

Appendix 7: Classification on the management of health conditions in the CHC

The information on the management of health conditions at the CHC was provided in free-text format on the form. To be able to undertake a more comprehensive analysis on management of health conditions, the AIHW adopted the International Classification of Primary Care version 2 (ICPC-2) Plus to code the free text information.

Information on ICPC-2 and ICPC-2 Plus

ICPC-2 is used in more than 45 countries to classify data from primary care settings and it is the national standard in Australia for the reporting of health data from general practice and patient self-report . The structure of ICPC-2 is shown in Table 1. However, it is well recognised that the use of ICPC-2 for the coding of how problems are managed in primary care settings is not ideal because the relevant process codes are “very broad and non-specific”.

Table A7.1: The structure of ICPC-2 and component names

Components	Chapter																	
	A	B	D	F	H	K	L	N	P	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1.Complaints and symptoms																		
2.Diagnostic, screening and preventative procedures																		
3. Medication, treatment procedures																		
4.Test results																		
5. Administrative																		
6. Referrals and other reason for encounter																		
7-9. Diagnosis, diseases																		
A. General and unspecified	K. Cardiovascular					S. <u>S</u> kin					Y. Male genital (Y chromosome)							
B. <u>B</u> lood, blood forming organs and immune mechanism	L. Musculoskeletal (locomotion)					T. Endocrine/metabolic and nutritional					Z. Social problems							
D. <u>D</u> igestive	N. <u>N</u> eurological					U. <u>U</u> rological												
F. Eye	P. <u>P</u> sychological					W. Pregnancy, childbearing, family planning (<u>w</u> omen)												
H. Ear (<u>h</u> earing)	R. <u>R</u> espiratory					X. Female genital (<u>X</u> chromosome)												

ICPC-2 Plus is a clinical terminology that is classified to ICPC-2 but differs in that it allows for greater detail at the data input and analysis stages. It was developed by the Family Medicine Research Unit at the University of Sydney in 1995 and it is updated on a regular

basis. It is used in a number of research projects, including the BEACH (Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health) national data collection program of Australian general practice and National Health Survey for the coding of self-reported health.

Classification group and corresponding ICPC-2 Plus codes

The classification group of management of health conditions in CHC and corresponding ICPC-2 Plus codes are listed in Tables A7.2 to A7.4.

Table A7.2: Medication groups and their corresponding ICPC-2 Plus codes

Type of medication	ICPC-2 Plus code
Medication for de-worm treatment	D50007
Medication for skin diseases	S50001
Antibiotic	A50001 and A50006
Medication for blood, blood forming organs and immune mechanism	B50001 and B50002
Medication for ear disease	H50001
Medication for endocrine/metabolic and nutritional disease	T50001
Medication for neurological disease	N50006
Medication for other diseases	Any code with second and third characters as '50', such as 'A50001'.

Table A7.3: Coding of common 'tests done' (questions 82 to 85)

Groups of tests done on site	ICPC-2 Plus code
Blood test	
Haemoglobin (Hb)	n.a.
Blood sugar level (BSL)	n.a.
Other blood test	Any code with second and third characters as '34', such as 'A34001'.
Urine test	Any code with second and third characters as '35', such as 'A35001'.
Physical function test	Any code with second and third characters as '39', such as 'H39001'.
Microbiological/immunological test	Any code with second and third characters as '33', such as 'A33003'.
Diagnostic radiology/imaging	Any code with second and third characters as '41', such as 'A41002'.
Electrical tracings	Any code with second and third characters as '42', such as 'K42002'.

Table A7.4: Medical procedure groups and their corresponding ICPC-2 Plus codes

Type of medication	ICPC-2 Plus code
Skin dressing	S56001
Cleaning of ear	H51001
Other procedures	Any code with second and third characters as '51, 52,53, 54, 56, 57, 58, or 59'.

Table A7.5: Coding scheme for 'other' referrals' (question 89)

Code	Type of referral	Examples of terms used on CHC forms
1a	Cardiology	cardiology; cardiologist
1b	Investigations arranged - Cardiac	echo; echocardiogram; cardiac U/S, ECG
2	Investigations arranged - Radiology (except for cardiac related)	X ray; ultrasound; CT scan; MRI
3	Investigations arranged - Pathology	ACR (albumine/creatinine ratio); BGL, BSL, Chlamydia PCR,C+R, CRP, ESR,EUC, fasting BSL, FBC, FBE, Fe status, Gonorrhoea , LFT, MSU, MUC/S, pathologist, RPR, Se electr, STI screen, UCE, UEC, U/E/C, U+E, MCS, Stool specimen, faeces M&C
4	Dietician or nutritionist	dietician; clinical nutritionist
5	Surgeon	general surgeon; surgeon; paediatric surgeon; neurosurgical review; orthopaedic specialist; paediatric urologist
6	Emergency department or hospital	emergency evacuation arranged; local emergency department; urgent hospital investigation; transferred to hospital, referral to hospital
7	Other medical specialist	gynaecologist; obstetrics; dermatologist; geneticist
8	Other allied services	prosthetic department; podiatrist; paediatric liaison nurse; women's health nurse