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Glossary

A1 Medicare items: Medicare item numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 13, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 43, 44, 47, 48, 50, 51, 601, 602, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 734, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 749, 757, 759, 762, 765, 768, 771, 773, 775, 778, 779, 801, 803, 805, 807, 809, 811, 813, 815.

- *Medicare Level A items:* Medicare item numbers 3, 4, 13, 19, 20.
- *Medicare Level B items:* Medicare item numbers 23, 24, 25, 33, 35.
- *Medicare Level C items:* Medicare item numbers 36, 37, 38, 40, 43.
- *Medicare Level D items:* Medicare item numbers 44, 47, 48, 50, 51.

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

Consultation: See *Encounter*

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

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

Pathology class: A class to which a pathology tests type in BEACH is allocated through its relationship with the type of problem for which the test was ordered.

- *Diagnostic pathology:* All pathology test orders associated with problems classified in ICPC-2 Component 1 (Symptoms and complaints), all infections (from Component 7) and all misadventure codes.
- *Monitoring pathology:* All pathology test orders associated with all morbidity classified in Component 7 of ICPC-2, except for infections and misadventure.
- *Preventive care pathology:* All pathology test associated with problem labels which described a check-up, whether partial or full.
- *Other pathology:* All pathology tests associated with problem labels which described service provisions (including specified pathology tests, advice and health education, medication renewals, referrals, other services).

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

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

Health Care Card holder: A person who holds a Health Care Card from the Commonwealth Government which allows the holder prescription medicines for themselves and their dependants at greatly reduced cost and free after a cost threshold is reached.

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

Pathology encounters: Those encounters at which at least one pathology test (or battery of tests) (other than a Pap smear) was ordered.

Problem managed: See *Diagnosis/problem*.

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

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

Recognised GP: A medical practitioner who is vocationally recognised under Section 3F of the Health Insurance Act, *or*

- who is a holder of the Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners who participates in, and meets the requirements for, quality assurance and continuing medical education as defined in the RACGP Quality Assurance and Continuing Medical Education Program, *or*
- who is undertaking an approved placement in general practice as part of a training program for general practice leading to the award of the Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners or undertaking an approved placement in general practice as part of some other training program recognised by the RACGP as being of equivalent standard. (Medicare Benefits Schedule book, 1 November 1998).

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

Rubric: The title of an individual code in ICPC-2 PLUS.

Practice location: The location of the main practice address according to its postcode, defined by the Rural Remote and Metropolitan Area classification and by state or territory.

- *Rural practices:* Those practices in Categories 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 in the Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Area classification.
- *Urban practices:* Those practices in Categories 1 and 2 of the Rural, Remote and Metropolitan classification

Tested problems: those problems managed at the encounter that generated at least one order for pathology.

Veterans' Affairs card holder: a person who hold a health card from the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Abbreviations

AMTS	Australian Morbidity and Treatment Survey 1990–91
BEACH	Bettering the Evaluation And Care of Health
CI	Confidence interval (in this report 95% CI is used)
DVA	Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs
Enc	Encounter
ESR	Erythrocyte sedimentation rate
EUC	Electrolytes, urea and creatinine
FRACGP	Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
GP	General practitioner
HbA1c	Haemoglobin, type A1c
HIC	Health Insurance Commission
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
ICPC	International Classification of Primary Care
ICPC-2	International Classification of Primary Care (2nd edition)
ICPC-2 PLUS	An extended vocabulary of terms classified according to ICPC-2
MBS	Medicare Benefits Schedule
MC&S	Microscopy, culture and sensitivity
NEC	Not elsewhere classified
NOS	Not otherwise specified
RACGP	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
SAND	Supplementary Analysis of Nominated Data
SAS	Statistical Analysis System
UTI	Urinary tract infection

Appendices

Appendix 1: Example of a recording form (1998–99)

BEACH (Bettering the Evaluation And Care of Health) -Morbidity and Treatment Survey -National National

DOCID: _____

Date of encounter: ___/___/___ Date of Birth: ___/___/___ Sex: M F Patient status: New Old Patient Postcode: _____

Encounter Number: _____

1. Patient Reasons for Encounter (up to three): _____

2. _____

3. _____

HCC Status: Yes No Veterans Affairs: Gold card White card

NESB? Yes No Aboriginal? Yes No Torres Strait Islander? Yes No

PATIENT SEEN: Item no. _____ W/C paid Other paid No charge

PATIENT NOT SEEN: Script..... Referral..... Certificate..... Other.....

1. Diagnosis/problem		Work Related	Problem status	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	New	Old
Medications for this problem: (up to four)		Strength	Regimen	No. ? OTC Supply GP Drug status
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
Procedures, other treatment, counselling		New referrals, admissions		

3. Diagnosis/problem		Work Related	Problem status	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	New	Old
Medications for this problem: (up to four)		Strength	Regimen	No. ? OTC Supply GP Drug status
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
Procedures, other treatment, counselling		New referrals, admissions		

Pathology for problem(s)	1 2 3 4	Test/Body Site for problem(s)	1 2 3 4
1	.....	Plain X-ray	.....
2	.....	US/CT/Contrast	.....
3	.....	Other Imaging	.....
4	.....	
5	.....	

