.8)        | 0.5<br>(0.5–0.6)         |
| Referral; cardiologist                            | 0.5<br>(0.5–0.6)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)        | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.5)        | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5)        | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.6)        | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.7)        | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.4)         |
| Referral; gastroenterologist                      | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.5)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)        | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.4)        | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)        | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.5)        | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)        | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.4)         |
| Referral; urologist                               | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.3)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.5)        | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.4)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)        | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.3)         |
| Referral; psychiatrist                            | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)        | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.4)        | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.5)        | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.3)         |
| <i>Subtotal: top ten specialist referrals (n)</i> | <i>11,208</i>                                                                    | <i>5,768</i>            | <i>4,414</i>            | <i>2,180</i>            | <i>2,007</i>            | <i>638</i>              | <i>385</i>              | <i>276</i>              | <i>26,875</i>            |

(continued)

**Table A4.18b (continued): Most frequent referrals to specialists and allied health professionals by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)**

| Professional to whom patient referred                | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                          |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                                      | NSW<br>(n=189,200)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=114,000)      | Qld<br>(n=93,300)       | WA<br>(n=41,200)        | SA<br>(n=38,100)        | Tas<br>(n=13,300)       | ACT<br>(n=7,800)        | NT<br>(n=5,200)         | Australia<br>(n=502,100) |
| <b>Allied health and other professionals</b>         | <b>2.9</b><br>(2.7–3.0)                                                          | <b>3.0</b><br>(2.8–3.1) | <b>2.5</b><br>(2.3–2.7) | <b>2.9</b><br>(2.6–3.2) | <b>3.1</b><br>(2.8–3.4) | <b>3.5</b><br>(2.9–4.1) | <b>3.6</b><br>(2.9–4.4) | <b>3.8</b><br>(2.6–5.0) | <b>2.9</b><br>(2.8–2.9)  |
| Referral; physiotherapy                              | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)                                                                 | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)        | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)        | 1.1<br>(0.9–1.2)        | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.4)        | 1.6<br>(1.2–1.9)        | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.5)        | 1.1<br>(0.7–1.5)        | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)         |
| Referral; health professional                        | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.4)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)         |
| Referral; psychologist                               | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)         |
| Referral; podiatrist/chiropracist                    | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.3)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)        | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5)        | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.5)        | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)         |
| Referral; dietitian/nutrition                        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.3)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)         |
| Referral; dentist                                    | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3)        | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.4)        | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2)         |
| Referral; (for); ECG                                 | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)        | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.3)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)         |
| Referral; acoustic testing                           | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                                                                 | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)         |
| Referral; counsellor                                 | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                                                                 | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2)        | 0.1<br>*                | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)         |
| Referral; optometrist                                | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                                                                 | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)        | —                       | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)         |
| <i>Subtotal: top ten allied health referrals (n)</i> | <i>4,212</i>                                                                     | <i>2,611</i>            | <i>1,859</i>            | <i>941</i>              | <i>907</i>              | <i>385</i>              | <i>211</i>              | <i>130</i>              | <i>11,257</i>            |
| <b>Total specialist &amp; allied health refs (n)</b> | <b>21,464</b>                                                                    | <b>11,775</b>           | <b>8,932</b>            | <b>4,413</b>            | <b>3,981</b>            | <b>1,421</b>            | <b>884</b>              | <b>580</b>              | <b>53,452</b>            |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one referral can be recorded at each encounter.

\* Frequency too small to calculate confidence interval.

— <0.05 per 100 encounters.

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). ENT—ear, nose and throat; ECG—electrocardiogram; refs—referrals.

Table A4.19a: Distribution of pathology orders across MBS pathology groups by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)

