

# 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 previous 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. All problems managed in general practice are included in this section, including those that involved management by a practice nurse. Problems that specifically included management by a practice nurse are reported additionally in Chapter 13.

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 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, 2.3 per 100 encounters) can be regarded as equivalent to 'asthma is managed at 2.3% of encounters', such a statement cannot be made for grouped concepts (ICPC-2 chapters and those marked with asterisks in the tables).

## 7.1 Annual results, 2006–07

### Number of problems managed at encounter

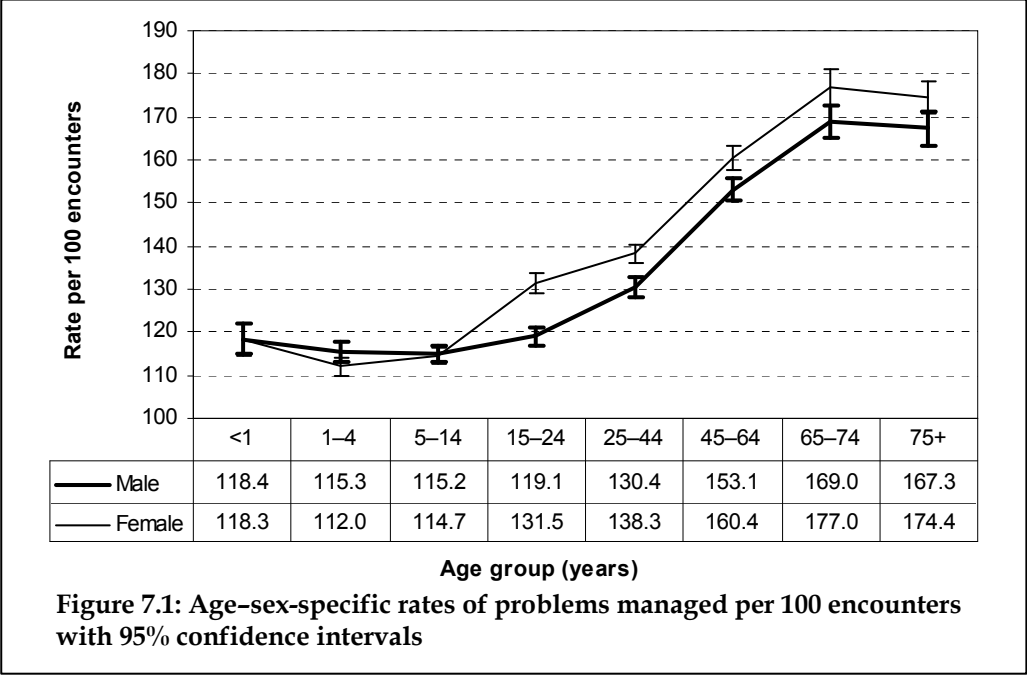
Table 7.1 shows the number of problems managed at each encounter. Only one problem was managed at almost two-thirds of encounters.

**Table 7.1: Number of problems managed at an encounter, 2006–07**

Number of problems managed at encounter	Number of encounters	Per cent	95% LCL	95% UCL
One problem	59,635	65.0	63.7	66.2
Two problems	22,073	24.0	23.3	24.8
Three problems	7,835	8.5	8.1	9.0
Four problems	2,262	2.5	2.2	2.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,805</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

Note: LCL—lower confidence limit; UCL—upper confidence limit.

The number of problems managed at encounter increased steadily with the age of the patient. Significantly more problems were managed overall at encounters with female patients (151.7 per 100 encounters, 95% CI: 149.4–153.9) than at those with male patients (144.6 per 100 encounters, 95% CI: 142.4–146.7). Figure 7.1 shows the age-sex-specific rates of problems managed, and demonstrates that this difference was particularly evident in the 15–24, 25–44 and 45–64 years age groups.



### Problems managed by ICPC-2 chapter

The frequency and the distribution of problems managed, by ICPC-2 chapter, are presented in Table 7.2. Rates per 100 encounters and the proportion of total problems are provided at the ICPC-2 chapter level and for frequent individual problems within each chapter. Only those individual problems accounting for at least 0.5% of all problems managed are listed in the table, in decreasing order of frequency.

### Problems managed by ICPC-2 component

Problems managed in general practice may also be examined using the components of the ICPC-2 classification to provide a more thorough understanding of the types of problems managed during general practice encounters. Table 7.3 lists the distribution of problems managed by ICPC-2 component.

In the BEACH program, participating GPs are instructed to record the problem being managed at the encounter at the highest diagnostic level possible using the currently available evidence. As such, almost two-thirds of problems were expressed as diagnoses or diseases, with the majority of other problems described as symptoms or complaints (21.1%), or as diagnostic or preventive procedures such as check-ups (9.3%). However, in some situations, rather than providing clinical details about the problem under management, a ‘process’ was recorded. That is, the problem was described in terms of a test result or an administrative procedure, or as a prescription.

**Table 7.2: Distribution of problems managed, by ICPC-2 chapter and most frequent individual problems within chapter, 2006–07**

<b>Problem managed</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent total problems<sup>(a)</sup> (n = 136,333)</b>	<b>Rate per 100 encounters<sup>(b)</sup> (n = 91,805)</b>	<b>95% LCL</b>	<b>95% UCL</b>
<b>Respiratory</b>	<b>17,993</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>20.3</b>
Upper respiratory tract infection	5,283	3.9	5.8	5.3	6.2
Immunisation/vaccination—respiratory	2,265	1.7	2.5	2.1	2.9
Asthma	2,069	1.5	2.3	2.1	2.4
Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis	2,047	1.5	2.2	2.1	2.4
Sinusitis	1,274	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.5
Tonsillitis*	948	0.7	1.0	0.9	1.1
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	778	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.9
<b>Skin</b>	<b>16,078</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>18.2</b>
Contact dermatitis	1,753	1.3	1.9	1.8	2.0
Solar keratosis/sunburn	1,181	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.4
Malignant neoplasm skin	1,042	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.3
Laceration/cut	861	0.6	0.9	0.8	1.0
Skin disease, other	745	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.9
Warts	697	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.8
<b>Cardiovascular</b>	<b>16,005</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>18.1</b>
Hypertension*	8,768	6.4	9.6	9.1	10.0
Cardiac check-up*	1,206	0.9	1.3	1.1	1.5
Ischaemic heart disease*	1,177	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.4
Atrial fibrillation/flutter	881	0.6	1.0	0.9	1.1
Heart failure	626	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.8
<b>Musculoskeletal</b>	<b>15,697</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>17.6</b>
Arthritis—all*	3,363	2.5	3.7	3.5	3.9
<i>Osteoarthritis*</i>	2,403	1.8	2.6	2.4	2.8
Back complaint*	2,403	1.8	2.6	2.5	2.8
Sprain/strain*	1,423	1.0	1.5	1.4	1.7
Fracture*	960	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.1
Osteoporosis	793	0.6	0.9	0.8	1.0
Injury musculoskeletal NOS	792	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.9
Bursitis/tendonitis/synovitis NOS	723	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.9
Musculoskeletal disease, other	629	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7
<b>General &amp; unspecified</b>	<b>14,910</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>16.8</b>
General check-up*	2,236	1.6	2.4	2.2	2.6
General immunisation/vaccination	1,798	1.3	2.0	1.8	2.1
Medication/script/request/renew/inject NOS	1,362	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.7
Results tests/procedures NOS	988	0.7	1.1	1.0	1.2

