### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACE-inhibitor</td>
<td>angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ag</td>
<td>antigen</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIHW</td>
<td>Australian Institute of Health and Welfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATC</td>
<td>anatomical therapeutic chemical (classification)</td>
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<tr>
<td>A&amp;TSI</td>
<td>Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEACH</td>
<td>Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>body mass index</td>
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<tr>
<td>BP</td>
<td>blood pressure</td>
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<tr>
<td>C&amp;S</td>
<td>culture and sensitivity</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAPS</td>
<td>Coding Atlas for Pharmaceutical Substances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNS</td>
<td>central nervous system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPD</td>
<td>chronic obstructive pulmonary disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>computed tomography</td>
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<tr>
<td>CV</td>
<td>cardiovascular</td>
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<tr>
<td>CVS</td>
<td>cardiovascular system</td>
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<tr>
<td>DHAC</td>
<td>Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECG</td>
<td>electrocardiogram</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>erythrocyte sedimentation rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>EUC</td>
<td>electrolytes, urea, creatinine</td>
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<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td>general practitioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>HbA1c</td>
<td>glycohaemoglobin whole blood test</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>human immunodeficiency virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICPC</td>
<td>International Classification of Primary Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICPC-2</td>
<td>International Classification of Primary Care (Version 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICPC-2 PLUS</td>
<td>an extended vocabulary of terms classified according to ICPC-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IHD</td>
<td>ischaemic heart disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>MBS</td>
<td>Medicare Benefits Schedule</td>
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<tr>
<td>MC&amp;S</td>
<td>microscopy culture and sensitivity</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRI</td>
<td>magnetic resonance imaging</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEC</td>
<td>not elsewhere classified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NESB</td>
<td>non-English-speaking background</td>
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<tr>
<td>NHMRC</td>
<td>National Health and Medical Research Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOS</td>
<td>not otherwise specified</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSAID</td>
<td>nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs</td>
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<tr>
<td>OGGTT</td>
<td>oral glucose tolerance test</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTCs</td>
<td>medications advised for over-the-counter purchase</td>
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<tr>
<td>PVD</td>
<td>peripheral vascular disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>RACGP</td>
<td>Royal Australian College of General Practitioners</td>
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<td>RFE</td>
<td>reason for encounter</td>
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<tr>
<td>RICE</td>
<td>rest, ice, compression, elevation</td>
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<tr>
<td>RRMA</td>
<td>rural remote metropolitan area</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAND</td>
<td>Supplementary Analysis of Nominated Data</td>
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<tr>
<td>STD</td>
<td>sexually transmitted disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>TIA</td>
<td>transient ischaemic attack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URTI</td>
<td>upper respiratory tract infection</td>
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<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>ultrasound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTI</td>
<td>urinary tract infection</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
</tr>
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<td>WONCA</td>
<td>World Organisation of Family Doctors</td>
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</tbody>
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Glossary

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

Activity level
Number of general practice Medicare items claimed during the previous 12 months by a general practitioner.

Allied health professionals
Those who provide clinical and other specialised services to patients, including dieticians, pharmacists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists.

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 to any medical practitioner, including the first presentation of a recurrence of a previously resolved problem.

• old problem
A previously assessed problem which 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 general practitioner:

• direct
Encounter where there is a face-to-face meeting of the patient and the general practitioner. Direct encounters can be further divided into encounters covered by

✓ Medicare, including
- surgery consultations
  encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 3; 23; 36; 44
- home visits
  encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 4; 24; 37; 47
- hospital encounter
  encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 19; 33; 40; 50
- nursing home visits
  encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 20; 35; 43; 51
- other institutional visits
  encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 13; 25; 38; 40
- other encounters
  encounters identified by an MBS item number which does not identify place of encounter.

✓ Workers’ compensation
Encounters paid by workers’ compensation insurance.

✓ Other
Encounters paid from other sources (e.g. State health departments).
• indirect

Encounter where there is no physical or face-to-face meeting between the patient and the general practitioner but a service is provided (e.g. prescription, referral).

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

Medication status

• new

The medication prescribed/advised/provided at the encounter is being used for the management of the problem for the first time.

• continuation

The medication prescribed/advised/provided at the encounter is a continuation or repeat of previous therapy for this problem.

Morbidity

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

NESB

The patient reports coming from a non-English-speaking background, i.e. primary language spoken at home is not English.

OTCs

Medications advised for over-the-counter purchase.

Patient status

• new

The patient has not been seen before in the practice.

• old

The patient has attended the practice before.

Problem

See Diagnosis/problem.

Provider

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

Reason for encounter (RFE)

The subjective reason given by the patient for seeing or contacting the general practitioner. It can be expressed in terms of symptoms, diagnoses or the need for a service.

Recognised GP

A medical practitioner who is:

toally 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.


**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, allied health professionals, emergency departments and hospital and nursing home admissions arising at a recorded encounter are included. Continuation referrals are not included. Multiple referrals can be recorded at any one encounter.

**Torres Strait Islander**

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


Related publications


AIHW web site

Information on cardiovascular disease, its treatment and risk factors can be found on the Cardiovascular Health portal and the National Cardiovascular Disease Database, both located on the Institute’s web site http://www.aihw.gov.au