| Pathology test ordered         | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                | NSW<br>(n=113,800)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=69,300)          | Qld<br>(n=53,700)          | WA<br>(n=24,700)           | SA<br>(n=21,100)           | Tas<br>(n=8,600)           | ACT<br>(n=4,800)           | NT<br>(n=3,000)            | Australia<br>(n=299,000)   |
| <b>Chemistry</b>               | <b>16.7</b><br>(16.0–17.4)                                                       | <b>18.9</b><br>(17.8–20.0) | <b>17.0</b><br>(16.0–18.1) | <b>21.6</b><br>(19.9–23.4) | <b>16.6</b><br>(14.9–18.3) | <b>16.0</b><br>(13.6–18.5) | <b>17.9</b><br>(14.3–21.5) | <b>22.4</b><br>(16.7–28.2) | <b>17.7</b><br>(17.2–18.2) |
| Lipids*                        | 3.3<br>(3.1–3.5)                                                                 | 3.9<br>(3.6–4.2)           | 2.6<br>(2.3–2.8)           | 4.0<br>(3.5–4.5)           | 3.3<br>(2.9–3.7)           | 3.8<br>(3.0–4.6)           | 3.2<br>(2.3–4.1)           | 4.7<br>(3.1–6.3)           | 3.4<br>(3.2–3.5)           |
| EUC*                           | 2.2<br>(2.0–2.4)                                                                 | 3.1<br>(2.9–3.3)           | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1)           | 2.9<br>(2.5–3.3)           | 1.5<br>(1.1–1.9)           | 2.8<br>(2.1–3.5)           | 1.9<br>(1.3–2.6)           | 2.5<br>(1.5–3.5)           | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.3)           |
| Liver function*                | 2.4<br>(2.2–2.5)                                                                 | 2.5<br>(2.3–2.7)           | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.2)           | 2.6<br>(2.2–2.9)           | 2.7<br>(2.2–3.2)           | 2.3<br>(1.9–2.7)           | 2.2<br>(1.5–2.8)           | 2.1<br>(1.2–2.9)           | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.3)           |
| Glucose—all*                   | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.4)                                                                 | 2.9<br>(2.6–3.1)           | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)           | 3.4<br>(3.0–3.8)           | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.6)           | 2.1<br>(1.6–2.5)           | 2.1<br>(1.4–2.8)           | 3.1<br>(2.0–4.2)           | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.3)           |
| Thyroid function*              | 1.5<br>(1.4–1.6)                                                                 | 1.7<br>(1.6–1.9)           | 2.3<br>(2.1–2.5)           | 2.4<br>(2.2–2.7)           | 1.7<br>(1.4–2.0)           | 1.3<br>(1.1–1.6)           | 2.1<br>(1.6–2.6)           | 2.0<br>(1.1–3.0)           | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.9)           |
| Multi-biochemical analysis*    | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1)                                                                 | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)           | 4.1<br>(3.7–4.5)           | —                          | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.5)           | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)           | 0.8<br>(0.1–1.5)           | 0.6<br>(0.0–1.3)           | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.3)           |
| <b>Haematology</b>             | <b>6.1</b><br>(5.9–6.4)                                                          | <b>6.4</b><br>(6.0–6.8)    | <b>7.4</b><br>(6.9–7.9)    | <b>6.7</b><br>(6.0–7.3)    | <b>6.2</b><br>(5.4–6.8)    | <b>5.9</b><br>(5.0–6.7)    | <b>6.9</b><br>(5.0–8.8)    | <b>6.2</b><br>(4.6–7.8)    | <b>6.5</b><br>(6.3–6.7)    |
| Full blood count               | 4.1<br>(3.9–4.3)                                                                 | 4.5<br>(4.2–4.8)           | 5.5<br>(5.1–5.8)           | 4.7<br>(4.2–5.2)           | 3.9<br>(3.4–4.4)           | 3.6<br>(3.1–4.1)           | 4.8<br>(3.6–5.9)           | 4.4<br>(3.2–5.5)           | 4.5<br>(4.3–4.6)           |
| Erythrocyte sedimentation rate | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.2)           | 1.2<br>(1.0–1.3)           | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.9)           | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.2)           | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.1)           | 1.5<br>(0.6–2.3)           | 1.0<br>(0.3–1.6)           | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)           |
| <b>Microbiology</b>            | <b>4.8</b><br>(4.5–5.1)                                                          | <b>4.9</b><br>(4.5–5.2)    | <b>6.7</b><br>(6.1–7.2)    | <b>6.1</b><br>(5.5–6.8)    | <b>4.3</b><br>(3.7–4.9)    | <b>4.5</b><br>(3.6–5.3)    | <b>5.5</b><br>(4.2–6.7)    | <b>7.1</b><br>(5.2–8.9)    | <b>5.3</b><br>(5.1–5.4)    |
| Urine MC&S*                    | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)                                                                 | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.0)           | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.1)           | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0)           | 1.4<br>(1.2–1.6)           | 1.6<br>(1.3–1.9)           | 1.8<br>(1.3–2.2)           | 1.8<br>(1.2–2.4)           | 1.7<br>(1.7–1.8)           |
| <b>Cytology</b>                | <b>1.8</b><br>(1.6–2.0)                                                          | <b>2.2</b><br>(1.9–2.4)    | <b>2.3</b><br>(2.0–2.5)    | <b>2.4</b><br>(2.0–2.8)    | <b>1.7</b><br>(1.4–2.1)    | <b>2.0</b><br>(1.4–2.7)    | <b>2.1</b><br>(1.4–2.8)    | <b>3.2</b><br>(1.7–4.7)    | <b>2.0</b><br>(1.9–2.1)    |
| Pap smear*                     | 1.8<br>(1.6–1.9)                                                                 | 2.1<br>(1.8–2.4)           | 2.2<br>(1.9–2.5)           | 2.3<br>(1.9–2.8)           | 1.7<br>(1.3–2.1)           | 2.0<br>(1.4–2.6)           | 2.0<br>(1.4–2.7)           | 3.0<br>(1.5–4.5)           | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.1)           |