(continued)

**Table 7.2 (continued): Distribution of problems managed, by ICPC-2 chapter and most frequent individual problems within chapter, 2006–07**

<b>Problem managed</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent total problems<sup>(a)</sup> (n = 136,333)</b>	<b>Rate per 100 encounters<sup>(b)</sup> (n = 91,805)</b>	<b>95% LCL</b>	<b>95% UCL</b>
Viral disease, other/NOS	979	0.7	1.1	0.9	1.2
Abnormal results/investigations NOS	632	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.8
<b>Endocrine &amp; metabolic</b>	<b>11,143</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>12.6</b>
Diabetes, non-gestational*	3,374	2.5	3.7	3.5	3.9
Lipid disorders	3,176	2.3	3.5	3.2	3.7
Obesity (BMI > 30)	701	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.9
<b>Psychological</b>	<b>10,051</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>11.4</b>
Depression*	3,377	2.5	3.7	3.5	3.9
Anxiety*	1,594	1.2	1.7	1.6	1.9
Sleep disturbance	1,434	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.7
<b>Digestive</b>	<b>9,557</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>10.7</b>
Oesophageal disease	2,103	1.5	2.3	2.1	2.5
Gastroenteritis*	1,530	1.1	1.7	1.5	1.8
<b>Female genital system</b>	<b>5,259</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Female genital check-up/pap smear*	1,579	1.2	1.7	1.5	1.9
Menopausal complaint	808	0.6	0.9	0.8	1.0
<b>Pregnancy &amp; family planning</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Oral contraception*	1,200	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.4
Pregnancy*	1,156	0.8	1.3	1.1	1.4
<b>Ear</b>	<b>3,451</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Acute otitis media/myringitis	1,013	0.7	1.1	1.0	1.2
Excessive ear wax	713	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.8
<b>Neurological</b>	<b>3,441</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.9</b>
<b>Urology</b>	<b>2,888</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Urinary tract infection*	1,512	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.8
<b>Eye</b>	<b>2,452</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Infectious conjunctivitis	657	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.8
<b>Male genital system</b>	<b>1,696</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Blood</b>	<b>1,518</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>Social</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Total problems</b>	<b>136,333</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>148.5</b>	<b>146.4</b>	<b>150.6</b>

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

(b) Only those individual problems accounting for  $\geq 0.5\%$  of total problems are included.

\* Includes multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 4, <[www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm)>).

Note: LCL—lower confidence limit; UCL—upper confidence limit; NOS—not otherwise specified; BMI—body mass index.

**Table 7.3: Distribution of problems managed, by ICPC-2 component, 2006–07**

ICPC-2 component	Number	Per cent of total problems (n = 136,333)	Rate per 100 encounters <sup>(a)</sup> (n = 91,805)	95% LCL	95% UCL
Diagnosis, diseases	88,649	65.0	96.6	94.8	98.3
Symptoms & complaints	28,826	21.1	31.4	30.6	32.2
Diagnostic & preventive procedures	12,622	9.3	13.8	13.0	14.5
Medications, treatments & therapeutics	2,897	2.1	3.2	2.9	3.5
Results	1,427	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.7
Referrals & other RFEs	1,225	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.5
Administrative	687	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.8
<b>Total problems</b>	<b>136,333</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>148.5</b>	<b>146.4</b>	<b>150.6</b>

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

Note: LCL—lower confidence limit; UCL—upper confidence limit, RFE—reason for encounter.

## Most frequently managed problems

Overall, there were 148.5 problems managed per 100 encounters. Table 7.4 shows the most frequently managed individual problems in general practice, in decreasing order of frequency. These 30 problems accounted for almost half of all problems managed.

In this analysis, the specific chapter to which ‘across chapter concepts’ (check-ups, immunisation/vaccination and prescriptions) apply is ignored and the concept is grouped with all similar concepts regardless of body system. For example, immunisation/vaccination includes influenza vaccinations, along with immunisations for childhood diseases, and vaccinations for hepatitis.

The far right-hand column in Table 7.4 lists the percentage of each problem that was new to the patient, indicating the first presentation of a problem to a medical practitioner. This can provide a measure of general practice incidence. For example, only 6.1% of all contacts with diabetes were new problems to the patient. In contrast, more than three-quarters of upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) problems were new to the patient.

