

10 Other treatments

The survey form allowed GPs to record up to two other treatments for each problem managed at the encounter. Other treatments included all clinical and procedural treatments provided. These groups are defined in Appendix 4, <www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/subject/19>. Patient observations that were regarded as routine clinical measurements or observations, such as measurements of blood pressure and physical examinations, were not included.

The GPs were also asked to indicate whether the treatment was undertaken by a practice nurse (tick box). In this chapter all 'other treatments' are reported, irrespective of whether they were done by the GP or by the practice nurse. That is, the non-pharmacological management provided in *general practice* patient encounters is described, rather than management provided specifically by the *general practitioner*. Those treatments provided by the practice nurse are reported separately in Chapter 13.

10.1 Annual results, 2006–07

Number of other treatments

Other treatments were commonly provided in the management of patient morbidity. In 2006–07, a total of 41,011 other treatments were recorded, at a rate of 44.7 per 100 encounters. Two-thirds of these were clinical treatments (Table 10.1).

Table 10.1: Summary of other treatments, 2006–07

	Number	Rate per 100 encs (<i>n</i> = 91,805)	95% LCL	95% UCL	Rate per 100 problems (<i>n</i> = 136,333)	95% LCL	95% UCL
Other treatments	41,011	44.7	42.3	47.0	30.1	28.6	31.5
Clinical treatments	27,084	29.5	27.6	31.4	19.9	18.7	21.1
Procedural treatments	13,927	15.2	14.4	16.0	10.2	9.7	10.7
At least one other treatment	32,424	35.3	33.8	36.9	—	—	—

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

Table 10.2 shows the proportion of problems for which at least one other treatment was given. In summary:

- in nearly two-thirds of the problems that were managed with an other treatment, no concurrent pharmacological treatment was provided
- nearly one in five problems were managed with a clinical treatment. Of these, three in five were not provided with medication for that problem
- a procedure was undertaken in the management of 9.6% of problems, with no pharmacological management given for two-thirds of these problems.

Table 10.2: Relationship between other treatments and pharmacological treatments, 2006–07

Co-management of problems with other treatments	Number of problems	Per cent within class	Per cent of problems (<i>n</i> = 136,333)	95% LCL	95% UCL
At least one other treatment	36,786	100.0	27.0	25.8	28.2
Without pharmacological treatment	23,558	64.0	17.3	16.5	18.0
At least one clinical treatment	24,568	100.0	18.0	17.0	19.1
Without pharmacological treatment	15,305	62.3	11.2	10.6	11.9
At least one procedural treatment	13,139	100.0	9.6	9.2	10.1
Without pharmacological treatment	8,744	66.5	6.4	6.1	6.8

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

Clinical treatments

Clinical treatments include general and specific advice, counselling or education, family planning, and administrative processes. During 2006–07, there were 27,084 clinical treatments recorded at a rate of 30 per 100 encounters, or 20 per 100 problems managed (Table 10.1).

Most frequent clinical treatments

Table 10.3 lists the most common clinical treatments provided. Each treatment is expressed as a percentage of all other treatments and as a rate per 100 encounters with 95% confidence limits.

General advice and education was the most frequently provided clinical treatment, at a rate of 5.7 per 100 encounters. Psychological counselling was provided at a rate of 2.9 per 100 encounters. The most common preventive activity was counselling about nutrition and weight (3.4 per 100 encounters). There were a number of other groups that also could be considered preventive in nature, including counselling/advice for exercise, smoking, lifestyle, alcohol, relaxation and 'prevention'. Together, preventive treatments accounted for 14.1% of all clinical treatments, provided at a rate of 6.4 per 100 encounters (Table 10.3).

