

7 Problems managed

A 'problem managed' is a formal statement of the provider's understanding of a health problem presented by the patient, family or community, and can be described in terms of a disease, symptom or complaint, social problem, or ill-defined condition managed at the encounter. As GPs were instructed to record each problem at the most specific level possible from the information available, the problem managed may at times be limited to the level of a presenting symptom.

At each patient encounter, up to four problems could be recorded by the GP. A minimum of one problem was compulsory. The status of each problem to the patient – new (first presentation to a medical practitioner) or old (follow-up of previously managed problem) – was also indicated. The concept of a principal diagnosis, which is often used in hospital statistics, is not adopted in studies of general practice where multiple problem management is the norm rather than the exception. Further, the range of problems managed at the encounter often crosses multiple body systems and may include undiagnosed symptoms, psychosocial problems or chronic disease, which makes the designation of a principal diagnosis difficult. Thus the order in which the problems were recorded by the GP is not significant.

This chapter includes data about the problems managed in general practice from each of the 10 years of the BEACH study from 1998–99 to 2007–08. The direction and type of change from 1998–99 to 2007–08 is indicated for each result in the far right column of the tables: \uparrow/\downarrow indicates a statistically significant linear change, \uparrow/\downarrow indicates a marginally significant linear change, § indicates a non-linear significant or marginal change, and – indicates there was no change.

Significant linear changes can be extrapolated to estimate the national increase or decrease in the management rate of a problem between 1998–99 and 2007–08. An example of an extrapolated change is given for each table. The method used to extrapolate to national change estimates is described in Chapter 2, Section 2.4.

There are two ways to describe the relative frequency of problems managed: as a percentage of all problems managed in the study, or as a rate of problems managed per 100 encounters. Where groups of problems are reported (for example cardiovascular problems), it must be remembered that more than one of that type of problem (such as hypertension and heart failure) may have been managed at a single encounter. In considering these results, the reader must be mindful that although a rate per 100 encounters for a single ungrouped problem (for example asthma, 2.2 per 100 encounters) can be regarded as equivalent to 'asthma is managed at 2.2% of encounters', such a statement cannot be made for grouped concepts (ICPC-2 chapters and those marked with asterisks in the tables).

7.1 Number of problems managed

GPs are asked to record information about the management of up to four problems at each encounter. Table 7.1 shows the number of problems managed at each encounter over time.

There has been an increase in the number of encounters where three and four problems were managed, and a decrease in encounters where only one problem was managed. When extrapolated to all GP encounters in Australia this indicates there were about 1.5 million

more occasions where three problems were managed, 840,000 more occasions where four problems were managed and 610,000 fewer occasions where one problem was managed by GPs in Australia in 2007–08 than in 1998–99.

There has been a significant increase in the number of problems managed at encounter, from 145.3 per 100 encounters in 1998–99 to 151.3 in 2007–08 (Table 7.2). This suggests there were an additional 12.8 million problems managed at GP encounters in Australia in 2007–08 than in 1998–99. This was reflected in significant increases in the management rate of new problems (Table 7.5), and the management rate of chronic conditions (Table 7.6).

7.2 Distribution of problems managed by ICPC-2 component

As shown in Table 7.2, there has been no significant change in the management rate of problems described in terms of a diagnosis or disease or in terms of symptoms and complaints between 1998–99 and 2007–08. However, there was an increase in the management rate of problems described and classified as ‘results’ and ‘administrative procedures’. The increase in the management of test results represents an extrapolated national increase of 1.1 million contacts for this problem and the increase in administrative procedures represents an extrapolated increase of 550,000 contacts in Australia in 2007–08 when compared with 1998–99. There was also a marginal increase in the management rate of problems described and classified as ‘diagnostic and preventive procedures’.

7.3 Problems managed by ICPC-2 chapter and individual problems managed

Problems managed at general practice encounters by ICPC chapter are described in Table 7.3 for all years from 1998–99 to 2007–08. Problems related to the respiratory system have remained the most common type of problem managed since 1998–99. However, the management rate of respiratory problems has decreased significantly from 24.3 per 100 encounters in 1998–99 to 19.4 per 100 in 2007–08. This represents a national decrease of approximately 4.2 million occasions where a respiratory problem was managed in 2007–08 when compared with 1998–99.

The most common individual problems managed are described in Table 7.4 for all years from 1998–99 to 2007–08. Hypertension was the most common individual problem managed in general practice in Australia. Its management rate increased significantly between 1998–99 and 2007–08, from 8.3 to 9.9 per 100 encounters. This represents an extrapolated increase of more than 2 million occasions where hypertension was managed in Australia in 2007–08 than in 1998–99.

Changes in the management rate of selected chronic and acute conditions from 1998–99 to 2007–08 are presented graphically in figures 7.1 and 7.2.

7.4 Most common new problems

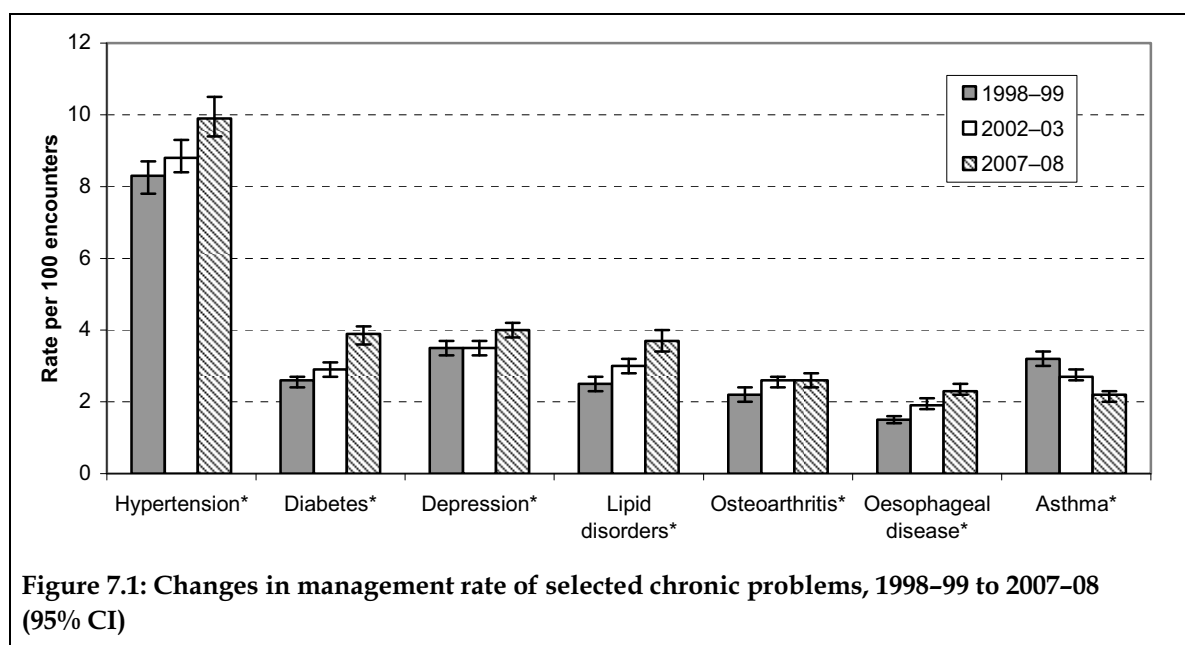
Table 7.5 shows the most frequently managed new problems between 1998–99 and 2007–08. There was a significant increase in the management rate of new problems over the 10 years of the study from 54.5 per 100 encounters in 1998–99 to 57.7 in 2007–08, suggesting approximately 5.8 million more GP contacts with management of new problems than in 1998–99.