**Table 7.4: Most frequently managed problems, 2006–07**

Problem managed	Number	Per cent of total problems (n = 136,333)	Rate per 100 encounters <sup>(a)</sup> (n = 91,805)	95% LCL	95% UCL	Per cent of new problems <sup>(b)</sup>
Hypertension*	8,768	6.4	9.6	9.1	10.0	6.2
Check-up—all*	6,057	4.4	6.6	6.2	7.0	37.8
Upper respiratory tract infection	5,283	3.9	5.8	5.3	6.2	76.7
Immunisation/vaccination—all*	4,329	3.2	4.7	4.3	5.2	59.0
Arthritis—all*	3,363	2.5	3.7	3.5	3.9	18.0
Diabetes—all*	3,387	2.5	3.7	3.5	3.9	6.1
Depression*	3,377	2.5	3.7	3.5	3.9	17.4
Lipid disorders	3,176	2.3	3.5	3.2	3.7	13.0
Back complaint*	2,403	1.8	2.6	2.5	2.8	23.5
Oesophageal disease	2,103	1.5	2.3	2.1	2.5	18.7

(continued)

**Table 7.4 (continued): Most frequently managed problems, 2006–07**

Problem managed	Number	Per cent of total problems ( <i>n</i> = 136,333)	Rate per 100 encounters <sup>(a)</sup> ( <i>n</i> = 91,805)	95% LCL	95% UCL	Per cent of new problems <sup>(b)</sup>
Asthma	2,069	1.5	2.3	2.1	2.4	18.9
Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis	2,047	1.5	2.2	2.1	2.4	72.1
Prescription—all*	1,989	1.5	2.2	1.9	2.4	5.5
Contact dermatitis	1,753	1.3	1.9	1.8	2.0	45.8
Anxiety*	1,594	1.2	1.7	1.6	1.9	19.3
Gastroenteritis*	1,530	1.1	1.7	1.5	1.8	77.3
Urinary tract infection*	1,512	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.8	64.8
Sleep disturbance	1,434	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.7	15.1
Test results*	1,427	1.0	1.6	1.4	1.7	27.6
Sprain/strain*	1,423	1.0	1.5	1.4	1.7	60.6
Sinusitis acute/chronic	1,274	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.5	66.8
Oral contraception*	1,200	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.4	19.7
Solar keratosis/sunburn	1,181	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.4	48.1
Ischaemic heart disease*	1,177	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.4	10.8
Pregnancy*	1,156	0.8	1.3	1.1	1.4	40.9
Malignant neoplasm skin	1,042	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.3	52.0
Acute otitis media/myringitis	1,013	0.7	1.1	1.0	1.2	73.7
Viral disease, other/NOS	979	0.7	1.1	0.9	1.2	71.4
Fracture*	960	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.1	45.0
Tonsillitis	948	0.7	1.0	0.9	1.1	74.2
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>68,955</i>	<i>50.6</i>	—	—	—	—
<b>Total problems</b>	<b>136,333</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>148.5</b>	<b>146.4</b>	<b>150.6</b>	<b>38.1</b>

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

(b) The proportion of problems of this type that were new problems (the first presentation of a problem, including the first presentations of a recurrence of a previously resolved problem, but excluding the presentation of a problem first assessed by another provider).

\* Includes multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 4, <[www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm)>).

Note: LCL—lower confidence limit; UCL—upper confidence limit; NOS—not otherwise specified.

## Most common new problems

For each problem managed, participating GPs are asked to indicate whether the problem under management is a new problem for the patient, or a problem that has been managed previously by any medical practitioner. Table 7.5 lists the most common new problems managed in general practice in 2006–07, in decreasing order of frequency. Overall, 51,895 problems were specified as being ‘new’, being managed at a rate of 56.5 per 100 encounters.

The far right-hand column of this table shows the proportion of total contacts with this problem that was reported as being a new problem for the patient. This gives us an idea of the incidence of each problem. For example, the 588 new cases of depression represented only 17% of all GP contacts with diagnosed depression, suggesting that four out of five contacts for depression are for ongoing management. In contrast, more than three-quarters of the gastroenteritis cases were first consultations to a medical practitioner for this episode of gastroenteritis. The balance (23%) would have been follow-up consultations for this episode

of this problem. This indicates that most patients only require one visit to a GP for the management of an episode of gastroenteritis.

**Table 7.5: Most frequently managed new problems, 2006–07**

<b>New problem managed</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent of total new problems (n = 51,895)</b>	<b>Rate per 100 encounters<sup>(a)</sup> (n = 91,805)</b>	<b>95% LCL</b>	<b>95% UCL</b>	<b>Per cent of this problem<sup>(b)</sup></b>
Upper respiratory tract infection	4,053	7.8	4.4	4.1	4.8	76.7
Immunisation/vaccination—all*	2,553	4.9	2.8	2.5	3.1	59.0
Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis	1,476	2.8	1.6	1.5	1.7	72.1
Gastroenteritis*	1,183	2.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	77.3
General check-up*	1,106	2.1	1.2	1.1	1.3	49.5
Urinary tract infection*	979	1.9	1.1	1.0	1.2	64.8
Sprain/strain*	863	1.7	0.9	0.8	1.0	60.6
Sinusitis acute/chronic	851	1.6	0.9	0.8	1.0	66.8
Contact dermatitis	802	1.5	0.9	0.8	1.0	45.8
Acute otitis media/myringitis	747	1.4	0.8	0.7	0.9	73.7
Tonsillitis*	703	1.4	0.8	0.7	0.9	74.2
Viral disease, other/NOS	699	1.3	0.8	0.7	0.9	71.4
Female genital check-up*	650	1.3	0.7	0.6	0.8	41.1
Depression*	588	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.7	17.4
Solar keratosis/sunburn	568	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.7	48.1
Back complaint*	565	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.7	23.5
Hypertension*	543	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.7	6.2
Malignant neoplasm skin	542	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.7	52.0
Conjunctivitis	513	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.6	78.2
Pregnancy*	473	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.6	40.9
Osteoarthritis*	445	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.5	18.5
Laceration/cut	445	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.5	51.6
Fracture*	432	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.5	45.0
Excessive ear wax	431	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.5	60.5
Lipid disorders	413	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.5	13.0
Abnormal test results*	395	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.5	47.3
Test results*	394	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.5	27.6
Oesophagus disease	394	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.5	18.7
Skin injury, other	394	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.5	68.4
Asthma	392	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.5	18.9
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>24,592</i>	<i>47.4</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>
<b>Total new problems</b>	<b>51,895</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>55.1</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>—</b>

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

(b) The proportion of total contacts with this problem that were accounted for by new problems.

\* Includes multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 4, <[www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm)>).

Note: LCL—lower confidence limit; UCL—upper confidence limit; NOS—not otherwise specified.

## Most frequently managed chronic problems

To identify chronic conditions, a chronic condition list classified according to ICPC-2 was applied to the BEACH data set.<sup>58</sup> More than a third (35.1%) of the problems managed in general practice were chronic in nature. At least one chronic problem was managed at 39.9% of encounters (95% CI: 39.0–40.9), and chronic problems were managed at an average rate of 52.1 per 100 encounters.