(continued)

Table A4.19a (continued): Distribution of pathology orders across MBS pathology groups by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)

| Pathology test ordered           | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                   |                   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                  | NSW<br>(n=113,800)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=69,300) | Qld<br>(n=53,700) | WA<br>(n=24,700) | SA<br>(n=21,100) | Tas<br>(n=8,600) | ACT<br>(n=4,800) | NT<br>(n=3,000)  | Australia<br>(n=299,000) |
| Other NEC                        | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)                                                                 | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)  | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)  | 0.8<br>(0.7–1.0) | 1.2<br>(0.9–1.5) | 0.7<br>(0.5–1.0) | 1.0<br>(0.4–1.6) | 1.0<br>(0.4–1.6) | 0.8<br>(0.8–0.9)         |
| Infertility/pregnancy            | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.3)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.3)  | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)  | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4) | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2) | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3) | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.5) | 0.5<br>(0.1–0.9) | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.3)         |
| Tissue pathology                 | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)  | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)  | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6) | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5) | 0.5<br>(0.2–0.8) | 0.3<br>(0.1–0.5) | 0.6<br>(0.3–1.0) | 0.5<br>(0.5–0.6)         |
| Immunology                       | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.6)                                                                 | 0.4<br>(0.4–0.5)  | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)  | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.7) | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5) | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.6) | 0.8<br>(0.4–1.1) | 0.9<br>(0.4–1.3) | 0.5<br>(0.5–0.5)         |
| Simple basic tests               | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                                                                 | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)  | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)  | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1) | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2) | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1) | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2) | —                | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)         |
| <b>Total pathology tests (n)</b> | <b>36,211</b>                                                                    | <b>23,535</b>     | <b>19,234</b>     | <b>9,641</b>     | <b>6,560</b>     | <b>2,611</b>     | <b>1,671</b>     | <b>1,258</b>     | <b>100,721</b>           |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one pathology test can be ordered at each encounter and for each problem.

\* Includes multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 5).

— <0.05 per 100 encounters.

Note: Limited to April 2000 to March 2003 inclusive due to older pathology codes in Years 1 and 2. Only those tests with a rate  $\geq 1.0$  per 100 encounters for Australia are included. Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). EUC—electrolytes, urea & creatinine; MC&S—microscopy, culture & sensitivity; NEC—not elsewhere classified.

Table A4.19b: Distribution of pathology orders across MBS pathology groups by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)