Table 10.3: Most frequent clinical treatments, 2006–07

Treatment	Number	Per cent of other treatments (n = 41,011)	Rate per 100 encounters (n = 91,805)	95% LCL	95% UCL
Advice/education*	5,257	12.8	5.7	5.0	6.5
Counselling—problem*	4,017	9.8	4.4	3.7	5.0
Counselling/advice—nutrition/weight*	3,077	7.5	3.4	3.0	3.7
Counselling—psychological*	2,620	6.4	2.9	2.6	3.1
Advice/education—treatment*	2,564	6.3	2.8	2.5	3.1
Advice/education—medication*	1,620	4.0	1.8	1.6	2.0
Sickness certificate*	1,434	3.5	1.6	1.3	1.8
Other admin/document*	1,125	2.7	1.2	1.1	1.4
Counselling/advice—exercise*	1,025	2.5	1.1	1.0	1.3
Reassurance, support	998	2.4	1.1	0.9	1.3
Counselling/advice—smoking*	506	1.2	0.6	0.5	0.6
Counselling/advice—lifestyle*	345	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.5
Counselling/advice—alcohol*	310	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.4
Family planning*	306	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.4
Counselling/advice—relaxation*	269	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.4
Counselling/advice—prevention*	257	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.3
Counselling/advice—pregnancy*	239	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.3
Observe/wait*	236	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.4
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>26,206</i>	<i>63.9</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>
Total clinical treatments	27,084	66.0	29.5	27.6	31.4

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

Note: Includes the most common clinical treatments, those accounting for > 0.5% of all other treatments. LCL—lower confidence limit; UCL—upper confidence limit.

Problems managed with clinical treatments

Table 10.4 lists the top 10 problems managed with a clinical treatment. It also shows the extent to which a clinical treatment was used for that problem and the relationship between the use of a clinical treatment and a medication for individual problems.

- Clinical treatments were provided in the management of 24,568 problems (18.0% of all problems).
- The 10 most common problems managed with a clinical treatment accounted for almost one-third of all problems for which a clinical treatment was provided.
- Depression was the problem most often managed with a clinical treatment, and a clinical treatment was provided at 40.8% of all contacts with depression. Almost half the contacts with depression which involved management with a clinical treatment were not concurrently managed with a medication.
- One-quarter of upper respiratory tract infection contacts involved a clinical treatment, with over half of these encounters managed without medication.
- One in 10 hypertension contacts resulted in a clinical treatment. For half of these a medication was also prescribed, supplied or advised.

- A clinical treatment was used at one-fifth of lipid disorder and diabetes contacts, and approximately two-thirds of these did not involve medication.

Table 10.4: The 10 most common problems managed with a clinical treatment, 2006–07

Problem managed	Number	Per cent of problems with clinical treatment	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (<i>n</i> = 91,805)	95% LCL	95% UCL	Per cent of this problem ^(b)	Per cent of treated problems no meds ^(c)
Depression*	1,378	5.6	1.5	1.4	1.6	40.8	48.7
Upper respiratory tract infection	1,330	5.4	1.5	1.3	1.6	25.2	54.8
Hypertension*	832	3.4	0.9	0.8	1.0	9.5	49.5
Diabetes—all*	760	3.1	0.8	0.7	0.9	22.4	64.2
Lipid disorders	693	2.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	21.8	69.5
Anxiety*	682	2.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	42.8	65.5
Gastroenteritis*	598	2.4	0.7	0.6	0.7	39.1	61.3
Back complaint*	444	1.8	0.5	0.4	0.5	18.5	53.2
Obesity	411	1.7	0.5	0.4	0.5	58.6	86.6
Acute stress reaction	396	1.6	0.4	0.4	0.5	72.1	82.7
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>7,524</i>	<i>30.6</i>	—	—	—	—	—
Total problems	24,568	100.0	26.8	25.1	28.4	—	—

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

(b) Per cent of contacts with this problem that generated at least one clinical treatment.

(c) The numerator is the number of cases of this problem that generated at least one clinical treatment but generated no medications. The denominator is the total number of contacts for this problem that generated at least one clinical treatment (with or without medications).

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

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

Procedural treatments

Procedural treatments included therapeutic actions and diagnostic procedures undertaken at the encounter. Injections for immunisations/vaccinations are not counted here as procedures, as these have already been reported as medications (see Chapter 9). There were 13,927 procedural treatments provided in these general practice encounters during 2006–07 (Table 10.1).

Most frequent procedures

Table 10.5 lists the most common procedural treatments provided by GPs. Each treatment is expressed as a percentage of all other treatments and as a rate per 100 encounters with 95% confidence limits. To find the total number of diagnostic procedures ordered or performed, the numbers of investigations in Table 10.5 need to be added to those in Table 12.6, which reports the most common other investigations ordered by GPs.