In other parts of this chapter, both chronic and non-chronic conditions (for example diabetes and gestational diabetes) may have been grouped together when reporting (for example diabetes – all\*, Table 7.4). In this section, only problems regarded as ‘chronic’ have been included in the analysis. For this reason, the condition labels and figures in this analysis may differ from those in Table 7.4. Where the group used for the chronic analysis differs from that used in other analyses in this report, they are marked with a double asterisk. Codes included in the group may be found in Appendix 5, <[www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/subject/19](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/subject/19)>.

Table 7.6 shows the most frequently managed chronic problems in Australian general practice in decreasing order of frequency. The top seven chronic problems made up more than half of all chronic problems managed; these were non-gestational hypertension (18.3% of chronic conditions), non-gestational diabetes (7.1%), depressive disorder (7.0%), lipid disorders (6.6%), osteoarthritis (5.0%), oesophageal disease (4.4%) and asthma (4.3%).

**Table 7.6: Most frequently managed chronic problems, 2006–07**

Chronic problem managed	Number	Per cent of total chronic problems (n = 47,810)	Rate per 100 encounters <sup>(a)</sup> (n = 91,805)	95% LCL	95% UCL
Hypertension (non-gestational)**	8,759	18.3	9.5	9.0	10.0
Diabetes (non-gestational)**	3,374	7.1	3.7	3.5	3.9
Depressive disorder	3,357	7.0	3.7	3.5	3.9
Lipid disorders	3,176	6.6	3.5	3.2	3.7
Osteoarthritis*	2,403	5.0	2.6	2.4	2.8
Oesophageal disease	2,103	4.4	2.3	2.1	2.5
Asthma	2,069	4.3	2.3	2.1	2.4
Ischaemic heart disease*	1,177	2.5	1.3	1.2	1.4
Malignant neoplasm skin	1,042	2.2	1.1	1.0	1.3
Atrial fibrillation/flutter	881	1.8	1.0	0.9	1.1
Osteoporosis	793	1.7	0.9	0.8	1.0
Back complaint*	791	1.7	0.9	0.8	0.9
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	778	1.6	0.8	0.8	0.9
Obesity (BMI > 30)	701	1.5	0.8	0.6	0.9
Heart failure	626	1.3	0.7	0.6	0.8
Migraine	605	1.3	0.7	0.6	0.7
Hypothyroidism/myxoedema	597	1.2	0.6	0.6	0.7
Gout	534	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.6
Arthritis**	521	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.6
Shoulder syndrome	442	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.5

(continued)



**Table 7.6 (continued): Most frequently managed chronic problems, 2006–07**

Chronic problem managed	Number	Per cent of total chronic problems ( <i>n</i> = 47,810)	Rate per 100 encounters <sup>(a)</sup> ( <i>n</i> = 91,805)	95% LCL	95% UCL
Anxiety disorder	438	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.5
Rheumatoid arthritis	434	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.5
Dementia	426	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.5
Anaemia (chronic)**	420	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.5
Schizophrenia	389	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.5
Acne (chronic)**	380	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.5
Epilepsy	333	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.4
Back syndrome without radiating pain	313	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.4
Neck syndrome	309	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.4
Malignant neoplasm prostate	300	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.4
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>38,471</i>	<i>80.5</i>	—	—	—
<b>Total chronic problems</b>	<b>47,810</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>53.7</b>

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

\* Includes multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 4, <[www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm)>).

\*\* 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 5 <[www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm)> for codes included in analysis of chronic conditions).

Note: LCL—lower confidence limit; UCL—upper confidence limit; BMI—body mass index.

## Work-related problems managed

The work-related status of a problem under management is determined by the GP, and is defined as any problem that is likely (in the GP's view) to have resulted from work-related activity, workplace exposures or a pre-existing condition that has been significantly exacerbated by work activity or workplace exposure. Work-related problems were managed at a rate of 2.9 per 100 general practice encounters in 2006–07 (Table 7.7).

The most common group of work-related problems were musculoskeletal problems, accounting for almost two-thirds of work-related problems and managed at a rate of 1.7 per 100 general practice encounters. One in 10 musculoskeletal problems managed in general practice were work-related. The most common musculoskeletal work-related problems were back complaints (14.8% of work-related problems), sprains and strains (10.4%), musculoskeletal injury (9.0%) and fractures (3.7%).

Work-related psychological problems accounted for 9.3% of total work-related problems and were managed at a rate of 0.3 per 100 encounters. These psychological problems accounted for only 2.4% of total psychological problems managed in general practice. The most commonly managed psychological problems were depression (3.2% of work-related problems), acute stress reaction (2.6%) and anxiety (1.6%).

Preventive checks related to the patient's work accounted for 5.9% of work-related problems and were performed at a rate of 0.2 per 100 encounters. The majority of these preventive checks were check-ups classified in the general and unspecified chapter of ICPC-2, including pre-employment and employment check-ups.

Other work-related problems not covered in the above groups accounted for 24.9% of work-related problems and included skin injuries not classified elsewhere (3.5% of work-related problems) and lacerations (3.5%).

Although back complaint was the most commonly managed individual work-related problem (accounting for 14.8% of work-related problems), it accounted for only 16.1% of the management of all back complaints. In contrast, musculoskeletal injury (not otherwise specified) accounted for 9.0% of work-related problems but represented 29.7% of all musculoskeletal injuries (not otherwise specified) managed (Table 7.7).