| Pathology test ordered         | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                | NSW<br>(n=74,488)                                                                | Vic<br>(n=44,993)          | Qld<br>(n=38,862)          | WA<br>(n=15,754)           | SA<br>(n=13,122)           | Tas<br>(n=5,232)           | ACT<br>(n=2,563)           | NT<br>(n=2,212)            | Australia<br>(n=197,226)   |
| <b>Chemistry</b>               | <b>17.1</b><br>(16.2–18.0)                                                       | <b>19.3</b><br>(18.0–20.5) | <b>17.7</b><br>(16.4–19.0) | <b>21.7</b><br>(19.6–23.8) | <b>17.7</b><br>(15.5–19.9) | <b>16.8</b><br>(13.3–20.2) | <b>23.0</b><br>(18.1–28.0) | <b>25.3</b><br>(18.1–32.6) | <b>18.3</b><br>(17.7–18.8) |
| Lipids*                        | 3.1<br>(2.9–3.4)                                                                 | 3.8<br>(3.5–4.1)           | 2.7<br>(2.4–3.0)           | 4.0<br>(3.5–4.5)           | 3.4<br>(2.9–3.9)           | 3.9<br>(2.7–5.1)           | 3.7<br>(2.5–4.8)           | 5.8<br>(3.5–8.0)           | 3.3<br>(3.2–3.5)           |
| EUC*                           | 2.3<br>(2.1–2.5)                                                                 | 3.2<br>(2.9–3.5)           | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.2)           | 2.9<br>(2.4–3.4)           | 1.6<br>(1.1–2.1)           | 3.0<br>(2.0–3.9)           | 2.8<br>(1.8–3.7)           | 2.8<br>(1.5–4.1)           | 2.3<br>(2.1–2.4)           |
| Liver function*                | 2.4<br>(2.2–2.6)                                                                 | 2.6<br>(2.4–2.9)           | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.2)           | 2.4<br>(2.1–2.8)           | 2.8<br>(2.2–3.4)           | 2.4<br>(1.8–2.9)           | 2.9<br>(1.8–3.9)           | 2.1<br>(1.0–3.1)           | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.3)           |
| Glucose—all*                   | 2.2<br>(2.0–2.4)                                                                 | 2.8<br>(2.6–3.1)           | 1.0<br>(0.8–1.1)           | 3.3<br>(2.9–3.8)           | 1.6<br>(1.2–2.0)           | 2.0<br>(1.5–2.6)           | 3.1<br>(1.9–4.3)           | 3.3<br>(2.0–4.5)           | 2.2<br>(2.1–2.3)           |
| Thyroid function*              | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)                                                                 | 1.8<br>(1.6–2.0)           | 2.4<br>(2.2–2.7)           | 2.4<br>(2.0–2.7)           | 1.8<br>(1.4–2.1)           | 1.5<br>(1.2–1.8)           | 2.3<br>(1.6–2.9)           | 2.4<br>(1.1–3.7)           | 1.9<br>(1.8–2.0)           |
| Multi-biochemical analysis*    | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)                                                                 | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2)           | 4.2<br>(3.7–4.7)           | —                          | 1.3<br>(0.9–1.6)           | —                          | 1.1<br>(0.0–2.4)           | 0.6<br>(0.0–1.5)           | 1.3<br>(1.2–1.4)           |
| <b>Haematology</b>             | <b>6.2</b><br>(5.8–6.5)                                                          | <b>6.5</b><br>(6.0–6.9)    | <b>7.5</b><br>(6.9–8.1)    | <b>6.5</b><br>(5.7–7.3)    | <b>6.2</b><br>(5.3–7.0)    | <b>6.2</b><br>(5.1–7.3)    | <b>9.7</b><br>(6.5–12.9)   | <b>6.1</b><br>(4.2–8.1)    | <b>6.6</b><br>(6.4–6.8)    |
| Full blood count               | 4.1<br>(3.9–4.3)                                                                 | 4.6<br>(4.3–5.0)           | 5.7<br>(5.2–6.2)           | 4.6<br>(4.0–5.2)           | 3.8<br>(3.2–4.3)           | 3.9<br>(3.2–4.5)           | 6.6<br>(4.9–8.4)           | 4.3<br>(2.6–5.9)           | 4.6<br>(4.4–4.7)           |
| Erythrocyte sedimentation rate | 1.0<br>(0.9–1.1)                                                                 | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)           | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)           | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0)           | 1.0<br>(0.7–1.2)           | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.2)           | 2.2<br>(0.6–3.8)           | 0.8<br>(0.1–1.5)           | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)           |
| <b>Microbiology</b>            | <b>5.0</b><br>(4.7–5.4)                                                          | <b>5.0</b><br>(4.6–5.4)    | <b>6.7</b><br>(6.1–7.4)    | <b>5.6</b><br>(4.9–6.3)    | <b>4.5</b><br>(3.7–5.2)    | <b>4.9</b><br>(3.8–6.0)    | <b>6.3</b><br>(4.5–8.0)    | <b>6.3</b><br>(4.1–8.4)    | <b>5.4</b><br>(5.2–5.6)    |
| Urine MC&S*                    | 1.6<br>(1.5–1.7)                                                                 | 2.0<br>(1.8–2.1)           | 1.9<br>(1.7–2.1)           | 1.7<br>(1.4–2.0)           | 1.4<br>(1.1–1.6)           | 1.8<br>(1.4–2.2)           | 2.0<br>(1.3–2.6)           | 1.5<br>(0.7–2.3)           | 1.8<br>(1.7–1.8)           |
| <b>Cytology</b>                | <b>1.8</b><br>(1.6–2.0)                                                          | <b>2.3</b><br>(2.0–2.6)    | <b>2.3</b><br>(1.9–2.6)    | <b>2.2</b><br>(1.7–2.6)    | <b>1.8</b><br>(1.4–2.3)    | <b>2.2</b><br>(1.4–3.0)    | <b>1.8</b><br>(0.8–2.8)    | <b>3.5</b><br>(1.7–5.4)    | <b>2.1</b><br>(1.9–2.2)    |
| Pap smear*                     | 1.7<br>(1.5–1.9)                                                                 | 2.3<br>(1.9–2.6)           | 2.2<br>(1.8–2.5)           | 2.1<br>(1.7–2.6)           | 1.8<br>(1.3–2.2)           | 2.2<br>(1.4–3.0)           | 1.8<br>(0.8–2.7)           | 3.3<br>(1.5–5.2)           | 2.0<br>(1.9–2.1)           |

