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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.

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

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

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

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

Consultation: See Encounter.

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

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

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

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

Direct encounters can be further divided into:

- **Medicare-claimable:** Including Surgery consultations, Home visits, Hospital encounters, Residential aged care facility, Health assessments, Chronic disease management items, Case conferences, Incentive payments, Other MBS encounters.
- **Workers compensation:** Encounters paid by workers compensation insurance.
- **Other paid:** Encounters paid from another source (e.g. state).

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

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

Medication rates: The rate of use of all medications including medications that were prescribed, supplied by the GP and advised for over-the-counter purchase.

Medication status:

- *New:* The medication prescribed/provided at the encounter/advised is being used for the management of the problem for the first time.
- *Continuation:* The medication prescribed/provided at the encounter/advised is a continuation or repeat of previous therapy for this problem.
- *Old:* See *Continuation*.

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

Prescribed rates: The rate of use of prescribed medications (i.e. does not include medications that were GP-supplied or advised for over-the-counter purchase).

Problem managed: See *Diagnosis/problem*.

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

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

Recognised GP: A medical practitioner who is:

- vocationally recognised under Section 3F of the Health Insurance Act, *or*
- a holder of the Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners 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*
- 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.³⁵

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 specialists and allied health professionals and for hospital and residential aged care facility admissions arising at a recorded encounter are included. Continuation referrals are not included. Multiple referrals can be recorded at any one encounter.

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

Abbreviations

AGPSCC	Australian General Practice Statistics and Classification Centre, University of Sydney, a collaborating unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ATC	Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (classification)
AUDIT	Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test
BEACH	Bettering the Evaluation And Care of Health
BMI	Body mass index
CAPS	Coding Atlas for Pharmaceutical Substances
CHD	Coronary heart disease
CI	Confidence interval (in this report 95% CI is used)
DoHA	Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
Enc	Encounter
GI	Gastrointestinal
GORD	Gastro-oesophageal reflux disorder
GP	General practitioner
GPSCU	General Practice Statistics and Classification Unit (now the Australian General Practice Statistics and Classification Centre, AGPSCC)
HbA1c	Haemoglobin, type A1c
ICPC-2	International Classification of Primary Care (Version 2)
ICPC-2 PLUS	A terminology classified according to ICPC-2
IHD	Ischaemic heart disease
MBS	Medicare Benefits Schedule
NESB	Non-English-speaking background (i.e. a language other than English is spoken at home)
NOS	Not otherwise specified
NSAID	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug
OTC	Over-the-counter (i.e. medications advised for over-the-counter purchase)
PBS	Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
QA	Quality assurance (in this case the Quality Assurance Program of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners)
RACGP	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
SAND	Supplementary Analysis of Nominated Data
SAS	Statistical Analysis System
WHO	World Health Organization
Wonca	World Organization of Family Doctors

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Also see, in: Measures of health and health care delivery in general practice in Australia: Alcohol use (pg 20); Body mass (pg 11); Cholesterol (pg 31); Hypertension (pg 55); Physical activity (pg 23) and Smoking (pg 15).

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SAND abstracts from the first year of BEACH (1998–99) have been published in *Measures of health and health care delivery in general practice in Australia* available from www.fmrc.org.au/publications/Books3.htm. Topics investigated included:

- Wellbeing
- Body mass
- Smoking
- Alcohol use
- Physical activity
- Prevalence of upper gastro-intestinal conditions and NSAID use
- Cholesterol
- Vaccination and mammography
- Health care utilisation
- Depression
- The effect of the introduction of the therapeutic group premiums on patient care
- Consultation time and GP satisfaction
- Hypertension
- Severity of illness
- Co-morbidity
- Musculoskeletal conditions and NSAID use
- Hepatitis
- Employment and occupation.

Other SAND abstracts from BEACH 2006–07 will be published in *General practice activity in Australia 2006–07* in December 2007. The topics under investigation include:

- Severity of illness using the DUSOI scale
- Weight loss
- Diabetes
- Adverse pharmacological events
- Type 2 diabetes
- Secondary prevention of heart attack and stroke
- Erectile dysfunction.