**Table 7.7: Work-related problems by type and most frequently managed individual problems, 2006–07**

Work-related problem managed	Number	Per cent of total work-related problems (n = 2,621)	Rate per 100 encounters (n = 91,805)	95% LCL	95% UCL	Per cent of this problem <sup>(a)</sup>
<b>Musculoskeletal problems</b>	<b>1570</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>10.0</b>
Back complaint*	388	14.8	0.4	0.4	0.5	16.1
Sprain/strain*	274	10.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	19.3
Injury musculoskeletal NOS	235	9.0	0.3	0.2	0.3	29.7
Fracture*	98	3.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	10.2
Shoulder syndrome	70	2.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	15.8
Acute internal knee damage	56	2.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	22.0
Bursitis/tendonitis/synovitis NOS	54	2.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	7.5
Tennis elbow	48	1.8	0.1	0.0	0.1	23.0
Neck syndrome	44	1.7	0.1	0.0	0.1	14.2
<b>Psychological problems</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.4</b>
Depression*	83	3.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.5
Acute stress reaction	69	2.6	0.1	0.0	0.1	12.6
Anxiety*	41	1.6	0.1	0.0	0.1	2.6
<b>Preventive checks</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1.7</b>
General check-up*	126	4.8	0.1	0.1	0.2	5.6
<b>Other work-related problems</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Injury skin, other	92	3.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	16.0
Laceration/cut	91	3.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	10.6
<b>Total work-related problems</b>	<b>2621</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>—</b>

(a) The proportion of total contacts with this problem that were accounted for by work-related problems.

\* Includes multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 4, <[www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm)>).

Note: LCL—lower confidence limit; UCL—upper confidence limit; NOS—not otherwise specified. Only the most frequent individual work-related problems accounting for > 1.5% of total work-related problems are reported.

## 7.2 Changes over time, 1998–99 to 2006–07

### Number of problems managed

GPs are asked to record information about the management of up to four problems at each encounter. Table 7.8 shows the number of problems managed at each encounter over time.

There was little change in the pattern of number of problems managed at encounter. There was a marginal increase in encounters where three problems were managed, suggesting 770,000 more occasions where three problems were managed in 2006–07 than in 1998–99. While there appears to be a very gradual increase in the average number of problems managed at an encounter, this failed to reach statistical significance (Table 7.9).

## **Distribution of problems managed by ICPC-2 component**

The way in which problems managed are described has changed over time is shown in Table 7.9.

- There was no significant change in the management rate of problems described in terms of a diagnosis or disease between 1998–99 and 2006–07, managed at a rate of 94–97 per 100 encounters. There was also no change in the management rate of problems described as ‘diagnostic and preventive procedures’, managed at rate of about 13 per 100 encounters over the 9 years of the study.
- The rate of problems described in terms of symptoms and complaints decreased by 5% from 33.1 to 31.4 per 100 encounters, equating to a national decrease of nearly 2 million problems between 1998–99 and 2006–07.
- There was a move toward describing the problems managed as ‘medications, treatments and therapeutics’, ‘results’, ‘referrals and other reasons for encounter’, and administrative procedures. Together these types of problems increased from 5 to 7 per 100 encounters. The major changes within the group were in test results (extrapolated increase of 820,000 contacts for this problem) and administrative problems (extrapolated increase of 410,000 problems in Australia).

## **Problems managed by ICPC-2 chapter and individual problems managed**

Table 7.10 shows that there was no change in the total rate of problems managed between 1998–99 and 2006–07. This result was also true for the management rate of new problems (Table 7.12). However, the management rate of chronic conditions increased from 46.5 per 100 encounters in 1998–99 to 52.1 per 100 in 2006–07, suggesting approximately 5.4 million more GP contacts in Australia in 2006–07 where chronic problems were managed compared with 1998–99 (Table 7.13).

Problems managed at general practice encounters by ICPC chapter are described in Table 7.10 and the most common individual problems managed are described in Table 7.11 for all years from 1998–99 to 2006–07.

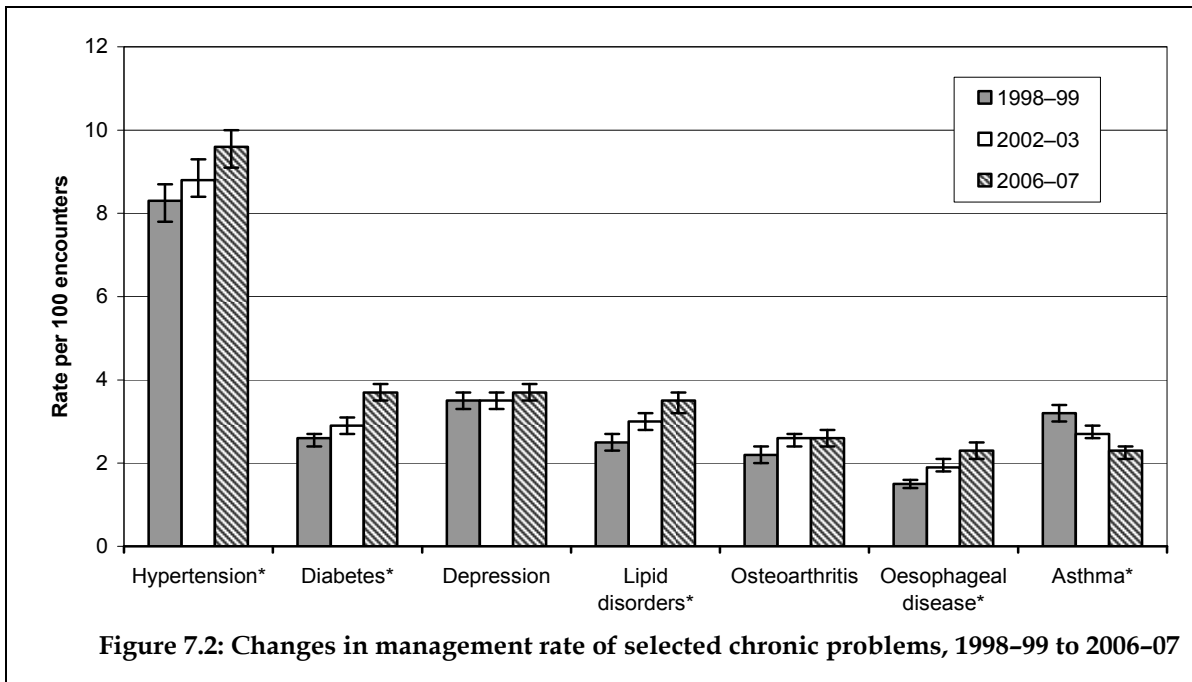
- There was a 23% increase in the management rate of problems of a general and unspecified nature, equating to a national increase of about 3 million GP contacts with such problems from 1998–99 to 2006–07 (Table 7.10). This was reflected in significant increases in the management rate of general check-ups, and problems described as ‘prescriptions’ and ‘results of tests and investigations’. In contrast there was a marginal decrease in the management rate of (unspecified) viral illness (Table 7.11).
- There was a 37% increase in the management rate of problems of the endocrine and metabolic system, suggesting there were approximately 3.3 million more occasions of GP management of endocrine and metabolic problems across Australia in 2006–07 compared with 1998–99 (Table 7.10). In particular there was a 42% increase in the management rate

of diabetes, and a 40% increase in the management rate of lipid disorders over the 9 years (Table 7.11).