The most common new problems managed in general practice over the decade were upper respiratory tract infection, immunisation/vaccination and acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis. The management of general check-ups as a new problem increased significantly from 0.7 per 100 encounters in 1998–99 to 1.2 per 100 encounters in 2007–08, representing an additional 570,000 occasions where general check-ups were managed in 2007–08 compared with 1998–99 (Table 7.5).

7.5 Most frequently managed chronic problems

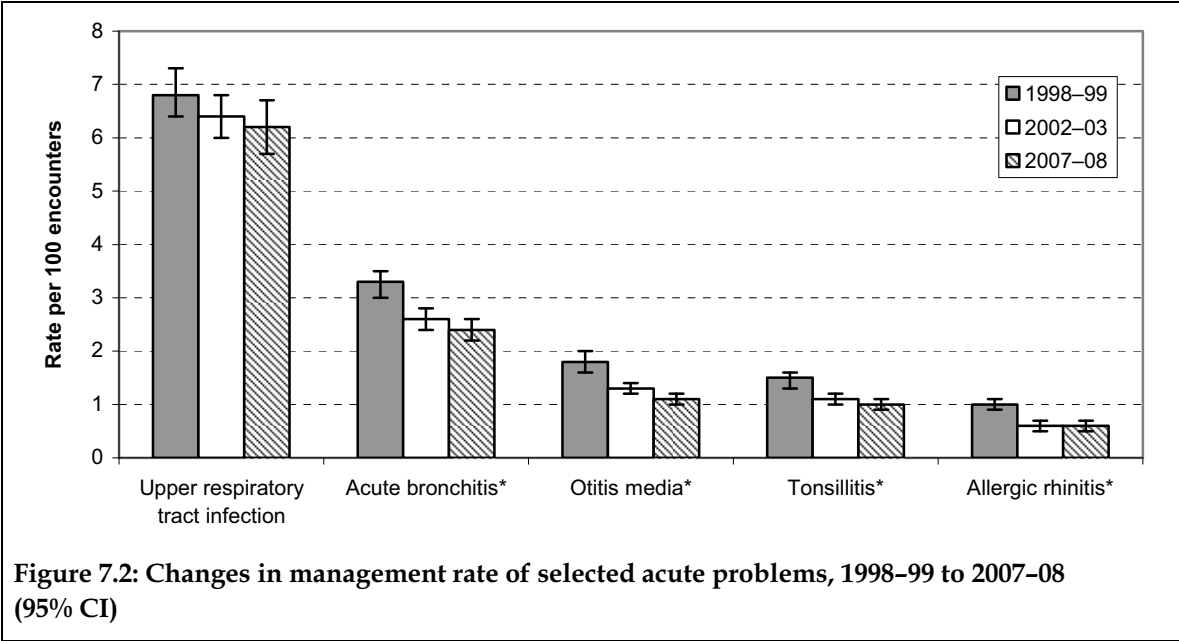
Table 7.6 shows the most frequently managed chronic problems between 1998–99 and 2007–08. The management rate of chronic conditions significantly increased from 46.1 per 100 encounters in 1998–99 to 52.3 per 100 in 2007–08, suggesting approximately 8.6 million more GP contacts in Australia in 2007–08 with chronic problems than in 1998–99.

The most common chronic problems managed were non-gestational hypertension, depressive disorder, non-gestational diabetes and lipid disorders. These problems all increased significantly over the decade. For example, lipid disorders increased from 2.5 to 3.7 per 100 encounters, representing an increase in management of 1.4 million lipid problems from 1998–99 to 2007–08 (Table 7.6). In parallel to these increases, the management rate of many acute problems decreased significantly over the study period (Figure 7.2).



* Indicates a statistically significant change from 1998–99 to 2007–08 (for management rates see Table 7.4).

Note: CI—confidence interval.



* Indicates a statistically significant change from 1998-99 to 2007-08 (for management rates see Table 7.4).

Note: CI—confidence interval.

Table 7.1: Number of problems managed at an encounter, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998-99 to 2007-08

Number of problems managed at encounter	Per cent of encounters (95% CI)											2007-08 (n = 95,898)	↑ ^(a) ↓
	1998-99 (n = 96,901)	1999-00 (n = 104,856)	2000-01 (n = 99,307)	2001-02 (n = 96,973)	2002-03 (n = 100,987)	2003-04 (n = 98,877)	2004-05 (n = 94,386)	2005-06 (n = 101,993)	2006-07 (n = 91,805)	2007-08	2007-08		
One problem	66.3 (65.1-67.4)	65.4 (64.3-66.5)	66.5 (65.4-67.5)	67.7 (66.6-68.8)	66.9 (65.8-68.1)	66.2 (65.0-67.3)	66.5 (65.3-67.7)	66.4 (65.1-67.6)	65.0 (63.7-66.2)	63.0 (61.7-64.3)	63.0 (61.7-64.3)	↓	
Two problems	24.1 (23.4-24.8)	24.7 (24.0-25.3)	24.4 (23.8-25.1)	23.1 (22.4-23.7)	23.4 (22.6-24.1)	23.8 (23.1-24.5)	23.6 (22.9-24.3)	23.4 (22.7-24.1)	24.0 (23.3-24.8)	25.4 (24.7-26.2)	25.4 (24.7-26.2)	—	
Three problems	7.7 (7.3-8.1)	7.7 (7.3-8.1)	7.3 (6.9-7.7)	7.3 (6.9-7.7)	7.6 (7.2-8.0)	7.7 (7.2-8.1)	7.7 (7.3-8.2)	7.9 (7.4-8.4)	8.5 (8.1-9.0)	8.8 (8.3-9.3)	8.8 (8.3-9.3)	↑	
Four problems	2.0 (1.6-2.3)	2.2 (1.9-2.5)	1.9 (1.5-2.2)	1.9 (1.6-2.2)	2.1 (1.7-2.5)	2.4 (2.0-2.8)	2.2 (1.8-2.5)	2.3 (2.1-2.6)	2.5 (2.2-2.7)	2.7 (2.4-3.0)	2.7 (2.4-3.0)	↑	

(a) The direction and type of change from 1998-99 to 2007-08 is indicated for each result. ↑↓ indicates a statistically significant change, and — indicates there was no change.