Table 10.5: Most frequent procedural treatments, 2006–07

Treatment	Number	Per cent of other treatments (n = 41,011)	Rate per 100 encounters (n = 91,805)	95% LCL	95% UCL
Excision/removal tissue/biopsy/destruction/debridement/cauterisation*	3,072	7.5	3.4	3.0	3.7
Dressing/pressure/compression/tamponade*	2,072	5.1	2.3	2.1	2.4
Local injection/infiltration*(a)	1,746	4.3	1.9	1.7	2.1
Incision/drainage/flushing/aspiration/removal body fluid*	1,159	2.8	1.3	1.1	1.4
Physical medicine/rehabilitation*	1,004	2.5	1.1	0.9	1.3
Repair/fixation-suture/cast/prosthetic device (apply/remove)*	914	2.2	1.0	0.9	1.1
Pap smear*	841	2.1	0.9	0.8	1.0
Other therapeutic procedures/surgery NEC*	674	1.6	0.7	0.6	0.9
Physical function test*	523	1.3	0.6	0.4	0.7
Electrical tracings*	422	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.5
Urine test*	300	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.4
Other preventive procedures/high risk medication*	265	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.3
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>12,990</i>	<i>31.7</i>	—	—	—
Total procedural treatments	13,927	34.0	15.2	14.4	16.0

(a) Excludes all local injection/infiltrations performed for immunisations.

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

Note: Includes the most common procedural treatments, those accounting for > 0.5% of all other treatments. LCL—lower confidence limit; UCL—upper confidence limit; NEC—not elsewhere classified.

Problems managed with a procedural treatment

Table 10.6 lists the top 10 problems managed with a procedural treatment. It also demonstrates the proportion of contacts with each problem that was managed with a procedure and the proportion of problems managed with a procedure that had no concomitant medication.

- A total of 13,139 problems involved a procedural treatment in their management (9.6% of all problems).
- The top 10 problems accounted for less than 40% of all problems for which a procedure was used.
- Solar keratosis/sunburn was the most common problem managed with a procedure, with a procedure undertaken for 70% of all contacts.
- Half the malignant skin neoplasm contacts were managed with a procedural treatment, and the vast majority of these did not have a medication prescribed, supplied or advised.

Table 10.6: The 10 most common problems managed with a procedural treatment, 2006–07

Problem managed	Number	Per cent of problems with procedure	Rate per 100 encs ^(a) (n = 91,805)	95% LCL	95% UCL	Per cent of this problem ^(b)	Per cent of treated problems no meds ^(c)
Solar keratosis/sunburn	826	6.3	0.9	0.8	1.0	69.9	96.1
Female genital check-up*	712	5.4	0.8	0.7	0.9	45.1	97.3
Laceration/cut	675	5.1	0.7	0.6	0.8	78.4	74.7
Excessive ear wax	525	4.0	0.6	0.5	0.6	73.6	94.1
Malignant neoplasm skin	521	4.0	0.6	0.5	0.7	50.0	93.8
Warts	510	3.9	0.6	0.5	0.6	73.3	96.6
Chronic ulcer skin (incl varicose ulcer)	393	3.0	0.4	0.4	0.5	72.4	76.9
General check-up*	255	1.9	0.3	0.2	0.3	11.4	83.8
Sprain/strain*	253	1.9	0.3	0.2	0.3	17.8	47.9
Skin symptom/complaint	244	1.9	0.3	0.2	0.3	46.6	95.5
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>4,914</i>	<i>37.4</i>	—	—	—	—	—
Total problems	13,139	100.0	14.3	13.6	15.0	—	—

(a) Rate of provision of procedural treatment for selected problem per 100 total encounters.

(b) Per cent of contacts with this problem that generated at least one procedural treatment.

(c) The numerator is the number of cases of this problem that generated at least one procedural treatment but generated no medications. The denominator is the total number of contacts (for this problem) that generated at least one procedural treatment (with or without medications).

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

Note: Encs—encounters; LCL—lower confidence limit; UCL—upper confidence limit; meds—medications; incl—including.

10.2 Changes over time, 1998–99 to 2006–07

Clinical treatments

Overall, there has been no change in the rate of clinical treatments provided by GPs when comparing 1998–99 and 2006–07 data. However, comparing the clinical treatment rates for each year demonstrates changes within this period. As the data show (Table 10.7), there was a significant rise between 1998–99 and 2004–05 in the rate of clinical treatments provided. A considerable decrease followed in 2005–06, equating to a 25% decline in clinical treatments provided (from 39.2 per 100 encounters in 2004–05 to 29.2 per 100 in 2005–06). The 2006–07 result has remained consistent with the figures for 2005–06, at a rate of 29.5 per 100 encounters.

