

Appendix 4: Summary of annual results 1998–99 to 2000–02

Table A4.1: GP characteristics, summary of annual results BEACH 1998-99 to BEACH 2001-02

GP characteristic	1998-99		1999-00		2000-01		2001-02	
	Number ^(a)	Per cent of GPs (n=984)	Number ^(a)	Per cent of GPs (n=1,047)	Number ^(a)	Per cent of GPs (n=999)	Number ^(a)	Per cent of GPs (n=983)
Sex	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Male	689	70.0	729	69.6	683	68.4	631	64.2
Female	295	30.0	318	30.4	316	31.6	352	35.8
Age	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<35 years	62	6.3	88	8.4	67	6.7	70	7.1
35-44 years	356	36.3	338	32.4	284	28.4	263	26.8
45-54 years	315	32.1	338	32.4	342	34.2	359	36.5
55+ years	247	25.2	279	26.7	297	29.7	290	29.5
Years in general practice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<2 years	8	0.8	7	0.7	5	0.5	3	0.3
2-5 years	59	6.1	83	8.0	64	6.4	71	7.2
6-10 years	167	17.2	166	15.9	137	13.7	132	13.4
11-19 years	328	33.7	331	31.9	299	29.9	279	28.4
20+ years	410	42.2	452	43.5	488	48.8	494	50.3
Sessions per week	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<6 per week	120	12.3	159	15.3	159	15.9	157	16.0
6-10 per week	666	68.5	691	66.0	662	66.3	666	67.8
11+ per week	186	19.1	191	18.3	162	16.2	145	14.8
Size of practice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Solo	165	17.9	189	18.1	187	19.3	150	15.3
2-4 GPs	398	43.2	480	46.1	375	38.6	390	39.7
5+ GPs	359	38.9	373	35.8	409	42.1	439	44.7

(continued)

Table A4.1 (continued): GP characteristics, summary of annual results BEACH 1998-99 to BEACH 2001-02

GP characteristic	1998-99		1999-00		2000-01		2001-02	
	Number ^(a)	Per cent of GPs (n=984)	Number ^(a)	Per cent of GPs (n=1,047)	Number ^(a)	Per cent of GPs (n=999)	Number ^(a)	Per cent of GPs (n=983)
Place of graduation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Australia	750	76.5	767	73.3	726	72.7	748	76.1
UK	88	9.0	89	8.5	82	8.2	75	7.6
Asia	84	8.6	99	9.4	47	4.7	85	8.6
Europe	24	2.4	20	1.9	19	1.9	18	1.8
Africa	15	1.5	25	2.4	15	1.5	36	3.7
New Zealand	11	1.1	16	1.5	15	1.5	5	0.5
Other	8	0.9	29	2.8	95	9.5	16	1.6
Practice location	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Capital	671	68.2	683	65.2	680	68.1	681	69.3
Other metropolitan	74	7.5	77	7.4	69	6.9	80	8.1
Large rural	61	6.2	80	7.6	55	5.6	58	5.9
Small rural	60	6.1	65	6.2	56	5.6	48	4.9
Other rural	108	11.0	128	12.2	122	12.2	103	10.5
Remote central	5	0.5	4	0.4	10	1.0	4	0.5
Other remote, offshore	5	0.5	10	1.0	7	0.7	8	0.8
More than 50% consultations in languages other than English	111	11.3	105	10.6	135	13.5	NA	NA
Currently in RACGP Training Program	21	2.2	23	2.2	25	2.5	25	2.5
Completed RACGP Training Program	289	30.4	348	43.5	316	31.6	375	38.1
Fellow of RACGP	263	27.3	325	31.0	314	31.4	345	35.1
Own or cooperative after-hours arrangements	NA	NA	NA	NA	646	64.7	550	56.0
Computer use	NA	NA	NA	NA	873	87.4	883	89.7

(a) Missing data removed Note: NA—not applicable. These questions were not asked in all years.

Table A4.2: Summary of morbidity and management, summary of annual results BEACH 1998–99 to BEACH 2001–02

