

# Reference list

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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, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 734, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 749, 757, 759, 762, 765, 768, 771, 773, 775, 778, 779, 801, 803, 805, 807, 809, 811, 813, 815.

*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 general practitioner.

*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.

*Cardiovascular problem:* Any problem classified in the circulatory chapter (Chapter K) of the International Classification of Primary Care (Version 2) (ICPC-2).

*Chapters (ICPC-2):* The main divisions within ICPC-2. There are 17 chapters primarily representing the body systems.

*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*

- A1 items of service – MBS item numbers as previously listed – see *A1 Medicare items*
  - *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 encounters*: 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 MBS encounters*: encounters identified by an MBS item number that does not identify place of encounter
- *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).

*Groupers*: Multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes which are grouped together for purposes of analysis.

*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.
- *Old*: see *Continuation* (above).

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

*Patient status:* the status of the patient to the practice

- *New patient:* the patient has not been seen before in the practice.
- *Old patient:* the patient has attended the practice before.

*Problem managed:* See *Diagnosis/problem*.

*Provider:* A person to whom a patient has access when contacting the healthcare 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. (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 healthcare provider. Only new referrals to specialists, allied health professionals, and for 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.

*Rubric:* The title of an individual code in ICPC-2 PLUS.

*Statins:* HMG CoA reductase inhibitors.

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

*Work-related problem:* Irrespective of the source of payment for the consultation, it is likely in the GP's view that the 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.

# Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AHP	Allied health professional
AMA	Australian Medical Association
AMI	Acute myocardial infarction
AMTS	Australian Morbidity and Treatment Survey 1990–91
ATC	Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (classification)
AUDIT	Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test
BEACH	Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health
BMI	Body mass index
BP	Blood pressure
CAPS	Coding Atlas for Pharmaceutical Substances
CI	Confidence interval (in this report 95% CI is used)
CNS	Central nervous system
COAD	Chronic obstructive airways disease
CVA	Cerebrovascular accident
CVD	Cardiovascular disease
CVS	Cardiovascular system
DoHA	Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
DHAC	Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care
DHHCS	Commonwealth Department of Health, Housing and Community Services
DHSH	Department of Human Services and Health
Enc	Encounter
FMRC	Family Medicine Research Centre, The University of Sydney
GP	General practitioner
GPSCU	General Practice Statistics and Classification Unit, University of Sydney, a collaborating unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
HIC	Health Insurance Commission
ICPC	International Classification of Primary Care
ICPC-2	International Classification of Primary Care (Version 2)
ICPC-2 PLUS	An extended vocabulary of terms classified according to ICPC–2
IHD	Ischaemic heart disease
LCL	Lower confidence limit
MBS	Medicare Benefits Schedule



NEC	Not elsewhere classified
NESB	The patient reports coming from a non-English-speaking background, i.e. a language other than English is spoken at home.
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NOS	Not otherwise specified
NSAID	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications
OA	Osteoarthritis
OTCs	Medications advised for over-the-counter purchase
PVD	Peripheral vascular disease
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
RFEs	Reasons for encounter (see Glossary)
RRMA	Rural, remote and metropolitan area classification
SAND	Supplementary analysis of nominated data
SAS	Statistical Analysis System
UCL	Upper confidence limit
VA	Veterans' Affairs
WHO	World Health Organization
WONCA	World Organization of Family Doctors

# **Appendix 1: Example of a recording form from 1998–99 BEACH data year**

**BEACH (Bettering the Evaluation And Care of Health) -Morbidity and Treatment Survey -National National**

DOCID: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of encounter: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Sex: M  F  Patient status: New  Old  Patient Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Aboriginal? Yes  No  Torres Strait Islander? Yes  No

Encounter Number: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Patient Reasons for Encounter (up to three): \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

PATIENT SEEN: Item no. \_\_\_\_\_ W/C paid  Other paid  No charge

PATIENT NOT SEEN: Script.....  Referral.....  Certificate.....  Other.....

1. Diagnosis/problem		Work Related	Problem status	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	New	Old
Medications for this problem: (up to four)		Strength	No. ?	GP Supply New Cont.
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
Procedures, other treatment, counselling		New referrals, admissions		

3. Diagnosis/problem		Work Related	Problem status	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	New	Old
Medications for this problem: (up to four)		Strength	No. ?	GP Supply New Cont.
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
Procedures, other treatment, counselling		New referrals, admissions		

Pathology for problem(s)	1 2 3 4	Test/Body Site for problem(s)	1 2 3 4
1	.....	Plain X-ray	.....
2	.....	US/CT/Contrast	.....
3	.....	Other Imaging	.....
4	.....		
5	.....		