(continued)

Table A4.19b (continued): Distribution of pathology orders across MBS pathology groups by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)

| Pathology test ordered           | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                   |                   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                                  | NSW<br>(n=74,488)                                                                | Vic<br>(n=44,993) | Qld<br>(n=38,862) | WA<br>(n=15,754) | SA<br>(n=13,122) | Tas<br>(n=5,232) | ACT<br>(n=2,563) | NT<br>(n=2,212)  | Australia<br>(n=197,226) |
| Other NEC                        | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.1)                                                                 | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)  | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)  | 0.8<br>(0.6–1.0) | 1.0<br>(0.6–1.3) | 0.6<br>(0.3–1.0) | 1.1<br>(0.3–2.0) | 0.6<br>(0.1–1.1) | 0.8<br>(0.7–0.8)         |
| Infertility/pregnancy            | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)                                                                 | 0.2<br>(0.2–0.3)  | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)  | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.3) | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.2) | 0.2<br>(0.1–0.4) | 0.4<br>(0.1–0.6) | 0.6<br>(0.1–1.0) | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.3)         |
| Tissue pathology                 | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)                                                                 | 0.3<br>(0.3–0.4)  | 0.9<br>(0.7–1.0)  | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.7) | 0.4<br>(0.2–0.5) | 0.5<br>(0.2–0.8) | 0.4<br>(0.1–0.7) | 0.4<br>(0.1–0.7) | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)         |
| Immunology                       | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)                                                                 | 0.4<br>(0.3–0.5)  | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)  | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.6) | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7) | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.7) | 0.9<br>(0.3–1.4) | 0.8<br>(0.3–1.2) | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.5)         |
| Simple basic tests               | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)                                                                 | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)  | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.1)  | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.2) | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2) | 0.1<br>(0.0–0.2) | 0.2<br>(0.0–0.4) | —                | 0.1<br>(0.1–0.1)         |
| <b>Total pathology tests (n)</b> | <b>24,082</b>                                                                    | <b>15,543</b>     | <b>14,197</b>     | <b>6,015</b>     | <b>4,235</b>     | <b>1,674</b>     | <b>1,121</b>     | <b>964</b>       | <b>67,831</b>            |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one pathology test can be ordered at each encounter and for each problem.

\* Includes multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 5).

— <0.05 per 100 encounters.

Note: Limited to April 2000 to March 2003 inclusive due to older pathology codes in Years 1 and 2. Only those tests with a rate  $\geq 1.0$  per 100 encounters for Australia are included. Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). EUC—electrolytes, urea & creatinine; MC&S—microscopy, culture & sensitivity; NEC—not elsewhere classified.

Table A4.20a: Most frequent imaging tests ordered, by MBS group and most frequent tests, by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)