Variable	1998–99		1999–00		2000–01		2001–02	
	Rate per 100 encounters (n=96,901)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=104,856)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=99,307)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=96,973)	95% CI
Reasons for encounter	146.3	140.8–151.8	148.5	146.7–150.2	151.0	149.2–152.8	149.2	147.4–150.9
Problems managed	145.3	143.5–147.2	146.7	144.9–148.6	144.5	142.8–146.3	143.4	141.7–145.2
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
Work-related	4.0	3.7–4.3	3.2	2.9–3.5	3.3	3.1–3.6	3.0	2.7–3.2
Medications	109.7	107.4–112.0	110.1	107.8–112.4	108.2	105.7–110.6	104.5	102.2–106.9
Prescribed	93.6	91.2–96.1	93.8	91.5–96.2	92.3	89.9–94.7	88.0	85.6–90.4
Advised OTC	8.8	8.0–9.6	9.4	8.6–10.2	9.0	8.1–9.8	8.9	8.1–9.6
GP supplied	7.3	6.3–8.3	6.9	5.8–7.9	6.9	5.7–8.1	7.6	6.3–9.0
Other treatments	43.2	41.3–45.0	46.0	44.1–47.8	49.4	47.1–51.7	51.9	49.6–54.2
Clinical	31.4	29.7–33.0	33.5	31.8–35.2	37.2	35.1–39.3	38.1	36.1–40.1
Procedural	11.8	11.2–12.5	12.5	11.9–13.0	12.2	11.6–12.8	13.8	13.1–14.5
Referrals	11.2	10.8–11.6	11.2	10.8–11.7	10.7	10.0–10.8	10.5	10.1–10.9
Specialist	7.4	7.1–7.7	7.3	7.0–7.6	7.4	7.1–7.7	7.3	7.0–7.6
Allied health services & other referrals	3.0	2.8–3.2	3.1	2.9–3.4	2.3	2.1–2.5	2.6	2.3–2.9
Hospital	0.7	0.6–0.9	0.7	0.5–0.9	0.5	0.3–0.7	0.4	0.3–0.6
Emergency department	0.1	0.0–0.6	0.1	0.0–0.4	0.1	0.0–0.4	0.1	0.0–0.4
Pathology	24.6	23.5–25.7	26.3	25.2–27.5	29.4	28.2–30.7	31.0	29.7–32.4
Imaging & other investigations	7.1	6.8–7.5	7.5	7.1–7.8	8.3	7.9–8.7	8.8	8.5–9.2

Note: CI—confidence interval.

Table A4.3: Type of encounter, summary of annual results BEACH 1998-99 to BEACH 2001-02

Variable	1998-99		1999-00		2000-01		2001-02	
	Rate per 100 encounters (n=96,901)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=104,856)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=99,307)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=96,973)	95% CI
Direct consultations	96.7	96.4-97.0	96.7	96.3-97.0	98.1	97.8-98.4	97.7	97.4-98.0
No charge	0.8	0.4-1.2	0.6	0.3-0.8	0.6	0.0-1.5	0.6	0.2-1.1
Medicare-claimable	90.3	89.3-91.2	93.0	92.4-93.5	94.6	94.2-95.0	93.9	93.5-94.4
Short surgery consultations	1.4	0.9-1.8	1.3	0.6-2.1	1.5	0.5-2.5	1.0	0.5-1.6
Standard surgery consultations	76.3	75.2-77.5	78.1	77.1-79.1	79.4	78.4-80.3	79.0	78.0-79.9
Long surgery consultations	7.0	6.4-7.6	8.1	7.4-8.7	8.4	7.7-9.0	8.1	7.5-8.7
Prolonged surgery consultations	0.5	0.0-1.5	0.6	0.1-1.0	0.6	0.0-1.2	0.6	0.0-1.2
Home visits	1.8	1.2-2.3	1.4	0.8-1.9	1.5	0.5-2.4	1.5	0.8-2.2
Hospital	0.4	0.0-1.8	0.4	0.0-2.2	0.2	0.0-1.7	0.2	0.0-1.4
Nursing home	0.8	0.0-1.6	0.9	0.0-1.8	0.7	0.0-2.1	0.9	0.0-2.4
Case conference	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	0.0-2.3
Care plans	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.1	0.0-1.7
Health assessments	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.1	0.0-0.7
Other items	2.2	1.7-2.7	2.1	1.6-2.6	2.4	1.3-3.5	2.4	1.4-3.5
Workers compensation	1.9	1.6-2.1	2.0	1.7-2.3	2.1	1.8-2.4	2.0	1.8-2.3
Other paid (hospital, State, etc.)	3.7	1.7-5.7	1.2	0.0-2.8	0.8	0.0-1.6	1.1	0.2-2.0
Indirect consultations	3.3	2.8-3.8	3.3	2.8-3.8	1.9	1.2-2.6	2.3	1.8-2.8

Note: CI—confidence interval, NA—Not applicable in earlier years of the BEACH study.

Table A4.4: Characteristics of the patients at encounters, summary of annual results BEACH 1998–99 to BEACH 2001–02