To the patient: In general would you say your health is: Excellent...  Very good...  Good...  Fair...  Poor...

To the patient if 18+: How often do you have a drink containing alcohol? Never  Monthly  Once a week  2-4 times a week  5+ times a week

How many standard drinks do you have on a typical day when you are drinking? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you have 6 or more standard drinks on one occasion? Never...  Monthly...  Once a week...  2-4 times a week...  5+ times a week...

Patient's Height: \_\_\_\_\_ cm Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ kg

# **Appendix 2: Example of a recording form from 1999–00 BEACH data year**

**BEACH (Bettering the Evaluation And Care of Health) - Morbidity and Treatment Survey - National**

Date of encounter: ___/___/___ Date of Birth: ___/___/___ Sex: M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>		Patient Postcode: _____ Patient Health Care Card holder: _____ NESB: <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal: <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander: <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Affairs Card: <input type="checkbox"/> White card: <input type="checkbox"/> Gold card: <input type="checkbox"/>		PATIENT SEEN Item No: _____ MBS/Vet. Affairs: <input type="checkbox"/> VA paid: <input type="checkbox"/> Workers comp paid: <input type="checkbox"/> State/Other paid: <input type="checkbox"/> No charge/Unpaid: <input type="checkbox"/>		PATIENT NOT SEEN Script: <input type="checkbox"/> Referral: <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate: <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Encounter Number: _____ Reasons for Encounter: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____		2. Diagnosis/problem: _____ New problem <input type="checkbox"/> Work related <input type="checkbox"/>		Strength: _____ Regimen: _____ No. of Rpts: _____ GP Supply: _____ OTC: _____ New Drug: _____		Strength: _____ Regimen: _____ No. of Rpts: _____ GP Supply: _____ OTC: _____ New Drug: _____	
1. Diagnosis/problem: _____ Medications/vaccines for this problem: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ Procedures, other treatment, counselling this consult: 1. _____ 2. _____		2. Diagnosis/problem: _____ New problem <input type="checkbox"/> Work related <input type="checkbox"/>		Strength: _____ Regimen: _____ No. of Rpts: _____ GP Supply: _____ OTC: _____ New Drug: _____		Strength: _____ Regimen: _____ No. of Rpts: _____ GP Supply: _____ OTC: _____ New Drug: _____	
3. Diagnosis/problem: _____ Medications/vaccines for this problem: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ Procedures, other treatment, counselling this consult: 1. _____ 2. _____		4. Diagnosis/problem: _____ New problem <input type="checkbox"/> Work related <input type="checkbox"/>		Strength: _____ Regimen: _____ No. of Rpts: _____ GP Supply: _____ OTC: _____ New Drug: _____		Strength: _____ Regimen: _____ No. of Rpts: _____ GP Supply: _____ OTC: _____ New Drug: _____	
Pathology For problem(s): 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____		Imaging & other tests: (+Body site) Problem(s): 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____		To the patient: In general would you say your health is: Excellent: <input type="checkbox"/> Very good: <input type="checkbox"/> Good: <input type="checkbox"/> Fair: <input type="checkbox"/> Poor: <input type="checkbox"/>		To the patient if 18+: How often do you have a drink containing alcohol? Never: <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly or less: <input type="checkbox"/> Once a week: <input type="checkbox"/> 2-4 times a week: <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ times a week: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Patient's Height: _____ cm Patient's Weight: _____		How many standard drinks do you have on a typical day when you are drinking? _____		How often do you have 6 or more standard drinks on one occasion? Never: <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly or less: <input type="checkbox"/> Once a week: <input type="checkbox"/> 2-4 times a week: <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ times a week: <input type="checkbox"/>		BA	

# **Appendix 3: GP characteristics questionnaire, 1998–99 BEACH data year**



Please fill in boxes or circle answers where appropriate

1. Doctor Identification Number:

2. Sex: Male / Female      3. Age

4. How many years have you spent in general practice?

5. Number of general practice sessions you usually work per week?

6. How many **full-time** (>5 sessions per week) general practitioners work with you at this practice? (Practice= shared medical records)

7. How many **part-time** (<6 sessions per week) general practitioners work with you at this practice? (Practice= shared medical records)