Note: CI—confidence interval.

Table 7.2: Distribution of problems managed, by ICP-2 component, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2007–08

ICPC-2 component	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)										^(b)
	1998–99 (n = 96,901)	1999–00 (n = 104,856)	2000–01 (n = 99,307)	2001–02 (n = 96,973)	2002–03 (n = 100,987)	2003–04 (n = 98,877)	2004–05 (n = 94,386)	2005–06 (n = 101,993)	2006–07 (n = 91,805)	2007–08 (n = 95,898)	
Diagnosis, diseases	94.7 (93.1–96.3)	96.1 (94.4–97.8)	95.2 (93.6–96.7)	93.7 (92.1–95.2)	93.1 (91.5–94.8)	94.8 (93.0–96.5)	94.2 (94.2–96.0)	95.5 (93.6–97.3)	96.6 (94.8–98.3)	98.1 (96.2–99.9)	—
Symptoms & complaints	33.1 (32.3–33.9)	32.0 (31.2–32.8)	31.7 (30.9–32.5)	31.4 (30.6–32.2)	31.4 (30.6–32.2)	30.8 (30.0–31.6)	31.1 (30.2–31.9)	30.4 (29.6–31.2)	31.4 (30.6–32.2)	32.3 (31.5–33.1)	—
Diagnostic & preventive procedures	12.8 (12.2–13.5)	13.1 (12.4–13.7)	12.6 (11.9–13.2)	12.4 (11.8–13.0)	13.5 (12.8–14.2)	13.6 (12.9–14.4)	13.3 (12.5–14.0)	13.7 (13.1–14.4)	13.8 (13.0–14.5)	14.2 (13.5–14.8)	↑
Medications, treatments & therapeutics	2.6 (2.4–2.8)	3.1 (2.9–3.3)	2.9 (2.7–3.1)	3.3 (3.0–3.6)	3.6 (3.3–3.8)	4.0 (3.6–4.3)	3.7 (3.4–3.9)	3.2 (3.0–3.5)	3.2 (2.9–3.5)	2.9 (2.7–3.2)	§
Results	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	1.1 (0.9–1.2)	1.1 (0.9–1.2)	1.2 (1.1–1.4)	1.4 (1.3–1.5)	1.4 (1.3–1.6)	1.6 (1.4–1.7)	1.8 (1.6–1.9)	↑
Referral & other RFE	1.0 (0.8–1.1)	1.3 (1.2–1.4)	1.1 (1.0–1.2)	1.1 (1.0–1.3)	1.7 (1.5–1.9)	1.3 (1.1–1.4)	1.4 (1.2–1.5)	1.2 (1.1–1.4)	1.3 (1.2–1.5)	1.2 (1.1–1.3)	§
Administrative	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.6–0.7)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.8 (0.7–0.8)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	↑
Total problems	145.3 (143.5–147.2)	146.7 (144.9–148.6)	144.5 (142.8–146.3)	143.4 (141.7–145.2)	144.9 (143.0–146.8)	146.3 (144.4–148.2)	145.5 (143.6–147.4)	146.2 (144.2–148.2)	148.5 (146.4–150.6)	151.3 (149.2–153.4)	↑

(a) Figures do not total 100, as more than one problem can be recorded for each encounter.

(b) The direction and type of change from 1998–99 to 2007–08 is indicated for each result: ↑/↓ indicates a statistically significant change, ↗/↘ indicates a marginal change, § indicates a non-linear significant or marginal change, and — indicates there was no change.

Note: CI—confidence interval; RFE—reason for encounter.

Table 7.3: Distribution of problems managed, by ICPC-2 chapter, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2007–08