Patient variable	1998–99		1999–00		2000–01		2001–02	
	Per cent of encounters (n=96,901)	95% CI	Per cent of encounters (n=104,856)	95% CI	Per cent of encounters (n=99,307)	95% CI	Per cent encounters (n=96,973)	95% CI
Sex	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Males	42.3	41.6–43.0	42.7	42.0–43.5	42.9	42.2–43.6	42.6	41.9–43.3
Females	57.7	57.0–58.4	57.3	56.5–58.0	57.1	56.4–57.8	57.4	56.7–58.1
Age group	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
< 1 year	2.4	2.2–2.7	2.4	2.2–2.5	2.1	1.9–2.4	2.0	1.8–2.1
1–4 years	5.7	5.3–6.0	5.2	4.9–5.5	5.4	5.1–5.7	4.9	4.6–5.2
5–14 years	7.7	7.3–8.1	7.2	6.9–7.5	6.8	6.4–7.2	6.4	4.6–5.2
15–24 years	9.8	9.4–10.2	10.4	9.9–10.8	10.3	9.8–10.7	9.5	9.1–10.0
25–44 years	26.0	25.3–26.7	26.3	25.5–27.0	26.3	25.6–27.0	25.8	25.1–26.5
45–64 years	24.4	23.8–25.0	24.5	24.0–25.0	26.1	25.5–26.7	26.3	25.7–26.8
65–74 years	12.3	11.7–12.8	12.0	11.5–12.5	11.7	11.2–12.2	12.3	11.8–12.8
75+ years	11.7	11.1–12.4	12.1	11.4–12.9	11.3	10.7–12.0	12.8	12.0–13.5
Other characteristics	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New patient to practice	9.2	8.6–9.8	7.3	6.6–8.0	8.0	7.1–8.8	9.2	8.5–9.9
Health care card	47.3	45.8–48.8	38.6	37.0–40.2	36.7	35.1–38.3	41.9	40.4–43.3
Veterans' Affairs card ^(a)	3.0	2.7–3.3	2.6	2.3–2.9	3.1	2.8–3.4	3.3	3.0–3.6
Non-English-speaking background	14.5	13.0–16.7	7.1	3.0–11.2	8.0	4.8–11.1	9.3	5.9–12.7
Aboriginal person	1.0	0.3–1.8	0.7	0.0–2.5	0.7	0.0–1.5	0.9	0.0–2.0
Torres Strait Islander	0.1	0.0–0.5	0.1	0.0–1.3	0.1	0.0–0.7	0.1	0.0–0.5

(a) The 1998–99 and 1999–00 results reported here are for gold card holders only.

Note: CI—confidence interval.

Table A4.5: Distribution of problems managed, summary of annual results BEACH 1998–99 to BEACH 2001–02

Problem managed	1998–99		1999–00		2000–01		2001–02	
	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=96,901)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=104,856)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=99,307)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=96,973)	95% CI
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
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
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
Circulatory	16.1	15.4–16.8	16.3	15.5–17.0	16.0	15.3–16.7	16.1	15.5–16.8
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
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
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
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
Female genital system	6.3	5.9–6.6	6.2	5.8–6.6	6.1	5.7–6.4	6.1	5.8–6.5
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
Pregnancy & family planning	4.1	3.7–4.4	4.3	4.0–4.6	3.9	3.6–4.2	4.0	3.7–4.3
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
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
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
Blood	1.7	1.5–1.9	1.7	1.5–1.9	1.7	1.5–1.8	1.3	1.2–1.4
Male genital system	1.4	1.3–1.5	1.4	1.3–1.5	1.5	1.3–1.6	1.3	1.1–1.4
Social problems	0.8	0.6–0.9	0.9	0.7–1.1	0.7	0.5–0.9	0.7	0.5–0.9
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

(a) Figures do not total 100% as more than one problem can be managed at each encounter.
 Note: CI—confidence interval.

Table A4.6: Most frequently managed problems, summary of annual results BEACH 1998–99 to BEACH 2001–02

Problem managed	1998–99		1999–00		2000–01		2001–02	
	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=96,901)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=104,856)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=99,307)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=96,973)	95% CI
Hypertension*	8.3	7.8–8.7	8.4	7.9–8.9	8.6	8.2–9.1	9.0	8.6–9.5
Upper respiratory tract infection	6.8	6.4–7.3	7.2	6.7–7.7	6.9	6.5–7.4	6.2	5.8–6.6
Immunisation/vaccination—all*	5.2	4.7–5.7	4.6	4.2–5.0	4.6	4.2–5.0	4.7	4.2–5.1
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
Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis	3.3	3.0–3.6	3.2	2.9–3.4	2.7	2.5–3.0	2.7	2.5–3.0
Asthma	3.2	3.0–3.4	3.2	3.0–3.4	2.8	2.7–3.0	2.8	2.6–3.0
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
Diabetes*	2.6	2.4–2.7	2.7	2.5–2.9	2.8	2.6–3.0	3.1	2.9–3.3
Lipid disorder	2.5	2.3–2.7	2.6	2.4–2.9	2.9	2.7–3.1	2.9	2.7–3.1
Osteoarthritis*	2.2	2.0–2.4	2.2	2.0–2.4	2.5	2.3–2.7	2.6	2.4–2.8
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

(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.

* Includes multiple ICP-2 or ICP-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 3).

Note: CI—confidence interval.

Table A4.7: Distribution of medications prescribed by group and subgroup, summary of annual results BEACH 1998-99 to BEACH 2001-02