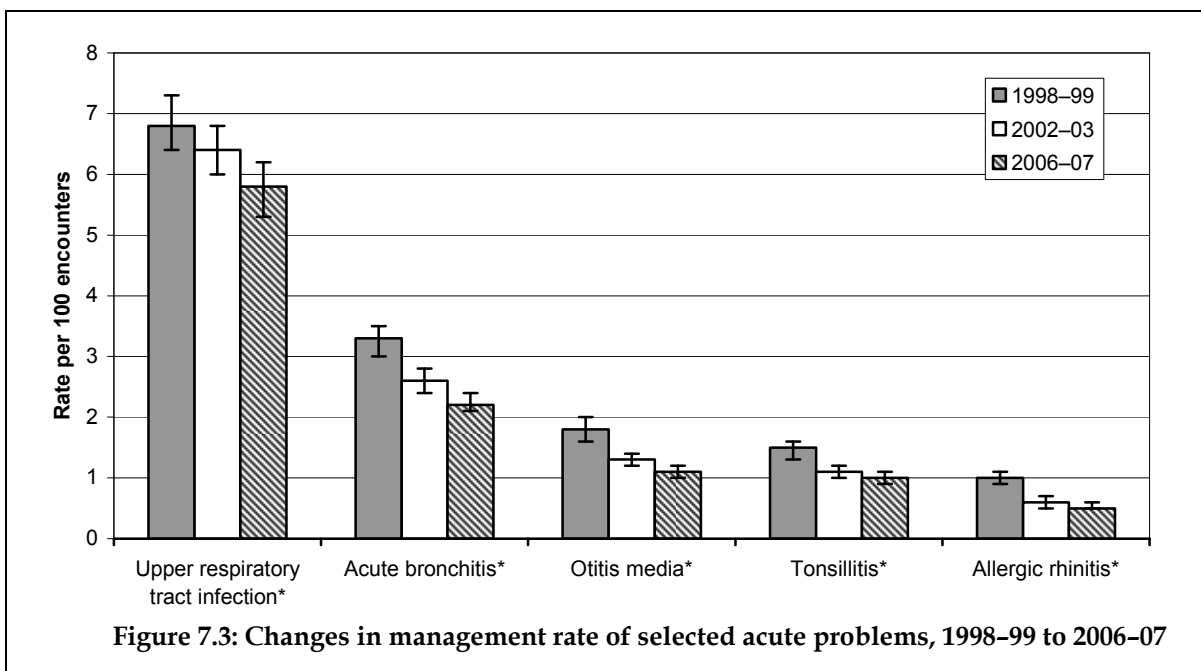
- The management rate of problems related to the male genital system increased by 36%, equating to a national increase of about 500,000 male genital system problems managed in 2006–07 than in 1998–99 (Table 7.10).
- There was a marginal increase in the management rate of urological problems from 1998–99 to 2006–07 (Table 7.10).
- There was almost a 20% decrease in the management rate of respiratory problems, suggesting an extrapolated affect of 5 million fewer respiratory problems managed by GPs in 2006–07 than in 1998–99 (Table 7.10). This was reflected in significant decreases in the management rates of URTI, asthma, acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis, tonsillitis and allergic rhinitis (Table 7.11).
- There was a 22% decrease in the management of ear problems, suggesting about 1.2 million fewer GP contacts involving the management of ear problems in 2006–07 than in 1998–99 nationally (Table 7.10). In particular, there was a 39% decrease in the management rate of acute otitis media/myringitis (Table 7.11).
- There was a marginal decrease in the management rate of social problems from 1998–99 to 2006–07 (Table 7.10).
- There was no change in the management rate of cardiovascular problems between 1998–99 and 2006–07 (Table 7.10). However, there was a 16% increase in the management rate of hypertension and a 40% increase in the management rate of atrial fibrillation, equating to national increases of approximately 1.3 million contacts with hypertension and 410,000 contacts with atrial fibrillation from 1998–99 to 2006–07. In contrast, there was a marginal decrease in the management rate of ischaemic heart disease (Table 7.11).
- The management rate of skin problems did not change significantly over the 9 years of the study (Table 7.10). However, there was a 37% increase in the management rate of malignant skin neoplasm and a 30% increase in the management rate of solar keratosis, equating to a national increase of about 300,000 malignant skin neoplasm contacts and 300,000 solar keratosis contacts (Table 7.11).
- There was no change in the management rate of problems related to pregnancy and family planning (Table 7.10). However, the management rate of oral contraception increased by 30%, suggesting 300,000 more occasions where this problem was managed in 2006–07 than in 1998–99. There was also a 60% increase in the management rate of pregnancy from 1998–99 to 2006–07. However, this coincided with a 60% decrease in the management of pre/postnatal care, which suggests a change in terminology used by GPs (Table 7.11).
- Overall there was no change in the management rate of musculoskeletal problems (Table 7.10). However, the management rate of osteoporosis increased significantly and the management rate of sprains and strains showed a marginal decrease between 1998–99 and 2006–07. The management rate of arthritis (all types) increased significantly from 3.5 per 100 encounters in 1998–99 to a peak of 4.0 per 100 encounters in 2003–04, and then decreased to 3.7 per 100 in 2006–07. The management rate of osteoarthritis showed a marginal increase over the study period, although the management rate followed a similar pattern to that of the total arthritis group (Table 7.11). The decrease in management of arthritis from 2004–05 onward may reflect the withdrawal of the medication rofecoxib.

- Table 7.11 also shows that there was a significant increase in the management rate of oesophageal disease, equating to a national increase of about 810,000 contacts for this problem from 1998-99 to 2006-07; and a significant decrease in the management rate of menopausal complaints.