8. Do you conduct more than **50%** of consultations in a language other than English?      Yes / No

9. What is the postcode of your major practice address?

10. Country of graduation:      Aust NZ Asia UK Other: \_\_\_\_\_

11. General Practice training status (CSCT or RACGP training programme)?      Presently training      Completed training      Not applicable

12. Do you hold FRACGP?      Yes / No

13. Are you a member of any of the following organisations?      AMA      RACGP      RDAA

14. How do you routinely instruct pharmacists on the substitution of generic drugs?      No substitute allowed      Substitute allowed

15. Special interests: (*up to three*)

1. Acupuncture	7. Dermatology	13. Paediatrics
2. Anaesthetics	8. Diabetes	14. Preventive medicine
3. Asthma	9. Geriatrics/aged care	15. Psychiatry
4. Cardiology	10. Nutrition	16. Sports medicine
5. Computers	11. Obstetrics/antenatal	17. Surgery
6. Counselling	12. Occup./indust.med.	18. Women's Health

Other \_\_\_\_\_

# **Appendix 4: GP characteristics questionnaire, 1999–00 BEACH data year**





**The University of Sydney**  
at Westmead Hospital

**General Practice Statistics and Classification Unit**  
Family Medicine Research Centre  
Department of General Practice

a collaborating unit of the  
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare



Please fill in boxes or circle answers  
where appropriate

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Doctor Identification Number

1. Sex: ..... **Male / Female**
2. Age .....
3. How many years have you spent in general practice? .....
4. Number of general practice sessions you usually work per week? .....
5. How many **full-time** (>5 sessions per week) general practitioners work with you at this practice? (Practice= shared medical records) .....
6. How many **part-time** (<6 sessions per week) general practitioners work with you at this practice? (Practice = shared medical records) .....
7. Do you conduct more than **50%** of consultations in a language other than English? ..... **Yes / No**
8. What is the postcode of your major practice address? .....
9. Country of graduation: ..... **Aust NZ Asia UK Other:(specify) .....**
10. General Practice training status ..... **Presently training Completed training Not Applicable**  
(C SCT or RACGP training programme)?
11. Do you hold FRACGP? ..... **Yes / No**
12. Are you a member of any of the following organisations? ..... **AMA RACGP RDAA**
13. How do you routinely instruct pharmacists on the substitution of generic drugs? ..... **No substitute allowed Substitute allowed**
14. To what extent are computers used at your major practice address? (*Circle as many as apply*)  
**Not at all Billing Prescribing Medical Records Internet / Email Other Admin**
15. Is this practice accredited ? ..... **Yes / No**
16. What are the normal after-hours arrangements for your practice?  
**Practice does its own Co-operative with oth. practices Deputising service Referral to other service (eg A&E) Other None**
17. Do you have your own *on-site* NATA accredited pathology lab? ..... **Yes / No**
18. Which external pathology provider does your practice normally use? ..... **Name of provider.....**  
**Provider's Postcode**

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# **Appendix 5: The recording form used in the Australian Morbidity and Treatment Survey 1990–91**

PROVIDER NUMBER

697

(9-11)

ENCOUNTER NUMBER

No 080

(12-14)

DATE OF ENCOUNTER (19-24)

Day	Month	Year

TYPE OF ENCOUNTER	
MEDICARE	
ITEM NUMBER	
(15-18)	

THE PATIENT

SEX: (circle) M      F	AGE: (years) [ ] [ ] <1yr = 00 >99yr = 99	REASONS FOR ENCOUNTER (up to 3)
		1 _____
		2 _____
		3 _____
		Patient NEW to practice..... 1
		Seen before in practice..... 2

OFFICE USE ONLY  
Block cols 1-8 front sheet  
12-14, 15-18, 19-24

25	29 - 37
26 - 27	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
28	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
38 - 57	58 - 77
78 - 97	98 - 117
118 119 120 121 122 123	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
124 125 126 127	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
128 129 130 131	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
132	133-134
135-136	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
137	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

THE PROBLEMS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

<p>1. DIAGNOSIS/problem:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>STATUS this problem (circle)      NEW      OLD</p> <p>TREATMENT/SCRIPTS for this problem: (up to 4)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>2. DIAGNOSIS/problem</p> <p>_____</p> <p>STATUS this problem (circle)      NEW      OLD</p> <p>TREATMENT/SCRIPTS for this problem: (up to 4)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>3. DIAGNOSIS/problem:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>STATUS this problem (circle)      NEW      OLD</p> <p>TREATMENT/SCRIPTS for this problem: (up to 4)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>4. DIAGNOSIS/problem</p> <p>_____</p> <p>STATUS this problem (circle)      NEW      OLD</p> <p>TREATMENT/SCRIPTS for this problem: (up to 4)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