Group and subgroup	1998-99		1999-00		2000-01		2001-02	
	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=96,901)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=104,856)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=99,307)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=96,973)	95% CI
Antibiotics	17.3	16.7-18.0	16.3	15.8-16.9	15.9	15.3-16.5	14.4	13.9-14.9
Broad-spectrum penicillin	5.0	4.7-5.4	4.7	4.4-5.1	4.9	4.6-5.2	4.5	4.2-4.8
Cephalosporins	4.3	4.0-4.7	4.0	3.7-4.4	4.0	3.6-4.3	3.2	3.0-3.5
Other antibiotics	3.5	3.2-3.7	3.4	3.2-3.7	3.3	3.1-3.6	3.0	2.8-3.2
Penicillins	1.5	1.3-1.7	1.5	1.3-1.7	1.3	1.1-1.4	1.5	1.2-1.7
Tetracycline	1.4	1.2-1.6	1.1	1.0-1.3	1.1	1.0-1.3	1.0	0.8-1.2
Cardiovascular	13.7	12.9-14.5	13.7	12.9-14.5	13.6	12.8-14.4	13.9	13.2-14.7
Anti-hypertensives	7.2	6.8-7.6	7.1	6.7-7.6	7.3	6.9-7.7	7.5	7.1-8.0
Other CVS drugs	2.1	1.9-2.3	2.4	2.2-2.8	2.6	2.4-2.8	2.7	2.5-2.9
Anti-angina	1.5	1.3-1.7	1.3	1.1-1.5	1.1	0.9-1.3	1.1	0.9-1.3
Beta-blockers	1.7	1.6-1.9	1.8	1.6-2.0	1.6	1.4-1.8	1.7	1.5-1.9
Central nervous system	11.4	10.8-11.9	11.6	11.0-12.2	11.1	10.5-11.7	10.7	10.1-11.2
Simple analgesics	4.7	4.4-5.1	5.0	4.6-5.4	4.8	4.3-5.2	3.8	3.4-4.1
Compound analgesics	3.3	3.1-3.6	3.0	2.8-3.2	2.7	2.5-2.9	2.7	2.5-2.9
Narcotic analgesics	1.1	0.6-1.6	1.3	0.9-1.8	1.4	1.0-1.8	2.0	1.6-2.4
Anti-emetic/anti-nausea	1.4	1.3-1.6	1.6	1.5-1.7	1.5	1.3-1.6	1.4	1.2-1.5
Psychological	7.6	7.2-7.9	7.5	7.1-8.0	7.5	7.1-7.9	7.4	7.0-7.8
Sedative hypnotics	2.0	1.8-2.2	1.9	1.7-2.1	1.9	1.7-2.1	1.9	1.7-2.2

(continued)

Table A4.7 (continued): Distribution of medications prescribed by group and subgroup, summary of annual results BEACH 1998–99 to BEACH 2001–02

Group and subgroup	1998–99		1999–00		2000–01		2001–02	
	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=96,901)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=104,856)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=99,307)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=96,973)	95% CI
Anti anxiety	2.1	1.9–2.3	2.1	1.9–2.3	2.0	1.8–2.2	1.9	1.7–2.2
Anti-depressants	2.9	2.7–3.1	2.9	2.8–3.1	3.1	2.8–3.3	2.9	2.7–3.1
Respiratory	6.9	6.5–7.3	7.4	6.9–7.9	6.3	5.9–6.7	5.8	5.3–6.2
Bronchodilators	3.7	3.5–4.0	3.8	3.5–4.1	3.2	2.9–3.4	2.9	2.6–3.1
Asthma preventives	2.2	2.1–2.4	2.5	2.3–2.8	2.2	2.0–2.4	2.2	2.0–2.4
Hormones	5.8	5.5–6.1	5.9	5.5–6.2	5.9	5.6–6.2	6.1	5.8–6.4
Sex hormones	2.2	2.0–2.4	2.1	1.9–2.2	2.1	1.9–2.2	2.0	1.8–2.1
Cortico steroids	1.2	1.1–1.4	1.4	1.2–1.6	1.2	1.1–1.4	1.3	1.2–1.5
Hypoglycaemics	1.8	1.5–2.0	1.8	1.5–2.1	2.0	1.7–2.3	2.2	1.9–2.5
Other hormones	0.6	0.4–0.7	0.6	0.4–0.7	0.6	0.5–0.7	0.6	0.5–0.8
Musculoskeletal	5.7	5.4–6.0	5.7	5.4–6.0	6.8	6.4–7.1	6.1	5.8–6.4
NSAID/anti-rheumatoid	4.5	4.2–4.7	4.6	4.3–4.8	5.7	5.4–6.0	5.3	5.0–5.5
Allergy, immune system	4.8	4.3–5.4	5.2	4.8–5.6	4.6	4.2–5.0	4.5	4.1–4.8
Anti-histamine	0.8	0.5–1.1	0.7	0.5–0.9	0.6	0.4–0.8	0.4	0.2–0.7
Vaccines	3.9	3.3–4.6	4.4	3.9–4.8	3.9	3.4–4.3	3.9	3.5–4.3
Skin	4.5	4.2–4.7	4.6	4.4–4.8	4.8	4.5–5.2	4.1	3.9–4.4
Anti-infection skin	1.0	0.8–1.1	1.0	0.8–1.1	0.9	0.7–1.1	0.7	0.5–0.8
Topical steroids	2.8	2.7–3.0	2.8	2.7–3.0	3.1	2.8–3.3	2.8	2.6–3.0
Other skin	0.6	0.5–0.8	0.8	0.6–0.9	0.9	0.6–1.1	0.6	0.4–0.8

(continued)