Selected individual problems managed are presented graphically in figures 7.2 and 7.3. These figures show changes in the management rate of selected chronic and acute conditions from 1998-99 to 2006-07. Note that there was no change in the management rate of depression from 1998-99 to 2006-07. The management of depression over time is investigated in greater detail in Chapter 14.



\* Indicates a statistically significant change from 1998-99 to 2006-07 (for management rates see Table 7.11).



\* Indicates a statistically significant change from 1998-99 to 2006-07 (for management rates see Table 7.11).

**Table 7.8: Number of problems managed at an encounter, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07**

Number of problems managed at encounter	Per cent of encounters (95% CI)									Change <sup>(a)</sup>	
	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)	↑ ↓	('000)
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)	—	—
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)	—	—
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)	↑	+770
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)	—	—

(a) The direction and type of change from 1998–99 to 2006–07 is indicated for each variable: ↑/↓ indicates a marginal change, and — indicates there was no change. Statistically significant linear changes have been extrapolated to estimate the national change and are reported in thousands in the far right column.

Note: CI—confidence interval.

**Table 7.9: Distribution of problems managed, by ICPC-2 component, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07**

ICPC-2 component	Rate per 100 encounters <sup>(a)</sup> (95% CI)									Change <sup>(b)</sup>	
	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)	↑ ↓	('000)
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)	—	—
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)	↓	–1,980
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)	—	—
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)	↑	+600
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)	↑	+820

(continued)

**Table 7.9 (continued): Distribution of problems managed, by ICPC-2 component, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07**

ICPC-2 component	Rate per 100 encounters <sup>(a)</sup> (95% CI)									Change <sup>(b)</sup>	
	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)	↑ ↓	('000)
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)	↑	+300
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)	↑	+410
<b>Total problems</b>	<b>145.3</b> <b>(143.5–147.2)</b>	<b>146.7</b> <b>(144.9–148.6)</b>	<b>144.5</b> <b>(142.8–146.3)</b>	<b>143.4</b> <b>(141.7–145.2)</b>	<b>144.9</b> <b>(143.0–146.8)</b>	<b>146.3</b> <b>(144.4–148.2)</b>	<b>145.5</b> <b>(143.6–147.4)</b>	<b>146.2</b> <b>(144.2–148.2)</b>	<b>148.5</b> <b>(146.4–150.6)</b>	—	—

(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 2006–07 is indicated for each variable: ↑/↓ indicates a statistically significant change and — indicates there was no change. Statistically significant linear changes have been extrapolated to estimate the national change and are reported in thousands in the far right column.

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

**Table 7.10: Distribution of problems managed, by ICPC-2 chapter summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07**

ICPC-2 Chapter	Rate per 100 encounters <sup>(a)</sup> (95% CI)									Change <sup>(b)</sup>	
	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)	↑ ↓	('000)
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)	↓	–5,000
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)	—	—
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)	—	—
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)	—	—
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)	↑	+2,990
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)	↑	+3,330

(continued)

Table 7.10 (continued): Distribution of problems managed, by ICPC-2 chapter summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07

ICPC-2 Chapter	Rate per 100 encounters <sup>(a)</sup> (95% CI)									Change <sup>(b)</sup>	
	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)	↑ ↓	('000)
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)	—	—
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)	—	—
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)	—	—
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)	—	—
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)	↓	–1,170
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)	—	—
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)	↑	+390
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)	—	—
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)	↑	+500
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)	—	—
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)	↓	–110
<b>Total problems</b>	<b>145.3</b> <b>(143.5–147.2)</b>	<b>146.7</b> <b>(144.9–148.6)</b>	<b>144.5</b> <b>(142.8–146.3)</b>	<b>143.4</b> <b>(141.7–145.2)</b>	<b>144.9</b> <b>(143.0–146.8)</b>	<b>146.3</b> <b>(144.4–148.2)</b>	<b>145.5</b> <b>(143.6–147.4)</b>	<b>146.2</b> <b>(144.2–148.2)</b>	<b>148.5</b> <b>(146.4–150.6)</b>	—	—

(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 2006–07 is indicated for each variable: ↑/↓ indicates a statistically significant change, ↑/↓ indicates a marginal change, § indicates a non-linear significant or marginal change, and — indicates there was no change. Statistically significant linear changes have been extrapolated to estimate the national change and are reported in thousands in the far right column.

Note: CI—confidence interval.



Table 7.11: Most frequently managed problems, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07

Problem managed	Rate per 100 encounters <sup>(a)</sup> (95% CI)									Change <sup>(b)</sup>	
	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)	↑ ↓	('000)
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)	↑	+1,280
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)	—	—
<i>General check-up*</i>	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)	↑	+810
<i>Female genital check-up*</i>	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)	—	—
<i>Cardiac check-up*</i>	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)	—	—
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)	↓	–1,080
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)	—	—
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)	§	—
<i>Osteoarthritis*</i>	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)	↑	+400
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)	↑	+1,110
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)	—	—
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)	↑	+1,010

(continued)

**Table 7.11 (continued): Most frequently managed problems, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07**

Problem managed	Rate per 100 encounters <sup>(a)</sup> (95% CI)									Change <sup>(b)</sup>	
	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)	↑ ↓	('000)
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)	—	—
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)	↑	+810
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)	↓	–950
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)	↓	–1,150
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)	↑	+810
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)	—	—
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)	—	—
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)	—	—
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)	—	—
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)	—	—
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)	↑	+820
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)	§	—
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)	—	—

(continued)

**Table 7.11 (continued): Most frequently managed problems, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07**

Problem managed	Rate per 100 encounters <sup>(a)</sup> (95% CI)									Change <sup>(b)</sup>	
	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)	↑ ↓	('000)
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)	↑	+300
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)	↑	+300
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)	↓	–220
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)	↑	+610
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)	↑	+300
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)	↓	–730
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)	↓	–210
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)	—	—
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)	↓	–520
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)	↑	+410
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)	↓	–630
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)	↑	+410

(continued)

**Table 7.11 (continued): Most frequently managed problems, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07**

Problem managed	Rate per 100 encounters <sup>(a)</sup> (95% CI)									Change <sup>(b)</sup>	
	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)	↑ ↓	('000)
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)	↓	–520
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)	↓	–620
<b>Total problems</b>	<b>145.3</b> <b>(143.5–147.2)</b>	<b>146.7</b> <b>(144.9–148.6)</b>	<b>144.5</b> <b>(142.8–146.3)</b>	<b>143.4</b> <b>(141.7–145.2)</b>	<b>144.9</b> <b>(143.0–146.8)</b>	<b>146.3</b> <b>(144.4–148.2)</b>	<b>145.5</b> <b>(143.6–147.4)</b>	<b>146.2</b> <b>(144.2–148.2)</b>	<b>148.5</b> <b>(146.4–150.6)</b>	—	—

(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 2006–07 is indicated for each variable: ↑/↓ indicates a statistically significant change, § indicates a non-linear significant or marginal change, and — indicates there was no change. Statistically significant linear changes have been extrapolated to estimate the national change and are reported in thousands in the far right column.