REFERRAL, TESTS, INVESTIGATIONS ordered/undertaken:

<p><b>PATHOLOGY:</b></p> <p>Blood..... 1</p> <p>Urine..... 2</p> <p>Culture..... 3</p> <p>Papsmear..... 4</p> <p>Other tissue..... 5</p> <p>Other..... 6</p>	<p><b>X - RAY</b></p> <p>Plain..... 1</p> <p>Contrast/special..... 2</p> <p>Ultrasound..... 3</p> <p>Other..... 4</p>	<p><b>OTHER</b></p> <p>E.C.G..... 1</p> <p>Spirometry..... 2</p> <p>Multiphase screening..... 3</p> <p>Other..... 4</p>
<p><b>ADMISSIONS</b></p> <p>Hospital Emergency - public..... 1</p> <p>                              - private..... 2</p> <p>          Elective - public..... 3</p> <p>                              - private..... 4</p> <p>Nursing home..... 5</p> <p>Other..... 6</p>	<p><b>NEW REFERRALS TO SPECIALISTS &amp; HEALTH PROFESSIONALS</b></p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p>	
<p><b>FOLLOW - UP:</b> Has this patient been asked to return within the next three months for any of these problems?</p> <p>YES..... 1</p> <p>NO..... 2</p>		

# Appendix 6: Problem code groups from ICPC-2 used in this report

Group	ICPC codes	ICPC-2 rubric
Arrhythmias	K78	Atrial fibrillation/flutter
	K79	Paroxysmal tachycardia
	K80	Cardiac arrhythmias NOS
Cardiovascular check-ups	K30	Cardiovascular check-up—complete
	K31	Cardiovascular check-up—partial
Cerebrovascular disease	K89	Transient cerebral ischaemia
	K90	Stroke/cerebrovascular accident
	K91	Cerebrovascular disease
Diabetes—all	T89	Diabetes; insulin-dependent
	T90	Diabetes; non-insulin-dependent
	W85	Gestational diabetes
Hypertension (non-gestational)	K86	Uncomplicated hypertension
	K87	Hypertension with involvement of target organs
Ischaemic heart disease	K74	Ischaemic heart disease without angina
	K76	Ischaemic heart disease with angina
Ischaemic heart disease/acute myocardial infarction (IHD/AMI)	K74	Ischaemic heart disease without angina
	K75	Acute myocardial infarction
	K76	Ischaemic heart disease with angina
	K77	Ischaemic heart disease with angina
Other vascular disease	K92	Atherosclerosis/peripheral vascular disease
	K93	Pulmonary embolism
	K94	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis
	K95	Varicose veins of leg
	K96	Haemorrhoids
Cardiovascular process of care	K30–K31	Check-ups of the circulatory system, partial or full
	K32–K49 inclusive	Problems labelled as diagnostic, screening and preventive procedures of the cardiovascular system
	K50–K59 inclusive	Problems labelled as medication, treatment or procedures of the cardiovascular system
	K60–69 inclusive	Problems labelled in terms of test results, administrative action, referrals etc., associated with the cardiovascular system

*(continued)*

**Appendix 6 (continued): Problem code groups from ICPC-2 used in this report**

<b>Group</b>	<b>ICPC codes</b>	<b>ICPC-2 rubric</b>
Circulatory symptoms and complaints	K01	Heart pain
	K02	Pressure/tightness of heart
	K03	Cardiovascular pain NOS
	K04	Palpitations/awareness of heart
	K05	Irregular heartbeat, other
	K06	Prominent veins
	K07	Swollen ankles/oedema
	K22	Risk factors for cardiovascular disease
	K24	Fear of heart disease
	K25	Fear of hypertension
	K27	Fear of cardiovascular disease, other
	K28	Limited function/disability cardiovascular
	K29	Cardiovascular symptom/complaint, other
	Other heart disease	K81
K82		Pulmonary heart disease
K83		Heart valve disease
K84		Heart disease, other
Other cardiovascular disease	K70	Infection of circulatory system
	K71	Rheumatic heart disease
	K72	Neoplasm, cardiovascular
	K73	Congenital anomaly, cardiovascular
	K99	Cardiovascular disease, other