ICPC-2 Chapter	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)											2007–08 (n = 95,898)	↑ ^(b) ↓
	1998–99 (n = 96,901)	1999–00 (n = 104,856)	2000–01 (n = 99,307)	2001–02 (n = 96,973)	2002–03 (n = 100,987)	2003–04 (n = 98,877)	2004–05 (n = 94,386)	2005–06 (n = 101,993)	2006–07 (n = 91,805)	2007–08 (n = 95,898)	2007–08 (n = 95,898)		
Respiratory	24.3 (23.6–25.0)	24.2 (23.5–24.9)	22.5 (21.9–23.2)	21.4 (20.7–22.0)	20.6 (20.0–21.3)	20.1 (19.5–20.7)	19.2 (18.6–19.9)	20.6 (19.9–21.3)	19.6 (18.9–20.3)	19.4 (18.8–20.1)	19.4 (18.8–20.1)	↓	
General & unspecified	13.2 (12.7–13.7)	13.9 (13.4–14.5)	14.2 (13.7–14.7)	14.7 (14.0–15.5)	15.8 (15.2–16.3)	15.0 (14.5–15.5)	15.1 (14.5–15.7)	15.1 (14.5–15.7)	16.2 (15.6–16.8)	17.8 (17.1–18.5)	17.8 (17.1–18.5)	↑	
Cardiovascular	16.1 (15.4–16.8)	16.3 (15.5–17.0)	16.0 (15.3–16.7)	16.1 (15.5–16.8)	16.0 (15.3–16.7)	16.8 (16.1–17.5)	16.2 (15.5–16.9)	16.6 (16.1–17.7)	17.4 (16.7–18.1)	17.6 (16.8–18.3)	17.6 (16.8–18.3)	↑	
Musculoskeletal	16.9 (16.3–17.5)	16.9 (16.4–17.4)	17.4 (16.9–18.0)	17.5 (17.0–18.0)	17.1 (16.5–17.6)	17.1 (16.6–17.6)	17.7 (17.1–18.3)	17.2 (16.7–17.7)	17.1 (16.6–17.6)	17.3 (16.7–17.8)	17.3 (16.7–17.8)	–	
Skin	16.5 (16.0–17.0)	17.0 (16.6–17.5)	16.7 (16.2–17.3)	16.1 (15.6–16.6)	16.5 (16.0–17.0)	16.9 (16.2–17.6)	17.2 (16.6–17.9)	16.6 (16.1–17.2)	17.5 (16.9–18.2)	17.2 (16.5–17.9)	17.2 (16.5–17.9)	–	
Endocrine & metabolic	8.8 (8.4–9.2)	9.1 (8.7–9.6)	9.8 (9.3–10.2)	10.4 (10.0–10.9)	10.6 (10.2–11.0)	11.3 (10.8–11.8)	11.8 (11.2–12.3)	11.6 (11.0–12.1)	12.1 (11.6–12.6)	12.9 (12.3–13.5)	12.9 (12.3–13.5)	↑	
Psychological	10.5 (10.0–11.0)	10.5 (10.0–11.1)	10.8 (10.2–11.3)	10.6 (10.1–11.2)	10.3 (9.8–10.8)	10.8 (10.3–11.4)	11.4 (10.8–12.0)	11.1 (10.5–11.7)	11.0 (10.5–11.4)	11.5 (10.9–12.0)	11.5 (10.9–12.0)	–	
Digestive	10.2 (9.9–10.5)	10.1 (9.7–10.3)	9.9 (9.6–10.2)	9.9 (9.6–10.2)	10.1 (9.8–10.4)	10.5 (10.2–10.8)	9.9 (9.6–10.2)	10.1 (9.8–10.4)	10.4 (10.1–10.7)	10.7 (10.4–11.1)	10.7 (10.4–11.1)	–	
Female genital system	6.3 (5.9–6.6)	6.2 (5.8–6.5)	6.1 (5.7–6.4)	6.1 (5.8–6.5)	6.7 (6.2–7.1)	5.9 (5.5–6.3)	5.7 (5.3–6.1)	5.8 (5.4–6.2)	5.7 (5.3–6.1)	5.8 (5.4–6.2)	5.8 (5.4–6.2)	–	
Pregnancy & family planning	4.1 (3.8–4.3)	4.3 (4.0–4.6)	3.9 (3.6–4.2)	4.0 (3.7–4.2)	4.2 (3.9–4.5)	4.2 (3.9–4.5)	3.8 (3.6–4.1)	3.8 (3.6–4.1)	3.9 (3.6–4.2)	3.9 (3.6–4.2)	3.9 (3.6–4.2)	–	
Ear	4.9 (4.7–5.1)	4.5 (4.3–4.7)	4.4 (4.2–4.6)	4.2 (4.0–4.4)	4.0 (3.8–4.2)	4.0 (3.8–4.1)	4.1 (3.9–4.2)	4.0 (3.8–4.1)	3.8 (3.6–3.9)	3.8 (3.6–3.9)	3.8 (3.6–3.9)	↓	
Neurological	4.0 (3.8–4.2)	3.9 (3.7–4.1)	3.8 (3.6–3.9)	3.7 (3.5–3.9)	4.2 (4.0–4.4)	3.9 (3.8–4.1)	3.6 (3.5–3.8)	3.6 (3.4–3.8)	3.8 (3.6–3.9)	3.6 (3.4–3.7)	3.6 (3.4–3.7)	↓	
Urology	2.8 (2.7–3.0)	3.0 (2.9–3.2)	2.7 (2.5–2.8)	2.8 (2.7–3.0)	2.8 (2.7–3.0)	3.0 (2.9–3.2)	3.0 (2.9–3.2)	3.1 (2.9–3.2)	3.2 (3.0–3.3)	3.1 (3.0–3.3)	3.1 (3.0–3.3)	↑	

(continued)

Table 7.3 (continued): Distribution of problems managed, by ICPC-2 chapter, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998-99 to 2007-08

ICPC-2 Chapter	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)											^(b)
	1998-99 (n = 96,901)	1999-00 (n = 104,856)	2000-01 (n = 99,307)	2001-02 (n = 96,973)	2002-03 (n = 100,987)	2003-04 (n = 98,877)	2004-05 (n = 94,386)	2005-06 (n = 101,993)	2006-07 (n = 91,805)	2007-08 (n = 95,898)		
Eye	2.8 (2.7-3.0)	2.7 (2.6-2.9)	2.6 (2.5-2.7)	2.5 (2.4-2.6)	2.6 (2.5-2.7)	2.7 (2.6-2.9)	2.7 (2.5-2.8)	2.8 (2.6-2.9)	2.7 (2.5-2.8)	2.6 (2.4-2.7)	2.6 (2.4-2.7)	↑
Male genital system	1.4 (1.3-1.5)	1.4 (1.3-1.5)	1.5 (1.3-1.6)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.4 (1.3-1.6)	1.6 (1.5-1.7)	1.8 (1.6-1.9)	1.9 (1.7-2.0)	1.9 (1.7-2.0)	1.8 (1.7-1.9)	1.8 (1.7-1.9)	↑
Blood	1.7 (1.5-1.9)	1.7 (1.6-1.8)	1.7 (1.5-1.8)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.4 (1.3-1.5)	1.7 (1.5-1.8)	1.6 (1.4-1.8)	1.5 (1.4-1.6)	1.7 (1.5-1.8)	1.6 (1.5-1.8)	1.6 (1.5-1.8)	—
Social problems	0.8 (0.7-0.8)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.7 (0.6-0.7)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	—
Total problems	145.3 (143.5-147.2)	146.7 (144.9-148.6)	144.5 (142.8-146.3)	143.4 (141.7-145.2)	144.9 (143.0-146.8)	146.3 (144.4-148.2)	145.5 (143.6-147.4)	146.2 (144.2-148.2)	148.5 (146.4-150.6)	151.3 (149.2-153.4)	151.3 (149.2-153.4)	↑

(a) Figures do not total 100, as more than one problem can be managed at each encounter.

(b) The direction and type of change from 1998-99 to 2007-08 is indicated for each result. ↑/↓ indicates a statistically significant change, ↗/↘ indicates a marginal change, \$ indicates a non-linear significant or marginal change, and — indicates there was no change.

Note: CI—confidence interval.