Table A4.7 (continued): Distribution of medications prescribed by group and subgroup, summary of annual results BEACH 1998–99 to BEACH 2001–02

Group and subgroup	1998–99		1999–00		2000–01		2001–02	
	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=96,901)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=104,856)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=99,307)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=96,973)	95% CI
Digestive	4.3	4.1–4.5	4.3	4.1–4.5	4.1	3.8–4.3	3.8	3.6–4.1
Anti-spasmodics	0.5	0.3–0.6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Anti-ulcerants	2.2	2.1–2.4	2.2	2.0–2.4	2.2	2.0–2.3	2.4	2.2–2.5
Antidiarrhoeals	0.6	0.5–0.8	0.5	0.4–0.7	0.5	0.3–0.8	0.5	0.3–0.7
Urogenital	2.2	2.0–2.4	2.0	1.8–2.2	1.8	1.7–2.0	1.8	1.6–2.0
Diuretics	1.7	1.5–1.9	1.5	1.3–1.7	1.3	1.1–1.4	1.3	1.1–1.5
Ear, nose topical	2.3	2.1–2.5	2.5	2.3–2.6	2.3	2.2–2.5	1.8	1.7–2.0
Topical otic	1.0	0.8–1.2	1.0	0.8–1.1	1.0	0.8–1.1	0.9	0.8–1.1
Topical nasal	1.3	1.1–1.4	1.5	1.3–1.7	1.3	1.2–1.5	0.9	0.7–1.0
Contraceptives	1.7	1.5–1.8	1.7	1.6–1.9	1.6	1.5–1.8	1.7	1.5–1.8
Oral contraception	1.7	1.5–1.8	1.7	1.6–1.9	1.6	1.5–1.8	1.7	1.5–1.8
Blood	1.6	1.4–1.8	1.6	1.4–1.7	1.8	1.7–2.0	1.8	1.7–2.0
Other blood	0.7	0.6–0.9	0.8	0.6–0.9	0.9	0.7–1.1	1.1	0.9–1.3
Eye medications	1.7	1.5–1.8	1.7	1.6–1.8	1.6	1.5–1.8	1.5	1.4–1.6
Anti-infectives	1.1	1.0–1.2	1.1	1.0–1.2	1.0	0.9–1.2	0.9	0.8–1.1
Nutrition, metabolism	1.2	1.1–1.4	1.1	0.9–1.3	1.4	1.2–1.5	1.7	1.1–2.2
Mineral tonic	0.7	0.5–0.8	0.6	0.4–0.7	0.5	0.4–0.7	0.6	0.3–0.8
Miscellaneous	0.5	0.0–1.2	0.4	0.0–0.8	0.6	0.4–0.8	0.5	0.3–0.6

(a) Column will not add to 100 because multiple prescriptions could be written at each encounter. Also only the most frequent medications are included.
Note: CI—confidence interval.

Table A4.8: Most frequently prescribed medications, summary of annual results BEACH 1998–99 to BEACH 2001–02

Generic drug	1998–99		1999–00		2000–01		2001–02	
	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=96,901)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=104,856)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=99,307)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=96,973)	95% CI
Paracetamol	3.9	3.6–4.3	4.1	3.7–4.4	3.9	3.5–4.4	3.1	2.7–3.4
Amoxicillin	3.2	2.9–3.5	3.1	2.8–3.4	3.2	2.9–3.5	2.9	2.7–3.2
Paracetamol/codeine	2.7	2.4–2.9	2.4	2.2–2.6	2.2	2.0–2.4	2.2	2.0–2.4
Salbutamol	2.4	2.2–2.6	2.4	2.2–2.6	2.1	1.9–2.3	2.0	1.8–2.2
Cefaclor monohydrate	2.2	1.8–2.6	1.6	1.3–2.0	1.6	1.3–2.0	1.1	0.8–1.3
Cephalexin	2.1	1.9–2.4	2.1	1.8–2.3	2.2	2.0–2.4	2.0	1.8–2.2
Roxithromycin	1.8	1.5–2.0	1.8	1.6–2.0	1.6	1.4–1.8	1.4	1.2–1.6
Amoxicillin/potass. clavulanate	1.8	1.5–2.0	1.6	1.4–1.8	1.7	1.4–1.9	1.6	1.3–1.8
Influenza virus vaccine	1.7	0.4–3.0	1.5	0.9–2.1	1.5	0.8–2.2	1.5	0.8–2.2
Temazepam	1.4	1.3–1.6	1.4	1.3–1.6	1.4	1.3–1.6	1.3	1.2–1.5
Diclofenac sodium systemic	1.3	1.1–1.5	1.3	1.1–1.5	1.2	0.9–1.4	0.9	0.7–1.1
Levonorgestrel/ethinyloestradiol	1.2	1.1–1.4	1.3	1.1–1.4	1.2	1.1–1.4	1.2	1.1–1.3
Doxycycline hydrochloride	1.2	1.0–1.3	0.9	0.7–1.1	0.9	0.7–1.1	0.8	0.6–1.0
Diazepam	1.1	0.9–1.3	1.1	0.9–1.3	1.0	0.9–1.2	1.0	0.8–1.3
Erythromycin	1.1	0.8–1.3	0.7	0.5–0.9	0.8	0.6–1.0	0.6	0.4–0.8
Ranitidine	1.0	0.9–1.1	1.0	0.8–1.1	1.0	0.9–1.2	0.6	0.5–0.8
Atenolol	1.0	0.8–1.1	1.0	0.8–1.2	0.9	0.7–1.1	1.0	0.7–1.2
Furosemide (furosemide)	1.0	0.8–1.1	0.8	0.6–1.0	0.7	0.7–0.9	0.7	0.5–0.9
Betamethasone topical	0.9	0.8–1.1	0.9	0.7–1.0	1.0	0.9–1.2	0.9	0.7–1.0
Simvastatin	0.9	0.8–1.1	0.9	0.7–1.1	0.9	0.7–1.1	0.9	0.8–1.1
Celecoxib	..	..	..	..	2.1	1.9–2.4	1.4	1.3–1.6
Rofecoxib	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.2	1.0–1.5
Total prescribed medications	93.6	91.2–96.1	93.8	91.5–96.2	92.3	89.9–94.7	88.0	85.6–90.4