The decrease in clinical treatments demonstrated in 2005–06 is reflected in some of the specific types of clinical treatments given. For example, the provision of general advice and education increased overall from 3.5 per 100 encounters in 1998–99 to 5.7 per 100 encounters in 2006–07, but it had peaked at a rate of 7.0 per 100 encounters in 2004–05. In the same way, the provision of advice and education about medication increased significantly between 1998–99 and 2004–05, but then decreased (Table 10.7).

The rate of counselling about a problem increased overall between 1998–99 and 2006–07, from 2.9 per 100 encounters to 4.4 per 100 encounters, but the rate has declined since 2002–03, when it peaked at 5.5 per 100 encounters (Table 10.7).

Some linear changes have occurred in the rates of clinical treatments over time. The provision of advice and education about treatment steadily declined, from a rate of 6.2 per 100 encounters in 1998–99 to a rate of 2.8 per 100 encounters in 2006–07. This equates to more than 3.5 million fewer encounters nationally where this type of advice and education was recorded in 2006–07 than in 1998–99. Reassurance and support also decreased in frequency, equating to 530,000 fewer encounters in 2006–07 where reassurance was recorded than in 1998–99. Other areas where the provision of counselling and advice declined over time include counselling related to health and the body (830,000 fewer encounters in 2006–07 nationally) and counselling about relationships (310,000 fewer encounters nationally in 2006–07 than in 1998–99) (Table 10.7).

There has been a linear increase in the rate of provision of sickness certificates over time, from 0.7 per 100 encounters in 1998–99 to 1.6 per 100 encounters in 2006–07. This equates to an additional 920,000 sickness certificates provided by GPs in 2006–07 than in 1998–99 throughout Australia (Table 10.7).

Some changes have occurred in the rates of use of clinical treatments for specific problems. Gastroenteritis was managed with a clinical treatment less frequently in 2006–07 than in 1998–99. The decrease in rate equates to 210,000 fewer occasions where clinical treatments were recorded in the management of gastroenteritis. There has been no change in the overall management rate of gastroenteritis between 1998–99 and 2006–07 (Table 7.11), so this represents a true decrease in the likelihood of a clinical treatment being given for this problem. Asthma demonstrated a similar trend, with 310,000 fewer occasions nationally where clinical treatments were provided in its management in 2006–07 than in 1998–99. However, an overall decrease of 950,000 encounters at which asthma was managed over this time (Table 7.11) suggests that the likelihood of receiving a clinical treatment when seeing the GP about asthma was higher in 2006–07 than in 1998–99. The management of sprains and strains with clinical treatments also decreased over time, with 110,000 fewer encounters in 2006–07 at which a clinical treatment was provided for the management of this problem than in 1998–99 (Table 10.8).

Clinical treatments were more often provided during a general check-up in 2006–07 than in 1998–99, with 100,000 more encounters with clinical treatments provided nationally in 2006–07. However, there has been a considerable increase in the rate of general check-ups performed over this time (Table 7.11), so this result indicates that the likelihood of a clinical treatment being given at a general check-up encounter has actually dropped. Marginal increases in the provision of clinical treatments were related to the management of tobacco abuse, oesophageal disease, pregnancy and adverse effects of medical agents (Table 10.8).

Procedural treatments

Overall, the rate at which procedural treatments were provided by GPs increased significantly over time, from 11.8 per 100 encounters in 1998–99 to 15.2 per 100 encounters in 2006–07. This equates to an additional 3.4 million encounters at which a procedure was performed in 2006–07 compared with 1998–99 (Table 10.9).

The most marked increase was for local injection/infiltration. The rate for this procedure increased from 0.3 per 100 encounters in 1998–99 to 1.9 per 100 encounters in 2006–07. This equates to an additional 920,000 encounters at which an injection was given in 2006–07. Significant increases also occurred in the recorded rates of physical function tests (performed at 310,000 additional encounters in 2006–07) and urine tests (performed at an additional 100,000 encounters in 2006–07 than in 1998–99) (Table 10.9).

The rate at which pap smears were recorded increased significantly over time, from 0.6 per 100 encounters in 1998–99 to 0.9 per 100 encounters in 2006–07. This equates to an additional 300,000 encounters in 2006–07 at which pap smears were performed compared with 1998–99 (Table 10.9).

