

# Glossary and abbreviations

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

**AIHW** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**AMA** Australian Medical Association

**AMTS** Australian Morbidity and Treatment Survey 1990–91

**BEACH** Bettering the Evaluation And Care of Health

**BMI** body mass index

**CAPS** Coding Atlas for Pharmaceutical Substances

**CI** confidence interval (in this report 95% CIs are reported)

**Consultation** see Encounter

**Diagnosis/problem managed** 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 which requires ongoing care. Includes follow-up for a problem or an initial presentation of a problem previously assessed by another provider.

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

**Drug status**

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

**Encounter (enc)** Any professional interchange between a patient and a general practitioner:

- **Indirect** where there is no physical or face-to-face meeting between the patient and the general practitioner but a service is provided (eg: prescription, referral).
- **Direct** 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 insurance
- other payment systems (e.g. State health departments).

**FMRU** Family Medicine Research Unit, Department of General Practice, the University of Sydney

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

**GP** general practitioner

**GPSCU** General Practice Statistics and Classification Unit, a collaborating unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**HCC** A person who holds a Health Care Card from the Commonwealth Government

**HIC** Health Insurance Commission

**ICPC-2** International Classification of Primary Care (Version 2)

**ICPC-2 PLUS** An extended vocabulary of terms classified according to ICPC-2

**MBS** Medicare Benefits Schedule

**NESB** The patient reports coming from a non-English speaking background

**NHMRC** National Health and Medical Research Council

**OTCs** Drugs 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.

**PBS** Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

**Problem managed** see Diagnosis

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

**RACGP** Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

**Reason for encounter (RFE)** The subjective reason given by the patient for seeing or contacting the general practitioner. 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.

(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 professional, 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.

**RFE** reason for encounter

**RSE** Relative standard error

**SAND** Supplementary analysis of nominated data

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

**VA Gold** A person who holds a Gold Card from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**VA White** A person who holds a White Card from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**WONCA** World Organisation of Family Doctors

**Work related** Irrespective of the source of payment for the consultation, it is likely in the GP's view that the symptom or problem has resulted from work-related activity or workplace exposures or that a pre-existing condition has been significantly exacerbated by work activity or workplace exposure.