(a) Column will not add to 100 because multiple prescriptions could be written at each encounter. Also only the 20 most frequent medications are included with the exception of celecoxib and rofecoxib for which results are reported after their acceptance on the PBS. Note: CI—confidence interval.

Table A4.9: Distribution of medications prescribed by ATC medication group, summary of annual results BEACH 1998-99 to BEACH 2001-02

ATC medication group	1998-99		1999-00		2000-01		2001-02	
	Rate per 100 encounters (n=96,901)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=104,856)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=99,307)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=96,973)	95% CI
Other analgesics & antipyretics	7.7	7.2-8.1	7.5	7.1-8.0	7.1	6.6-7.6	6.1	5.7-6.5
Beta-lactam antibacterials penicillins	6.2	5.8-6.5	6.2	5.8-6.6	6.1	5.8-6.5	6.0	5.6-6.3
Antiinflammatory/antirheumatic non-steroidal	4.5	4.2-4.7	4.5	4.3-4.8	5.7	5.4-6.0	5.3	5.0-5.5
Other beta-lactam antibacterials	4.3	4.0-4.7	4.0	3.7-4.4	4.0	3.6-4.3	3.2	3.0-3.5
ACE inhibitors plain	3.4	3.2-3.7	3.3	3.1-3.5	2.9	2.7-3.1	2.8	2.6-3.0
Adrenergics inhalants	3.2	3.0-3.5	3.3	3.1-3.6	3.1	2.9-3.3	3.2	2.9-3.4
Macrolides & lincosamides	2.9	2.7-3.2	2.8	2.6-3.0	2.8	2.5-3.0	2.4	2.2-2.6
Anti-depressants	2.9	2.7-3.1	2.9	2.8-3.1	3.1	2.8-3.3	3.1	2.9-3.3
Other anti-asthmatic inhalants*	2.8	2.6-3.0	3.0	2.8-3.3	2.3	2.1-2.5	1.9	1.7-2.1
Viral vaccines	2.6	1.9-3.3	2.6	2.2-3.0	2.6	2.2-3.0	2.6	2.2-3.0
Corticosteroids plain	2.2	2.1-2.4	2.3	2.1-2.4	2.6	2.4-2.9	2.4	2.2-2.6
Drugs for treatment of peptic ulcer**	2.2	2.1-2.4	2.2	2.0-2.4	2.2	2.0-2.3	2.4	2.2-2.5
Anxiolytics	2.1	1.9-2.3	2.1	1.9-2.3	2.0	1.8-2.2	1.9	1.7-2.2
Hypnotics & sedatives	1.1	1.8-2.2	1.9	1.7-2.1	1.9	1.7-2.1	1.9	1.7-2.1
Cholesterol & triglyceride reducers	1.9	1.7-2.1	2.2	2.0-2.4	2.4	2.2-2.5	2.4	2.3-2.6
Beta blocking agents plain	1.8	1.6-2.0	1.9	1.7-2.1	1.7	1.5-1.9	1.8	1.6-2.1
Hormonal contraceptives for systemic use	1.8	1.6-1.9	1.9	1.7-2.0	1.8	1.7-2.0	1.9	1.7-2.0
Selective calcium channel blockers with mainly vascular effects	1.8	1.6-1.9	1.6	1.4-1.8	1.6	1.4-1.8	1.5	1.3-1.7
Opioids	1.5	1.1-1.9	1.7	1.3-2.1	1.4	1.2-1.6	2.1	1.8-2.3
Oral blood glucose lowering drugs	1.5	1.2-1.7	1.5	1.2-1.7	1.7	1.4-1.9	1.9	1.6-2.1
Total prescribed medications	93.6	91.2-96.1	93.8	91.5-96.2	92.3	89.9-94.7	88.0	85.6-90.4

Note: CI—confidence interval.

• Now called Other drugs for obstructive airways disease, inhalants.