| Imaging test ordered           | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                          |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                | NSW<br>(n=153,000)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=90,400)       | Qld<br>(n=74,800)       | WA<br>(n=33,900)        | SA<br>(n=30,600)        | Tas<br>(n=11,100)       | ACT<br>(n=6,000)        | NT<br>(n=3,900)         | Australia<br>(n=403,700) |
| <b>Diagnostic radiology</b>    | <b>5.2</b><br>(5.1–5.4)                                                          | <b>4.6</b><br>(4.3–4.8) | <b>5.3</b><br>(5.0–5.7) | <b>5.2</b><br>(4.8–5.7) | <b>4.2</b><br>(3.7–4.6) | <b>4.4</b><br>(3.8–5.0) | <b>5.1</b><br>(4.0–6.2) | <b>4.5</b><br>(3.4–5.6) | <b>5.0</b><br>(4.9–5.1)  |
| X-ray; chest                   | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.9–1.0)        | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4)        | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)        | 0.8<br>(0.6–0.9)        | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.1)        | 1.1<br>(0.8–1.4)        | 1.2<br>(0.7–1.7)        | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)         |
| <b>Ultrasound</b>              | <b>2.4</b><br>(2.3–2.5)                                                          | <b>2.3</b><br>(2.2–2.5) | <b>2.6</b><br>(2.4–2.8) | <b>2.8</b><br>(2.6–3.0) | <b>1.7</b><br>(1.5–1.9) | <b>2.3</b><br>(2.0–2.7) | <b>3.1</b><br>(2.5–3.7) | <b>2.9</b><br>(2.2–3.6) | <b>2.4</b><br>(2.4–2.5)  |
| Ultrasound; pelvis             | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.5)                                                                 | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)        | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.7)        | 0.6<br>(0.5–0.7)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)        | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.6)        | 0.9<br>(0.5–1.2)        | 0.5<br>(0.1–0.8)        | 0.5<br>(0.5–0.5)         |
| <b>Computerised tomography</b> | <b>0.8</b><br>(0.7–0.8)                                                          | <b>0.7</b><br>(0.6–0.8) | <b>0.8</b><br>(0.7–0.9) | <b>0.7</b><br>(0.6–0.8) | <b>0.6</b><br>(0.5–0.7) | <b>0.6</b><br>(0.5–0.8) | <b>0.9</b><br>(0.6–1.1) | <b>0.3</b><br>(0.1–0.5) | <b>0.7</b><br>(0.7–0.8)  |
| <b>Total imaging tests (n)</b> | <b>12,993</b>                                                                    | <b>6,936</b>            | <b>6,541</b>            | <b>2,992</b>            | <b>1,958</b>            | <b>826</b>              | <b>564</b>              | <b>305</b>              | <b>33,115</b>            |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one imaging test can be ordered at each encounter and for each problem.

Note: Limited to April 1999 to March 2003 inclusive due to older imaging codes in Year 1. Only those tests  $\geq 0.5$  per 100 encounters for Australia are included. Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample).

Table A4.20b: Most frequent imaging tests ordered, by MBS group and most frequent tests, by state/territory, patient age-standardised rates (1998–2003)

| Imaging test ordered           | Rate per 100 encounters, <sup>(a)</sup> 95% confidence interval, column specific |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                          |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                | NSW<br>(n=151,641)                                                               | Vic<br>(n=89,639)       | Qld<br>(n=74,173)       | WA<br>(n=33,653)        | SA<br>(n=30,284)        | Tas<br>(n=10,989)       | ACT<br>(n=5,930)        | NT<br>(n=3,885)         | Australia<br>(n=400,194) |
| <b>Diagnostic radiology</b>    | <b>5.2</b><br>(5.1–5.4)                                                          | <b>4.5</b><br>(4.3–4.8) | <b>5.3</b><br>(5.0–5.7) | <b>5.2</b><br>(4.7–5.6) | <b>4.1</b><br>(3.7–4.6) | <b>4.4</b><br>(3.8–5.0) | <b>5.2</b><br>(4.1–6.3) | <b>4.7</b><br>(3.4–5.9) | <b>5.0</b><br>(4.9–5.1)  |
| X-ray; chest                   | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.1)                                                                 | 0.9<br>(0.8–1.0)        | 1.2<br>(1.1–1.4)        | 1.1<br>(1.0–1.3)        | 0.7<br>(0.6–0.9)        | 0.9<br>(0.6–1.2)        | 1.2<br>(0.8–1.5)        | 1.3<br>(0.7–1.8)        | 1.0<br>(1.0–1.1)         |
| <b>Ultrasound</b>              | <b>2.4</b><br>(2.3–2.5)                                                          | <b>2.3</b><br>(2.1–2.4) | <b>2.6</b><br>(2.4–2.8) | <b>2.7</b><br>(2.5–3.0) | <b>1.7</b><br>(1.5–1.8) | <b>2.3</b><br>(1.9–2.7) | <b>3.0</b><br>(2.4–3.6) | <b>2.8</b><br>(2.2–3.5) | <b>2.4</b><br>(2.3–2.5)  |
| Ultrasound; pelvis             | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.5)                                                                 | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)        | 0.6<br>(0.4–0.7)        | 0.5<br>(0.4–0.6)        | 0.3<br>(0.2–0.4)        | 0.5<br>(0.3–0.6)        | 0.8<br>(0.5–1.1)        | 0.4<br>(0.1–0.7)        | 0.5<br>(0.5–0.5)         |
| <b>Computerised tomography</b> | <b>0.7</b><br>(0.7–0.8)                                                          | <b>0.7</b><br>(0.6–0.7) | <b>0.8</b><br>(0.7–0.9) | <b>0.7</b><br>(0.6–0.8) | <b>0.6</b><br>(0.5–0.6) | <b>0.6</b><br>(0.5–0.8) | <b>0.9</b><br>(0.6–1.2) | <b>0.4</b><br>(0.1–0.6) | <b>0.7</b><br>(0.7–0.7)  |
| <b>Total imaging tests (n)</b> | <b>12,842</b>                                                                    | <b>6,785</b>            | <b>6,472</b>            | <b>2,924</b>            | <b>1,924</b>            | <b>812</b>              | <b>559</b>              | <b>307</b>              | <b>32,626</b>            |