\* Includes multiple ICPC–2 or ICPC–2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 4, <[www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm)>).

Note: CI—confidence interval; NOS—not otherwise specified. Labels in italics indicate that the results reported for that row are a subset, for example, *osteoarthritis* (italics) is a subset of arthritis—all. 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.

## **Most common new problems**

Table 7.12 shows the most frequently managed new problems between 1998–99 and 2006–07. The changes are similar to those noted in Table 7.11. Briefly, there were significant increases in the management rates of general check-up and test results, and a marginal increase in the management of new cases of urinary tract infections; and significant decreases in the management rates of new cases of acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis, acute otitis media/myringitis and otitis externa, and a marginal decrease in the management rate of tonsillitis over the 9 years of the study.

## **Most frequently managed chronic problems**

Table 7.13 shows the most frequently managed chronic problems between 1998–99 and 2006–07. The changes are similar to those noted in Table 7.11. Briefly, there were significant increases in the management rates of hypertension, diabetes, oesophageal disease, malignant skin neoplasm, atrial fibrillation, osteoporosis and hypothyroidism, and marginal increases in the management rates of obesity and dementia from 1998–99 to 2006–07.

Over the same period there were significant decreases in the management rates of asthma and migraine, and a marginal decrease in the management of heart failure. The management rate of chronic arthritis (excluding osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis) decreased. In contrast, the management rate of osteoarthritis showed a marginal increase (95% confidence intervals touching) (Table 7.13).

The management rate of malignant neoplasm of the prostate is interesting. Its management rate had two peaks at 0.8 per 100 encounters in 2000–01 and in 2002–03, significantly higher than in all other years when it was 0.2–0.3 per 100 encounters (Table 7.13).

**Table 7.12: Most frequently managed new problems, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07**

New problem managed	Rate per 100 encounters <sup>(a)</sup> (95% CI)									Change <sup>(b)</sup>	
	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)	↑ ↓	('000)
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)	—	—
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)	—	—
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)	↓	–530
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)	—	—
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)	↑	+510
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)	↑	+200
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)	—	—
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)	—	—
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)	↓	–420
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)	↓	–210
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)	—	—
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)	↑	+310

(continued)

**Table 7.12 (continued): Most frequently managed new problems, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998-99 to 2006-07**

	Rate per 100 encounters <sup>(a)</sup> (95% CI)									Change <sup>(b)</sup>	
	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)	↑ ↓	('000)
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)	↑	+100
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)	↓	-110
<b>Total new problems</b>	<b>54.5</b> <b>(53.0-56.0)</b>	<b>45.3</b> <b>(43.6-46.9)</b>	<b>47.4</b> <b>(45.7-49.0)</b>	<b>55.1</b> <b>(53.8-56.5)</b>	<b>57.0</b> <b>(55.6-58.3)</b>	<b>55.9</b> <b>(54.5-57.3)</b>	<b>55.2</b> <b>(53.8-56.5)</b>	<b>56.9</b> <b>(55.5-58.2)</b>	<b>56.5</b> <b>(55.1-57.9)</b>	—	—

(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 2006-07 is indicated for each variable: ↑/↓ indicates a statistically significant change, ↑/↓ indicates a marginal change, § indicates a non-linear significant or marginal change, and — indicates there was no change. Statistically significant linear changes have been extrapolated to estimate the national change and are reported in thousands in the far right column.

\* Includes multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 4, <[www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm)>).

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 7.13: Most frequently managed chronic problems, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07**

Chronic problem managed	Rate per 100 encounters <sup>(a)</sup> (95% CI)									Change <sup>(b)</sup>	
	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)	↑ ↓	('000)
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)	↑	+1,280
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)	↑	+1,110
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)	—	—
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)	↑	+1,010
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)	↑	+400
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)	↑	+810
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)	↓	–950
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)	§	—
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)	↑	+300
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)	↑	+410
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)	↑	+410
Back complaint*	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)	—	—
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)	—	—

(continued)



**Table 7.13 (continued): Most frequently managed chronic problems, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07**

Chronic problem managed	Rate per 100 encounters <sup>(a)</sup> (95% CI)									Change <sup>(b)</sup>	
	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)	↑ ↓	('000)
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)	↑	+300
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)	↓	–210
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)	↓	–210
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)	↑	+100
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)	—	—
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)	↓	–210
Shoulder syndrome	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	—	—
Anxiety disorder	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	—	—
Rheumatoid arthritis	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	—	—
Dementia	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.3–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	↑	+100
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)	§	—
<b>Total chronic problems</b>	<b>46.5</b> <b>(44.9–48.0)</b>	<b>47.6</b> <b>(45.9–49.3)</b>	<b>47.3</b> <b>(45.8–48.9)</b>	<b>48.4</b> <b>(46.9–49.9)</b>	<b>48.2</b> <b>(46.5–49.8)</b>	<b>50.8</b> <b>(49.0–52.5)</b>	<b>50.8</b> <b>(49.1–52.5)</b>	<b>50.9</b> <b>(49.1–52.8)</b>	<b>52.1</b> <b>(50.4–53.7)</b>	<b>↑</b>	<b>+5,430</b>

(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 2006–07 is indicated for each variable: ↑/↓ indicates a statistically significant change, ↑/↓ indicates a marginal change, § indicates a non-linear significant or marginal change, and — indicates there was no change. Statistically significant linear changes have been extrapolated to estimate the national change and are reported in thousands in the far right column.

\* Includes multiple ICP-2 or ICP-2 PLUS codes (see Appendix 4, <www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm>).

\*\* 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 5 <www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm> 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.