**

Now called Drugs for peptic ulcer and gastro-

Table A4.10: Most frequently advised over-the-counter medications, summary of annual results BEACH 1998–99 to BEACH 2001–02

Generic medication	1998–99		1999–00		2000–01		2001–02	
	Rate per 100 encounters (n=96,901)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=104,856)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=99,307)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=96,973)	95% CI
Paracetamol	2.4	1.8–2.9	2.5	2–0	2.4	1.8–2.9	2.1	1.7–2.6
Chlorpheniramine/phenylephrine	0.3	0.0–0.7	0.3	0.0–0.7	0.1	0.0–0.5	0.1	0.0–0.4
Clotrimazole topical	0.2	0.0–0.4	0.2	0.0–0.4	0.2	0.0–0.5	0.2	0.0–0.4
Paracetamol/Codeine	0.2	0.0–0.6	0.3	0.0–0.8	0.2	0.0–0.5	0.2	0.0–0.5
Ibuprofen	0.2	0.0–0.5	0.3	0.0–0.7	0.5	0.2–0.8	0.5	0.2–0.8
Loratadine	0.2	0.0–0.5	0.3	0.0–0.6	0.2	0.0–0.6	0.3	0.0–0.5
Diclofenac diethyl topical	0.2	0.0–0.5	0.2	0.0–0.5	0.2	0.0–0.6	0.2	0.0–0.5
Aspirin	0.2	0.0–0.4	0.2	0.0–0.6	0.1	0.0–0.5	0.2	0.0–0.5
Pseudoephedrine	0.2	0.0–0.5	0.2	0.0–0.6	0.2	0.0–0.6	0.1	0.0–0.5
Total advised medications	8.8	8.0–9.6	9.4	8.6–10.2	9.0	8.1–9.8	8.9	8.1–9.6

Note: CI—confidence interval. Only those medications supplied at a rate of 0.2 per 100 encounters or more in 1998–99 are included.

Table A4.11: Medications most frequently supplied by GPs, summary of annual results BEACH 1998-99 to BEACH 2001-02

Generic medication	1998-99		1999-00		2000-01		2001-02	
	Rate per 100 encounters (n=96,901)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=104,856)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=99,307)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=96,973)	95% CI
Influenza virus vaccine	0.8	0.0-2.2	0.7	0.0-1.7	0.6	0.0-1.4	0.9	0.0-2.1
Triple antigen(diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus)	0.4	0.1-0.7	0.3	0.1-0.6	0.2	0.0-0.7	0.2	0.0-0.6
Polio sabin oral	0.4	0.1-0.6	0.4	0.1-0.7	0.3	0.0-0.6	0.3	0.0-0.7
Haemophilus B vaccine	0.3	0.0-0.6	0.3	0.1-0.6	0.2	0.0-0.6	0.2	0.0-0.5
Mumps/Measles/Rubella vaccine	0.2	0.0-0.5	0.2	0.0-0.5	0.2	0.0-0.5	0.2	0.0-0.5
ADT/CDT (diphtheria/tetanus) vaccine	0.2	0.0-0.6	0.3	0.0-0.5	0.2	0.0-0.4	0.1	0.0-0.5
Hepatitis B vaccine	0.2	0.0-0.6	0.2	0.0-0.6	0.2	0.0-0.5	0.1	0.0-0.5
Celecoxib	..	..	..	..	0.3	0.0-0.7	0.2	0.0-0.5
Rofecoxib	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.3	0.0-0.5
Total GP supplied medications	8.8	8.0-9.6	6.9	5.8-7.9	6.9	5.7-8.1	7.6	6.3-9.0

Note: CI—confidence interval. Only those medications supplied at a rate of 0.2 per 100 encounters or more in 1998-99 are included with the exception of celecoxib and rofecoxib which are reported for the years after they were accepted on the PBS.

Table A4.12: The ten most common problems managed with a clinical treatment, summary of annual results BEACH 1998-99 to BEACH 2001-02

Problem managed	1998-99		1999-00		2000-01		2001-02	
	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=96,901)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=104,856)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=99,307)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (n=96,973)	95% CI
Depression*	1.6	1.4-1.8	1.6	1.4-1.8	1.8	1.6-2.1	1.7	1.5-1.9
URTI	1.2	0.9-1.6	1.4	1.1-1.7	1.7	1.4-2.1	2.0	1.6-2.4
Hypertension*	0.9	0.7-1.1	1.1	0.8-1.3	1.4	1.0-1.8	1.4	1.1-1.6
Anxiety*	0.8	0.6-0.9	0.8	0.6-1.0	0.8	0.6-1.0	0.8	0.7-1.0
Lipid disorder	0.7	0.5-0.9	0.8	0.6-1.0	1.0	0.8-1.3	1.0	0.8-1.2
Diabetes*	0.7	0.5-0.9	0.8	0.6-1.0	0.9	0.7-1.1	1.0	0.8-1.2
Gastroenteritis, presumed infection	0.6	0.3-0.8	0.5	0.3-0.8	0.6	0.3-0.9	0.6	0.4-0.8
Asthma	0.6	0.3-0.8	0.6	0.3-0.8	0.6	0.4-0.8	0.7	0.4-0.9
Back complaint*	0.5	0.3-0.8	0.6	0.4-0.8	0.6	0.4-0.8	0.6	0.4-0.8
Sprain/strain*	0.5	0.3-0.7	0.5	0.3-0.7	0.6	0.4-0.9	0.6	0.4-0.8
Total problems managed with clinical treatment	28.7	27.3-30.2	30.4	28.9-31.9	32.8	31.1-34.5	33.51	31.8-35.2

Rate of provision of clinical treatment for selected problem per 100 total encounters.