To the patient: In general would you say your health is: Excellent... Very good... Good... Fair... Poor.....

To the patient if 18+: How often do you have a drink containing alcohol? Never Monthly Once a week 2-4 times a week 5+ times a week

How many standard drinks do you have on a typical day when you are drinking? _____

How often do you have 6 or more standard drinks on one occasion? Never..... Monthly or less..... Once a week..... 2-4 times a week..... 5+ times a week.....

Patient's Height: _____ cm Weight: _____ kg

Appendix 2: GP characteristics questionnaire (1998–99)



Please fill in boxes or circle answers where appropriate

1. Doctor Identification Number:

2. Sex: Male / Female 3. Age

4. How many years have you spent in general practice?

5. Number of general practice sessions you usually work per week?

6. How many **full-time** (>5 sessions per week) general practitioners work with you at this practice? (Practice= shared medical records)

7. How many **part-time** (<6 sessions per week) general practitioners work with you at this practice? (Practice= shared medical records)

8. Do you conduct more than **50%** of consultations in a language other than English? Yes / No

9. What is the postcode of your major practice address?

10. Country of graduation: Aust NZ Asia UK Other: _____

11. General Practice training status (CSCT or RACGP training programme)? Presently training Completed training Not applicable

12. Do you hold FRACGP? Yes / No

13. Are you a member of any of the following organisations? AMA RACGP RDAA

14. How do you routinely instruct pharmacists on the substitution of generic drugs? No substitute allowed Substitute allowed

15. Special interests: (*up to three*)

1. Acupuncture	7. Dermatology	13. Paediatrics
2. Anaesthetics	8. Diabetes	14. Preventive medicine
3. Asthma	9. Geriatrics/aged care	15. Psychiatry
4. Cardiology	10. Nutrition	16. Sports medicine
5. Computers	11. Obstetrics/antenatal	17. Surgery
6. Counselling	12. Occup./indust.med.	18. Women's Health

Other _____

Appendix 3: Code groups from ICPC-2 and ICPC-2 PLUS used in this report

Problem or code group label	ICPC-2 codes
Component 1	—(1–29 inclusive)
Components 2–6	—(30–69 inclusive)
Component 7	—(70–99 inclusive)
Diagnostic pathology	—(01–29 inclusive) + —(70–99 inclusive) except the infection codes A70, A71, A72, A73, A74, A75, A76, A77, B70, B71, D70, D71, D73, D88, D96, F70, F72, F73, F86, H70, H71, H72, H74, B90, D72, U72, X70, X71, X73, X74, X90, X91, X92, Y03, Y70, Y71, Y72, Y73, Y76, R72, R73, R74, R71, R78, R79, R80, R81, R82, S03, S09, S10, S70, S71, S72, S73, S75, S84, S85, S95, S96, S11, S74, S76, U70, U71, X72, X84, Y75, Y74, K70, K71, R83, T70, W70, W71, W94, L70, N70, N71, N72, N73 and the misadventure codes A80, A81, A84, A85, A86, A87, A88, A89, B76, B77, D79, D80, F75, F76, F79, H76, H77, H78, H79, H85, L72, L73, L74, L75, L76, L77, L78, L79, L80, L81, L96, P77, N79, N80, N81, R87, R88, S12, S13, S14, S15, S16, S17, S18, S19, U80, W75, X82, Y80)
Arthritis NOS (excluding osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis)	L70 009, L70 010, L81 010, L83 010, L84 003, L84 023, L84 024, L84 025, L84 026, L89 004, L90 004, L91 009, L91 010, L91 011, L91 012, L91 013, L92 006, S91 022, T99 063
Blood pressure problems	K85, K86, K87, W81, K88
Check-up	—30, —31
Check-up—General	A30, A31
Check-up—Cardiovascular	K30, K31
Diabetes	T89, T90, W85
Depression	P03, P76
Gastroenteritis, presumed infectious	D73
Hypertension	K86, K87, W81 003
Ischaemic heart disease	K74, K75, K76
Lipid disorder	T93
Malignant skin neoplasms	S77
Menopausal symptoms /complaints	X11
Menstrual problems	X02, X03, X05, X06, X07, X08, X09, X10
Other cardiovascular problems	K01, K02, K03, K04, K05, K06, K07, K22, K28, K29, K73, K81, K82, K84, K95, K96, K99
Pre-postnatal check	W30, W31
Pregnancy	W01, W78, W79, W80, W84
Thyroid problems	T85, T86, T81
Urinary tract infection	U71
Weakness/Tiredness	A04

Note: — All codes starting with a dash can be equally applied to any chapter (with the exception of the Social chapter) so that each of these codes includes 16 possible ICPC-2 codes