(a) Figures do not total 100 as more than one imaging test can be ordered at each encounter and for each problem.

Note: Limited to April 1999 to March 2003 inclusive due to older imaging codes in Year 1. Only those tests  $\geq 0.5$  per 100 encounters for Australia are included. Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample).

**Table A4.21: Patient risk factors by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)**

| Risk factor                                | Per cent of patients, 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                            | NSW                                                            | Vic                 | Qld                 | WA                  | SA                  | Tas                 | ACT                 | NT                  | Australia           |
| <b>BMI adults (18+ years) (n)</b>          | <b>(59,957)</b>                                                | <b>(36,712)</b>     | <b>(29,231)</b>     | <b>(13,321)</b>     | <b>(12,252)</b>     | <b>(4,198)</b>      | <b>(2,378)</b>      | <b>(1,618)</b>      | <b>(159,667)</b>    |
| Underweight                                | 8.2<br>(7.9–8.5)                                               | 7.5<br>(7.2–7.9)    | 9.2<br>(8.8–9.7)    | 7.5<br>(7.0–8.1)    | 7.3<br>(6.7–7.9)    | 7.5<br>(6.5–8.5)    | 8.5<br>(7.2–9.8)    | 8.9<br>(7.4–10.4)   | 8.1<br>(7.9–8.3)    |
| Normal                                     | 39.3<br>(38.7–39.9)                                            | 38.4<br>(37.7–39.2) | 37.7<br>(37.0–38.5) | 37.5<br>(36.4–38.6) | 36.7<br>(35.6–37.8) | 37.3<br>(35.3–39.3) | 39.8<br>(37.3–42.2) | 40.4<br>(37.7–43.2) | 38.4<br>(38.1–38.8) |
| Overweight                                 | 33.4<br>(32.9–33.9)                                            | 33.5<br>(32.9–34.1) | 32.9<br>(32.2–33.6) | 34.4<br>(33.5–35.4) | 34.0<br>(33.1–35.0) | 35.4<br>(33.7–37.2) | 32.1<br>(29.6–34.6) | 31.3<br>(28.7–34.0) | 33.5<br>(33.2–33.7) |
| Obese                                      | 19.2<br>(18.7–19.7)                                            | 20.6<br>(20.0–21.2) | 20.2<br>(19.5–20.9) | 20.5<br>(19.5–21.5) | 22.0<br>(21.0–23.1) | 19.7<br>(18.0–21.5) | 19.6<br>(17.6–21.6) | 19.3<br>(17.5–21.2) | 20.0<br>(19.7–20.3) |
| <b>BMI children (2–17 years) (n)</b>       | <b>(7,164)</b>                                                 | <b>(4,191)</b>      | <b>(3,948)</b>      | <b>(1,625)</b>      | <b>(1,508)</b>      | <b>(494)</b>        | <b>(313)</b>        | <b>(221)</b>        | <b>(19,464)</b>     |
| Underweight/normal                         | 68.0<br>(66.7–69.4)                                            | 67.1<br>(65.4–68.8) | 71.8<br>(70.1–73.5) | 71.0<br>(68.3–73.7) | 69.6<br>(66.6–72.5) | 67.4<br>(62.9–71.9) | 70.9<br>(65.5–76.4) | 75.6<br>(68.1–83.0) | 69.1<br>(68.3–69.9) |
| Overweight                                 | 18.2<br>(17.2–19.2)                                            | 18.7<br>(17.4–19.9) | 16.8<br>(15.6–18.0) | 16.2<br>(14.3–18.2) | 18.2<br>(16.1–20.3) | 18.6<br>(14.2–22.1) | 16.9<br>(12.4–21.5) | 14.9<br>(9.9–20.0)  | 17.8<br>(17.2–18.4) |
| Obese                                      | 13.8<br>(12.8–14.8)                                            | 14.3<br>(13.0–15.6) | 11.4<br>(10.1–12.7) | 12.7<br>(10.7–14.8) | 12.2<br>(10.2–14.2) | 14.0<br>(10.7–17.2) | 12.1<br>(8.6–15.7)  | 9.5<br>(4.7–14.4)   | 13.1<br>(12.5–13.7) |
| <b>Alcohol consumption (18+ years) (n)</b> | <b>(59,079)</b>                                                | <b>(36,150)</b>     | <b>(28,897)</b>     | <b>(13,042)</b>     | <b>(12,108)</b>     | <b>(4,174)</b>      | <b>(2,323)</b>      | <b>(1,607)</b>      | <b>(157,380)</b>    |
| Non-drinker                                | 32.8<br>(32.0–33.7)                                            | 31.2<br>(30.2–32.1) | 30.9<br>(29.9–32.0) | 27.9<br>(26.5–29.3) | 29.4<br>(27.9–30.9) | 28.6<br>(26.2–31.1) | 26.0<br>(22.6–29.3) | 26.1<br>(22.1–30.2) | 31.1<br>(30.7–31.6) |
| Responsible                                | 43.4<br>(42.7–44.0)                                            | 45.2<br>(44.4–46.0) | 42.3<br>(41.4–43.2) | 44.2<br>(43.0–45.5) | 44.9<br>(43.6–46.3) | 46.2<br>(43.8–48.6) | 50.4<br>(47.3–53.5) | 34.0<br>(30.5–37.5) | 43.9<br>(43.5–44.3) |
| At-risk drinker                            | 23.8<br>(23.2–24.4)                                            | 23.7<br>(22.9–24.4) | 26.7<br>(25.9–27.6) | 28.9<br>(26.6–29.1) | 25.7<br>(24.4–27.0) | 25.2<br>(23.1–27.2) | 23.6<br>(20.8–26.4) | 39.9<br>(35.5–44.3) | 25.0<br>(24.6–25.4) |