* Includes multiple ICD2 or ICD2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 3).

Note: CI—confidence interval.

Table A4.13: Number of encounters where pathology, imaging ordered, summary of annual results BEACH 1998–99 to BEACH 2001–02

	1998–99		1999–00		2000–01		2001–02	
	Per cent of encounters (n=96,901)	95% CI	Per cent of encounters (n=104,856)	95% CI	Per cent of encounters (n=99,307)	95% CI	Per cent of encounters (n=96,973)	95% CI
Pathology, imaging or other investigations ordered	1.5	1.3–1.6	1.5	1.4–1.7	1.7	1.5–1.8	0.9	0.8–1.0
Pathology only ordered	11.8	11.4–12.2	12.2	11.8–12.7	12.1	11.7–12.5	9.9	9.6–10.3
Imaging only ordered	4.8	4.6–5.1	5.2	4.9–5.4	5.4	5.2–5.7	4.1	3.9–4.2
No tests ordered	81.9	81.3–82.5	81.1	80.5–81.7	80.7	80.1–81.3	85.1	84.7–85.6
At least one pathology test ordered	13.2	12.8–13.7	13.8	13.3–14.3	13.8	13.3–14.3	10.8	10.4–11.2
At least one imaging ordered	6.3	6.0–6.6	6.7	6.4–7.0	6.8	6.5–7.1	5.0	4.7–5.2

Note: CI—confidence interval.

Table A4.14: Distribution of pathology orders across pathology groups, summary of annual results BEACH 1998–99 to BEACH 2001–02

Pathology test ordered	1998–99		1999–00		2000–01		2001–02	
	Rate per 100 encounters (n=96,901)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=104,700)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=99,307)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=97,973)	95% CI
Chemical	11.3	10.6–11.9	12.1	11.4–12.8	15.4	14.6–16.2	16.5	15.6–17.3
Haematology	5.1	4.8–5.4	5.1	4.8–5.4	5.7	5.3–6.0	6.2	5.8–6.5
Microbiology	4.1	3.8–4.4	4.6	4.3–4.9	4.5	4.2–4.7	4.9	4.5–5.2
Cytology	1.6	1.3–1.8	1.5	1.3–1.8	1.5	1.2–1.8	1.6	1.3–1.8
Other NEC	1.3	0.9–1.7	1.6	1.2–2.0	1.1	0.8–1.3	0.7	0.5–0.9
Infertility/pregnancy	0.5	0.3–0.6	0.4	0.2–0.6	0.3	0.0–0.6	0.3	0.1–0.5
Tissue pathology	0.4	0.3–0.6	0.5	0.3–0.7	0.5	0.2–0.7	0.5	0.1–0.8
Immunology	0.4	0.1–0.7	0.5	0.2–0.8	0.5	0.3–0.8	0.5	0.3–0.7
Simple test; other	0.0	0.0–0.4	0.0	0.0–0.7	0.1	0.0–0.5	0.1	0.0–0.4
Total pathology tests	24.6	23.6–25.7	26.3	25.2–27.5	29.4	28.2–30.7	31.0	29.7–32.4

Note: CI—confidence interval.

Table A4.15 (a): Most frequent imaging tests ordered, BEACH 1998-99 and 1999-00

Imaging test ordered	1998-99		1999-00	
	Rate per 100 encounters (n=96,901)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=104,856)	95% CI
Plain	4.3	4.0-4.5	4.4	4.2-4.7
Contrast / US / CT	2.5	2.3-2.6	2.6	2.4-2.8
Other	0.3	0.1-0.5	0.5	0.2-0.7
Total imaging tests	7.1	6.7-7.4	7.5	7.1-7.8

Table A4.15 (b): Most frequent imaging tests ordered BEACH 2000-01 and 2001-02

Imaging test ordered	2000-01		2001-02	
	Rate per 100 encounters (n=99,307)	95% CI	Rate per 100 encounters (n=96,973)	95% CI
Diagnostic radiology	4.8	4.6-5.1	4.6	4.4-4.8
Ultrasound	2.1	2.0-2.3	2.5	2.3-2.7
Computerised tomography	0.7	0.6-0.8	0.8	0.6-0.9
Nuclear medicine imaging	0.0	0.0-0.4	0.0	0.0-0.4
Magnetic resonance imaging	0.0	0.0-0.4	0.0	0.0-0.5
Total imaging tests	7.7	7.3-8.0	7.9	7.6-8.2

Note: CI—confidence interval. Data collection method and coding system changed at the end of the second year of BEACH. Years 1 and 2 are not comparable with years 3 and 4.