There were some procedures performed at marginally higher rates in 2006–07 than in 1998–99 that are of note. The rate of excisions was marginally higher in 2006–07, increasing from a rate of 2.8 per 100 encounters in 1998–99 to 3.4 per 100 encounters in 2006–07. Similarly, the rate of incisions/drainage/flushing/aspiration/removal of body fluids also increased marginally, from 1.0 per 100 encounters to 1.3 per 100 encounters (Table 10.9). The increase in the rate of excisions possibly reflects the increases in the management rates of solar keratosis and malignant skin neoplasms from 1998–99 to 2006–07.

A number of changes were apparent in the most common problems managed with a procedural treatment between 1998–99 and 2006–07 (Table 10.10). Solar keratosis, the problem most often managed with a procedure, has shown a marginal increase in the rate at which a procedure was performed, equating to an additional 200,000 occasions of service nationally at which solar keratosis was managed with a procedure in 2006–07. The likelihood of having a procedure at encounters for solar keratosis/sunburn has not changed over time, with the management and procedure rates increasing at similar levels (Table 7.11). Female genital check-ups were significantly more likely to involve a procedure in 2006–07 than in 1998–99, with an estimated additional 510,000 procedures performed nationally in 2006–07. The likelihood of having a procedure during a female genital check-up also increased. The rate of procedures performed during general check-ups increased significantly, equating to an additional 200,000 procedures performed at general check-ups. However, the likelihood of having a procedure done at a general check-up decreased, because the management rate of general check-ups increased over time at a far greater rate than the rate of procedures performed for this problem (Table 7.11).

Significantly more procedures were performed in the management of vitamin/nutritional deficiency over time, with an additional 100,000 procedures performed nationally for this problem in 2006–07 than in 1998–99 (Table 10.10).

There were fewer procedures performed at encounters for sprains and strains in 2006–07 compared with 1998–99. The decrease equated to 210,000 fewer procedures performed for sprains and strains in 2006–07 than in 1998–99. As discussed previously, the clinical treatment rate for sprains and strains also decreased over time, indicating that the likelihood of having any form of other treatment for a sprain/strain has declined. This may reflect the increasing role of practice nurses, suggesting they are taking over some of the management of sprains and strains independent of the GP–patient encounter (Table 10.10).

Table 10.7: The most frequent clinical treatments, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07

Treatment	Rate per 100 encounters (95% CI)									Change ^(a)	
	1998–99 (n = 96,901)	1999–00 (n = 104,856)	2000–01 (n = 99,307)	2001–02 (n = 96,973)	2002–03 (n = 100,987)	2003–04 (n = 98,877)	2004–05 (n = 94,386)	2005–06 (n = 101,993)	2006–07 (n = 91,805)	↑ ↓	('000)
Advice/education*	3.5 (3.0–4.0)	4.2 (3.7–4.7)	5.8 (5.2–6.4)	6.3 (5.6–7.0)	6.9 (6.1–7.7)	6.8 (6.1–7.6)	7.0 (6.2–7.8)	4.8 (4.1–5.4)	5.7 (5.0–6.5)	§	—
Counselling—problem*	2.9 (2.6–3.3)	3.4 (3.0–3.9)	3.4 (3.0–3.8)	4.7 (4.0–5.3)	5.5 (4.8–6.1)	4.7 (4.1–5.3)	4.2 (3.3–5.0)	4.8 (4.1–5.4)	4.4 (3.7–5.0)	§	—
Counselling/advice— nutrition/weight*	3.8 (3.4–4.1)	4.2 (3.8–4.6)	5.6 (5.0–6.1)	5.5 (5.0–5.9)	5.2 (4.7–5.8)	4.6 (4.2–5.1)	5.3 (4.7–5.9)	3.6 (3.2–4.0)	3.4 (3.0–3.7)	—	—
Advice/education— treatment*	6.2 (5.6–6.8)	6.2 (5.6–6.8)	5.9 (5.3–6.5)	5.1 (4.6–5.6)	4.2 (3.8–4.7)	4.4 (3.8–4.9)	4.6 (4.0–5.1)	3.1 (2.6–3.5)	2.8 (2.5–3.1)	↓	–3,540
Counselling— psychological*	2.5 (2.3–2.7)	2.6 (2.4–2.8)	2.8 (2.6–3.1)	3.2 (2.8–3.5)	2.9 (2.6–3.1)	2.9 (2.6–3.1)	3.2 (2.9–3.5)	3.1 (2.8–3.3)	2.9 (2.6–3.1)	—	—
Advice/education— medication*	2.4 (2.2–2.6)	2.9 (2.6–3.2)	2.6 (2.3–2.9)	2.8 (2.6–3.1)	2.5 (2.2–2.7)	3.4 (3.1–3.7)	3.4 (2.9–3.8)	1.6 (1.4–1.7)	1.8 (1.6–2.0)	§	—
Sickness certificate*	0.7 (0.6–0.9)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	1.1 (0.9–1.3)	1.1 (0.9–1.3)	1.3 (1.1–1.5)	1.0 (0.9–1.2)	1.7 (1.3–2.1)	1.6 (1.4–1.9)	1.6 (1.3–1.8)	↑	+920
Counselling/advice— exercise*	1.4 (1.1–1.6)	1.6 (1.4–1.8)	2.2 (1.9–2.4)	2.1 (1.8–2.3)	1.6 (1.4–1.8)	1.5 (1.3–1.7)	1.9 (1.4–2.3)	1.1 (0.9–1.2)	1.1 (1.0–1.3)	—	—
Reassurance, support	1.6 (1.4–1.8)	1.6 (1.4–1.8)	1.5 (1.3–1.8)	1.5 (1.3–1.7)	1.4 (1.2–1.5)	1.5 (1.3–1.7)	1.6 (1.2–1.9)	1.0 (0.8–1.2)	1.1 (0.9–1.3)	↓	–530
Counselling/advice— smoking*	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.6 (0.6–0.7)	0.8 (0.6–1.0)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	—	—
Counselling/advice— lifestyle*	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.5 (0.3–0.7)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.4 (0.0–1.0)	0.5 (0.3–0.6)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	—	—
Counselling/advice— alcohol*	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.5 (0.2–0.7)	0.3 (0.3–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	—	—
Observe/wait*	1.0 (0.8–1.2)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.7 (0.4–1.0)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.4 (0.0–0.7)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	↓	–730