Table 7.4: Most frequently managed problems, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998-99 to 2007-08

Problem managed	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)											↑ ^(b) ↓
	1998-99 (n = 96,901)	1999-00 (n = 104,856)	2000-01 (n = 99,307)	2001-02 (n = 96,973)	2002-03 (n = 100,987)	2003-04 (n = 98,877)	2004-05 (n = 94,386)	2005-06 (n = 101,993)	2006-07 (n = 91,805)	2007-08 (n = 95,898)		
Hypertension*	8.3 (7.8-8.7)	8.4 (7.9-8.9)	8.6 (8.2-9.1)	9.0 (8.5-9.5)	8.8 (8.4-9.3)	9.2 (8.7-9.7)	8.9 (8.4-9.4)	9.4 (8.9-10.0)	9.6 (9.1-10.0)	9.9 (9.4-10.5)	↑	
Check-up—all*	5.9 (5.5-6.3)	6.4 (6.0-6.8)	5.9 (5.5-6.2)	5.8 (5.4-6.1)	6.4 (6.0-6.8)	6.4 (5.9-6.9)	6.3 (5.9-6.7)	6.4 (6.0-6.8)	6.6 (6.2-7.0)	6.3 (6.0-6.7)	—	
General check-up*	1.6 (1.4-1.7)	1.8 (1.6-1.9)	1.6 (1.5-1.8)	1.8 (1.6-1.9)	1.9 (1.8-2.1)	1.8 (1.7-2.0)	2.1 (1.9-2.2)	2.1 (1.9-2.2)	2.4 (2.2-2.6)	2.5 (2.3-2.7)	↑	
Female genital check-up*	1.6 (1.5-1.8)	1.6 (1.4-1.7)	1.5 (1.3-1.6)	1.6 (1.4-1.7)	1.8 (1.6-2.0)	1.8 (1.6-2.0)	1.8 (1.6-2.0)	1.8 (1.6-2.0)	1.7 (1.5-1.9)	1.8 (1.6-2.0)	—	
Cardiac check-up*	1.2 (1.1-1.4)	1.3 (1.2-1.5)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.1 (1.0-1.3)	1.1 (0.9-1.2)	1.2 (1.0-1.3)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.2 (1.0-1.3)	1.3 (1.1-1.5)	1.2 (1.0-1.4)	—	
Upper respiratory tract infection	6.8 (6.4-7.3)	7.2 (6.7-7.7)	6.9 (6.5-7.3)	6.2 (5.8-6.6)	6.4 (6.0-6.8)	5.5 (5.1-5.8)	5.6 (5.2-5.9)	6.2 (5.8-6.6)	5.8 (5.3-6.2)	6.2 (5.7-6.7)	§	
Immunisation/vaccination—all*	5.2 (4.7-5.6)	4.6 (4.2-5.0)	4.6 (4.2-4.9)	4.7 (4.3-5.1)	4.6 (4.3-5.0)	4.7 (4.3-5.2)	4.6 (4.2-5.1)	5.0 (4.6-5.4)	4.7 (4.3-5.2)	5.2 (4.8-5.6)	—	
Depression*	3.5 (3.3-3.7)	3.4 (3.2-3.6)	3.7 (3.4-3.9)	3.4 (3.2-3.6)	3.5 (3.3-3.7)	3.6 (3.4-3.9)	3.7 (3.5-3.9)	3.6 (3.4-3.8)	3.7 (3.5-3.9)	4.0 (3.8-4.2)	↑	
Diabetes—all*	2.6 (2.4-2.7)	2.7 (2.5-2.9)	2.8 (2.6-3.0)	3.1 (2.9-3.3)	2.9 (2.7-3.1)	3.3 (3.1-3.5)	3.2 (3.0-3.4)	3.5 (3.3-3.8)	3.7 (3.5-3.9)	3.9 (3.6-4.1)	↑	
Lipid disorders*	2.5 (2.3-2.7)	2.6 (2.4-2.8)	2.9 (2.7-3.1)	2.9 (2.7-3.1)	3.0 (2.8-3.2)	3.1 (2.9-3.4)	3.3 (3.1-3.6)	3.4 (3.1-3.7)	3.5 (3.2-3.7)	3.7 (3.4-4.0)	↑	
Arthritis—all*	3.5 (3.2-3.7)	3.6 (3.3-3.8)	3.9 (3.7-4.1)	3.8 (3.5-4.0)	3.7 (3.5-3.9)	4.0 (3.8-4.2)	3.9 (3.7-4.2)	3.8 (3.5-4.0)	3.7 (3.5-3.9)	3.6 (3.4-3.8)	§	
Osteoarthritis*	2.2 (2.0-2.4)	2.2 (2.1-2.4)	2.5 (2.3-2.7)	2.6 (2.4-2.8)	2.6 (2.4-2.7)	2.8 (2.6-3.0)	2.8 (2.6-3.0)	2.7 (2.5-2.9)	2.6 (2.4-2.8)	2.6 (2.4-2.8)	↑	
Back complaint*	2.7 (2.4-2.9)	2.8 (2.6-2.9)	2.6 (2.4-2.8)	2.6 (2.4-2.8)	2.6 (2.4-2.8)	2.7 (2.5-2.8)	2.8 (2.6-3.0)	2.6 (2.5-2.8)	2.6 (2.5-2.8)	2.7 (2.6-2.9)	—	

(continued)

Table 7.4 (continued): Most frequently managed problems, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998-99 to 2007-08