(continued)

Table A4.21 (continued): Patient risk factors by state/territory, crude rates (1998–2003)

| Risk factor                           | Per cent of patients, 95% confidence interval, column specific |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                       | NSW                                                            | Vic                 | Qld                 | WA                  | SA                  | Tas                 | ACT                 | NT                  | Australia           |
| <b>Smoking status (18+ years) (n)</b> | <b>(59,796)</b>                                                | <b>(36,482)</b>     | <b>(29,428)</b>     | <b>(13,211)</b>     | <b>(12,316)</b>     | <b>(4,285)</b>      | <b>(2,399)</b>      | <b>(1,572)</b>      | <b>(159,489)</b>    |
| Never                                 | 51.0<br>(50.2–51.7)                                            | 49.6<br>(48.7–50.5) | 49.1<br>(48.1–50.1) | 47.5<br>(46.0–48.9) | 47.7<br>(46.2–49.1) | 44.9<br>(42.4–47.3) | 50.6<br>(47.6–53.6) | 38.9<br>(34.9–42.9) | 49.5<br>(49.0–49.9) |
| Previous                              | 26.5<br>(25.9–27.1)                                            | 27.0<br>(26.3–27.7) | 27.9<br>(27.1–28.6) | 29.0<br>(27.8–30.1) | 28.0<br>(26.8–29.3) | 28.7<br>(26.6–30.8) | 28.9<br>(26.2–31.7) | 26.8<br>(23.3–30.4) | 27.3<br>(26.9–27.6) |
| Occasional                            | 4.9<br>(4.6–5.2)                                               | 4.9<br>(4.5–5.2)    | 4.2<br>(3.8–4.5)    | 4.5<br>(4.1–5.0)    | 4.5<br>(4.0–5.1)    | 4.2<br>(3.4–5.0)    | 4.0<br>(3.1–5.0)    | 5.3<br>(3.8–6.8)    | 4.7<br>(4.5–4.8)    |
| Daily                                 | 17.7<br>(17.1–18.2)                                            | 18.6<br>(17.9–19.3) | 18.9<br>(18.1–19.6) | 19.0<br>(17.9–20.2) | 19.7<br>(18.5–21.0) | 22.2<br>(20.1–24.4) | 16.4<br>(14.4–18.5) | 28.9<br>(25.0–32.9) | 18.6<br>(18.3–18.9) |

Note: Shading indicates a significant difference between a state/territory and Australia (total sample). BMI—body mass index.