

Introduction

This report presents information on the medical care of cardiovascular disease in Australia. Except for the first chapter (National data sources), the report has been organised into chapters that are generally based on type of care as follows:

Chapter 1 – National data sources

Describes the national data sources that can be used for monitoring medical care in Australia. For each data source, information is provided on the types of data items available, their uses and limitations and how they can be used to monitor the medical care of cardiovascular disease.

Chapter 2 – Non-hospital care

Examines the prevalence of cardiovascular conditions in the community; the health related actions taken for these conditions; and the care of cardiovascular conditions in general practice.

Chapter 3 – Hospital care

Examines the use of hospital services for cardiovascular disease.

Chapter 4 – Drug use

Examines the use of cardiovascular and other drugs for cardiovascular disease.

Chapter 5 – Health care costs

Provides estimates of costs of hospital admitted patient and hospital outpatient services, medical services, allied health services and nursing homes for cardiovascular diseases in 1993-94.

Chapter 6 – Medical labour force

Provides estimates of the number of practitioners registered and working in the specialities of cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery and vascular surgery in 1994.