Problem managed	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)											↑ ^(b) ↓
	1998-99 (n = 96,901)	1999-00 (n = 104,856)	2000-01 (n = 99,307)	2001-02 (n = 96,973)	2002-03 (n = 100,987)	2003-04 (n = 98,877)	2004-05 (n = 94,386)	2005-06 (n = 101,993)	2006-07 (n = 91,805)	2007-08 (n = 95,898)		
Acute bronchitis/ bronchiolitis	3.3 (3.0-3.5)	3.2 (3.0-3.4)	2.7 (2.5-2.9)	2.7 (2.5-2.9)	2.6 (2.4-2.8)	2.4 (2.2-2.6)	2.4 (2.2-2.6)	2.5 (2.3-2.7)	2.2 (2.1-2.4)	2.4 (2.2-2.6)	↓	
Oesophageal disease	1.5 (1.4-1.6)	1.6 (1.5-1.8)	1.5 (1.4-1.6)	1.8 (1.7-2.0)	1.9 (1.8-2.1)	2.2 (2.0-2.4)	2.1 (1.9-2.2)	2.4 (2.2-2.5)	2.3 (2.1-2.5)	2.3 (2.2-2.5)	↑	
Asthma	3.2 (3.0-3.4)	3.2 (3.0-3.4)	2.8 (2.7-3.0)	2.8 (2.7-3.0)	2.7 (2.6-2.9)	2.6 (2.4-2.7)	2.3 (2.2-2.5)	2.3 (2.1-2.4)	2.3 (2.1-2.4)	2.2 (2.0-2.3)	↓	
Prescription—all*	1.4 (1.2-1.6)	1.8 (1.6-2.0)	1.7 (1.5-1.8)	1.9 (1.6-2.1)	2.0 (1.8-2.2)	2.3 (2.0-2.6)	2.1 (1.8-2.3)	2.0 (1.7-2.2)	2.2 (1.9-2.4)	2.0 (1.7-2.2)	↑	
Contact dermatitis	1.8 (1.7-2.0)	1.9 (1.8-2.0)	2.1 (1.9-2.2)	1.9 (1.8-2.0)	1.9 (1.8-2.0)	1.8 (1.6-1.9)	1.9 (1.8-2.0)	1.8 (1.7-1.9)	1.9 (1.8-2.0)	1.8 (1.7-1.9)	—	
Anxiety*	1.7 (1.6-1.8)	1.7 (1.6-1.9)	1.7 (1.5-1.8)	1.6 (1.5-1.8)	1.6 (1.4-1.7)	1.7 (1.6-1.9)	1.7 (1.6-1.9)	1.8 (1.6-2.0)	1.7 (1.6-1.9)	1.8 (1.6-1.9)	—	
Test results*	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	1.1 (0.9-1.2)	1.1 (0.9-1.2)	1.2 (1.1-1.4)	1.4 (1.3-1.5)	1.4 (1.3-1.6)	1.6 (1.4-1.7)	1.8 (1.6-1.9)	↑	
Gastroenteritis*	1.7 (1.6-1.8)	1.6 (1.4-1.7)	1.6 (1.5-1.8)	1.6 (1.5-1.7)	1.7 (1.6-1.9)	1.7 (1.5-1.8)	1.5 (1.4-1.7)	1.5 (1.4-1.7)	1.7 (1.5-1.8)	1.7 (1.5-1.8)	—	
Sleep disturbance	1.6 (1.5-1.8)	1.5 (1.4-1.7)	1.6 (1.4-1.7)	1.6 (1.5-1.8)	1.6 (1.4-1.7)	1.6 (1.5-1.7)	1.7 (1.5-1.9)	1.6 (1.5-1.7)	1.6 (1.4-1.7)	1.6 (1.5-1.7)	—	
Urinary tract infection*	1.6 (1.5-1.7)	1.8 (1.7-1.9)	1.5 (1.4-1.6)	1.6 (1.5-1.7)	1.7 (1.6-1.8)	1.7 (1.6-1.8)	1.7 (1.6-1.8)	1.8 (1.6-1.9)	1.6 (1.5-1.8)	1.6 (1.5-1.7)	—	
Sprain/strain*	1.9 (1.7-2.1)	1.8 (1.7-2.0)	2.0 (1.9-2.2)	1.8 (1.7-1.9)	1.7 (1.5-1.8)	1.6 (1.5-1.7)	1.7 (1.5-1.9)	1.8 (1.6-1.9)	1.5 (1.4-1.7)	1.6 (1.4-1.7)	§	
Solar keratosis/sunburn	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.0 (0.9-1.2)	1.2 (1.0-1.3)	1.3 (1.1-1.5)	1.3 (1.1-1.6)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.4 (1.1-1.6)	↑	
Pregnancy*	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.8 (0.7-1.0)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.8)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	1.3 (1.1-1.4)	1.3 (1.2-1.5)	↑	

(continued)

Table 7.4 (continued): Most frequently managed problems, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998-99 to 2007-08

Problem managed	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)											↑ ^(b) ↓
	1998-99 (n = 96,901)	1999-00 (n = 104,856)	2000-01 (n = 99,307)	2001-02 (n = 96,973)	2002-03 (n = 100,987)	2003-04 (n = 98,877)	2004-05 (n = 94,386)	2005-06 (n = 101,993)	2006-07 (n = 91,805)	2007-08 (n = 95,898)		
Viral disease, other/NOS	1.3 (1.2-1.5)	1.5 (1.3-1.7)	1.6 (1.4-1.8)	1.5 (1.3-1.7)	1.4 (1.2-1.6)	1.3 (1.2-1.5)	1.2 (1.1-1.4)	1.2 (1.0-1.4)	1.1 (0.9-1.2)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	-	
Malignant neoplasm, skin	0.8 (0.8-0.9)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.9 (0.7-1.0)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	1.1 (0.9-1.3)	1.2 (1.0-1.4)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.1 (1.0-1.3)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	↑	
Ischaemic heart disease*	1.5 (1.4-1.7)	1.6 (1.4-1.7)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.3 (1.1-1.4)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.4 (1.2-1.5)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.2 (1.0-1.4)	↓	
Sinusitis acute/chronic	1.6 (1.4-1.7)	1.6 (1.4-1.7)	1.5 (1.4-1.6)	1.4 (1.3-1.5)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.4 (1.3-1.5)	1.2 (1.0-1.4)	↑	
Acute otitis media/ myringitis	1.8 (1.6-2.0)	1.6 (1.5-1.7)	1.5 (1.4-1.6)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.2 (1.0-1.3)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	↓	
Atrial fibrillation/flutter	0.6 (0.5-0.6)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.6 (0.5-0.6)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.6 (0.6-0.7)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	↑	
Abnormal test results*	0.5 (0.5-0.6)	0.5 (0.5-0.6)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.8 (0.7-0.8)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.8)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	↑	
Oral contraception*	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	1.4 (1.2-1.5)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	↑	
Fracture*	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.0 (1.0-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (1.0-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	-	
Tonsillitis*	1.5 (1.3-1.6)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.1 (1.0-1.3)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.1 (0.9-1.2)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	↓	
Menopausal complaint	1.5 (1.4-1.6)	1.4 (1.2-1.5)	1.4 (1.3-1.5)	1.4 (1.3-1.5)	1.5 (1.3-1.6)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-0.9)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	↓	
Osteoporosis	0.5 (0.4-0.6)	0.5 (0.5-0.6)	0.6 (0.5-0.6)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	↑	

(continued)

Table 7.4 (continued): Most frequently managed problems, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998-99 to 2007-08

Problem managed	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)											^(b)
	1998-99 (n = 96,901)	1999-00 (n = 104,856)	2000-01 (n = 99,307)	2001-02 (n = 96,973)	2002-03 (n = 100,987)	2003-04 (n = 98,877)	2004-05 (n = 94,386)	2005-06 (n = 101,993)	2006-07 (n = 91,805)	2007-08 (n = 95,898)		
Allergic rhinitis	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.1 (0.9-1.2)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.9)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.5 (0.5-0.6)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	↑
Pre-postnatal check-up*	1.0 (0.9-1.2)	1.1 (1.0-1.3)	0.7 (0.6-0.9)	0.7 (0.6-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.4 (0.3-0.5)	0.1 (0.1-0.2)	0.1 (0.1-0.2)	↓
Total problems	145.3 (143.5-147.2)	146.7 (144.9-148.6)	144.5 (142.8-146.3)	143.4 (141.7-145.2)	144.9 (143.0-146.8)	146.3 (144.4-148.2)	145.5 (143.6-147.4)	146.2 (144.2-148.2)	148.5 (146.4-150.6)	151.3 (149.2-153.4)	151.3 (149.2-153.4)	↑

(a) Figures do not total 100, as more than one problem can be managed at each encounter. Also only the most frequent problems are included.

(b) The direction and type of change from 1998-99 to 2007-08 is indicated for each result: ↑/↓ indicates a statistically significant change, ↗/↘ indicates a marginal change, § indicates a non-linear significant or marginal change, and — indicates there was no change.

* Includes multiple ICP-2 or ICP-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 5).

Note: CI—confidence interval; NOS—not otherwise specified. This table includes individual problems which were managed at >= 1.0 per 100 encounters in any year, and any other statistically significant differences of interest.

Table 7.5: Most frequently managed new problems, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998-99 to 2007-08

New problem managed	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)											^(b)
	1998-99 (n = 96,901)	1999-00 (n = 104,856)	2000-01 (n = 99,307)	2001-02 (n = 96,973)	2002-03 (n = 100,987)	2003-04 (n = 98,877)	2004-05 (n = 94,386)	2005-06 (n = 101,993)	2006-07 (n = 91,805)	2007-08 (n = 95,898)		
Upper respiratory tract infection	5.0 (4.7-5.4)	4.5 (4.1-4.9)	4.4 (4.1-4.8)	4.7 (4.4-5.1)	5.1 (4.7-5.5)	4.2 (3.8-4.5)	4.3 (4.0-4.6)	4.8 (4.4-5.2)	4.4 (4.1-4.8)	4.8 (4.4-5.2)	4.8 (4.4-5.2)	—
Immunisation/vaccination—all*	2.9 (2.6-3.3)	1.3 (1.1-1.5)	1.5 (1.3-1.8)	2.7 (2.4-3.0)	2.9 (2.6-3.2)	2.9 (2.6-3.3)	2.7 (2.4-3.1)	2.7 (2.5-3.0)	2.8 (2.5-3.1)	2.8 (2.5-3.0)	2.8 (2.5-3.0)	§
Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis	2.1 (1.9-2.3)	1.7 (1.6-1.9)	1.6 (1.5-1.7)	1.9 (1.7-2.0)	1.9 (1.7-2.1)	1.8 (1.6-1.9)	1.7 (1.5-1.9)	1.9 (1.7-2.1)	1.6 (1.5-1.7)	1.7 (1.6-1.9)	1.7 (1.6-1.9)	↓
Gastroenteritis*	1.3 (1.1-1.4)	1.0 (0.9-1.2)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.2 (1.1-1.4)	1.3 (1.2-1.5)	1.3 (1.2-1.5)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.3 (1.2-1.5)	—
General check-up*	0.7 (0.6-0.7)	0.5 (0.4-0.5)	0.4 (0.3-0.5)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.8-1.1)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	↑

(continued)

Table 7.5 (continued): Most frequently managed new problems, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2007–08

New problem managed	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)										^(b)
	1998–99	1999–00	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	
	(n = 96,901)	(n = 104,856)	(n = 99,307)	(n = 96,973)	(n = 100,987)	(n = 98,877)	(n = 94,386)	(n = 101,993)	(n = 91,805)	(n = 95,898)	
Urinary tract infection*	0.9 (0.9–1.0)	0.8 (0.8–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	1.1 (1.0–1.2)	1.1 (1.0–1.1)	1.1 (1.0–1.1)	1.2 (1.1–1.3)	1.1 (1.0–1.2)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	–
Sprain/strain*	1.1 (0.9–1.2)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	1.1 (0.9–1.2)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	1.0 (0.9–1.0)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	1.1 (1.0–1.2)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	–
Viral disease, other/NOS	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	1.0 (0.8–1.1)	1.1 (0.9–1.2)	1.0 (0.9–1.2)	1.1 (0.9–1.2)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.9 (0.8–1.1)	–
Sinusitis acute/chronic	1.0 (0.8–1.1)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.7 (0.7–0.8)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	–
Acute otitis media/ myringitis	1.2 (1.1–1.3)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	1.0 (0.9–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.8 (0.8–0.9)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.8)	↘
Tonsillitis*	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.9 (0.8–0.9)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–1.0)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	↘
Test results*	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	↗
Skin disease, other	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.3)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	↗
Otitis externa	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	↘
Total new problems	54.5 (53.0–56.0)	45.3 (43.6–46.9)	47.4 (45.7–49.0)	55.1 (53.8–56.5)	57.0 (55.6–58.3)	55.9 (54.5–57.3)	55.2 (53.8–56.5)	56.9 (55.5–58.2)	56.5 (55.1–57.9)	57.7 (56.3–59.1)	↗

(a) Figures do not total 100, as more than one problem can be managed at each encounter. Also only the most frequent problems are included.

(b) The direction and type of change from 1998–99 to 2007–08 is indicated for each result: ↗↘ indicates a statistically significant change, ↗↘ indicates a marginal change, \$ indicates a non-linear significant or marginal change, and — indicates there was no change.

* Includes multiple ICP-2 or ICP-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 5).

Note: CI—confidence interval; NOS—not otherwise specified. This table includes individual new problems which were managed at >= 1.0 per 100 encounters in any year, and any other statistically significant differences of interest.

Table 7.6: Most frequently managed chronic problems, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998-99 to 2007-08

Chronic problem managed	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)											2007-08 (n = 95,898)	↑ ↓
	1998-99 (n = 96,901)	1999-00 (n = 104,856)	2000-01 (n = 99,307)	2001-02 (n = 96,973)	2002-03 (n = 100,987)	2003-04 (n = 98,877)	2004-05 (n = 94,386)	2005-06 (n = 101,993)	2006-07 (n = 91,805)	2007-08 (n = 95,898)	2007-08 (n = 95,898)		
Hypertension (non-gestational)**	8.2 (7.8-8.7)	8.4 (7.9-8.9)	8.6 (8.1-9.1)	9.0 (8.5-9.5)	8.8 (8.3-9.3)	9.2 (8.7-9.7)	8.9 (8.4-9.4)	9.4 (8.9-10.0)	9.5 (9.0-10.0)	9.9 (9.3-10.4)	9.9 (9.3-10.4)	↑	
Depressive disorder	3.5 (3.3-3.7)	3.4 (3.2-3.6)	3.6 (3.4-3.9)	3.4 (3.2-3.6)	3.5 (3.3-3.7)	3.6 (3.4-3.8)	3.7 (3.5-3.9)	3.6 (3.4-3.8)	3.7 (3.5-3.9)	4.0 (3.7-4.2)	4.0 (3.7-4.2)	↑	
Diabetes (non-gestational)**	2.6 (2.4-2.7)	2.7 (2.5-2.9)	2.8 (2.6-3.0)	3.1 (2.9-3.3)	2.9 (2.7-3.1)	3.3 (3.1-3.5)	3.2 (3.0-3.4)	3.5 (3.3-3.8)	3.7 (3.5-3.9)	3.9 (3.6-4.1)	3.9 (3.6-4.1)	↑	
Lipid disorders*	2.5 (2.3-2.7)	2.6 (2.4-2.8)	2.9 (2.7-3.1)	2.9 (2.7-3.1)	3.0 (2.8-3.2)	3.1 (2.9-3.4)	3.3 (3.1-3.6)	3.4 (3.1-3.7)	3.5 (3.2-3.7)	3.7 (3.4-4.0)	3.7 (3.4-4.0)	↑	
Osteoarthritis*	2.2 (2.0-2.4)	2.2 (2.1-2.4)	2.5 (2.3-2.7)	2.6 (2.4-2.8)	2.6 (2.4-2.7)	2.8 (2.6-3.0)	2.8 (2.6-3.0)	2.7 (2.5-2.9)	2.6 (2.4-2.8)	2.6 (2.4-2.8)	2.6 (2.4-2.8)	↑	
Oesophageal disease	1.5 (1.4-1.6)	1.6 (1.5-1.8)	1.5 (1.4-1.6)	1.8 (1.7-2.0)	1.9 (1.8-2.1)	2.2 (2.0-2.4)	2.1 (2.0-2.3)	2.4 (2.2-2.5)	2.3 (2.1-2.5)	2.3 (2.2-2.5)	2.3 (2.2-2.5)	↑	
Asthma	3.2 (3.0-3.4)	3.2 (3.0-3.4)	2.8 (2.7-3.0)	2.8 (2.7-3.0)	2.7 (2.6-2.9)	2.6 (2.4-2.7)	2.3 (2.2-2.5)	2.3 (2.1-2.4)	2.3 (2.1-2.4)	2.2 (2.0-2.3)	2.2 (2.0-2.3)	↓	
Malignant neoplasm skin	0.8 (0.8-0.9)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.9 (0.7-1.0)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	1.1 (0.9-1.3)	1.2 (1.0-1.4)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.1 (1.0-1.3)	1.2 (1.0-1.4)	1.2 (1.0-1.4)	↑	
Ischaemic heart disease*	1.5 (1.4-1.7)	1.6 (1.4-1.7)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.3 (1.1-1.4)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.4 (1.2-1.5)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	↓	
Atrial fibrillation/flutter	0.6 (0.5-0.6)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.6 (0.5-0.6)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.6 (0.6-0.7)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	↑	
Osteoporosis	0.5 (0.4-0.6)	0.5 (0.5-0.6)	0.6 (0.5-0.6)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	↑	
Back syndrome with radiating pain	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-1.1)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-0.9)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	—	

(continued)

Table 7.6 (continued): Most frequently managed chronic problems, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2007–08

Chronic problem managed	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)											^(b)
	1998–99 (n = 96,901)	1999–00 (n = 104,856)	2000–01 (n = 99,307)	2001–02 (n = 96,973)	2002–03 (n = 100,987)	2003–04 (n = 98,877)	2004–05 (n = 94,386)	2005–06 (n = 101,993)	2006–07 (n = 91,805)	2007–08 (n = 95,898)		
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.7 (0.7–0.8)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.8 (0.8–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	—	
Obesity (BMI > 30)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.6 (0.6–0.7)	0.8 (0.6–0.9)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.8 (0.6–0.9)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	↑	
Hypothyroidism/myxoedema	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.6–0.7)	0.7 (0.6–0.7)	0.6 (0.6–0.7)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	↑	
Migraine	0.9 (0.9–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.8 (0.8–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.7 (0.6–0.7)	0.7 (0.6–0.7)	↔	
Heart failure	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.7 (0.6–0.7)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.7 (0.7–0.8)	0.7 (0.7–0.8)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.6 (0.6–0.7)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.6 (0.6–0.7)	↔	
Gout	0.6 (0.6–0.7)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	—	
Arthritis (excl osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis)**	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.7 (0.7–0.8)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	↔	
Malignant neoplasm prostate	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.3)	§	
Total chronic problems	46.1 (44.5–47.6)	47.2 (45.5–49.0)	47.0 (45.4–48.5)	48.0 (46.5–49.6)	47.8 (46.1–49.4)	50.4 (48.7–52.1)	50.4 (48.7–52.1)	50.6 (48.8–52.5)	51.8 (50.1–53.4)	52.3 (50.4–54.1)	↑	

(a) Figures do not total 100, as more than one problem can be managed at each encounter. Also only the most frequent problems are included.

(b) The direction and type of change from 1998–99 to 2007–08 is indicated for each result: ↑↔ indicates a statistically significant change, ↓↔ indicates a marginal change, § indicates a non-linear significant or marginal change, and — indicates there was no change.

* Includes multiple ICP-2 or ICP-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 5).

** Indicates that this group differs from that used for analysis in other sections of this chapter, as only chronic conditions have been included in this analysis (see Appendix 6 for codes included in analysis of chronic conditions).

Note: CI—confidence interval; excl—excluding. This table includes individual chronic problems which were managed at > 0.5 per 100 encounters in any year, and any other statistically significant differences of interest.