(continued)

Table 10.7 (continued): The most frequent clinical treatments, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07

Treatment	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)									Change ^(a)	
	1998–99 (n = 96,901)	1999–00 (n = 104,856)	2000–01 (n = 99,307)	2001–02 (n = 96,973)	2002–03 (n = 100,987)	2003–04 (n = 98,877)	2004–05 (n = 94,386)	2005–06 (n = 101,993)	2006–07 (n = 91,805)	↑ ↓	('000)
Family planning*	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.2–0.6)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	—	—
Counselling/advice— prevention*	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.4 (0.1–0.8)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	—	—
Counselling/advice— health/body*	0.8 (0.7–1.0)	0.6 (0.4–0.7)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.4 (0.1–0.6)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	↓	–830
Other admin/document*	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	1.0 (0.9–1.2)	1.5 (1.3–1.6)	1.5 (1.4–1.7)	1.6 (1.4–1.7)	1.8 (1.6–2.0)	1.3 (1.1–1.5)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	1.2 (1.1–1.4)	§	—
Counselling/advice— pregnancy*	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	§	—
Counselling/advice— relaxation*	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	—	—
Counselling/advice—drug abuse*	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.4 (0.1–0.6)	0.3 (0.2–0.5)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.3)	0.2 (0.1–0.3)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	§	—
Counselling/advice— relationship*	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	↓	–310
Counselling/advice— STDs*	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	—	—
Total clinical treatments	31.4 (29.7–33.0)	33.5 (31.8–35.2)	37.2 (35.1–39.3)	38.1 (36.1–40.1)	37.2 (35.0–39.4)	36.6 (34.5–38.8)	39.2 (37.1–41.4)	29.2 (27.3–31.1)	29.5 (27.6–31.4)	§	—

(a) 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 average annual 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>).

Note: CI—confidence interval; admin—administration; STD—sexually transmitted disease.

Table 10.8: The most common problems managed with a clinical treatment, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07

Problem managed	Rate at which a clinical treatment was given, per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)									Change ^(b)	
	1998–99 (n = 96,901)	1999–00 (n = 104,856)	2000–01 (n = 99,307)	2001–02 (n = 96,973)	2002–03 (n = 100,987)	2003–04 (n = 98,877)	2004–05 (n = 94,386)	2005–06 (n = 101,993)	2006–07 (n = 91,805)	↑ ↓	('000)
Depression*	1.6 (1.5–1.8)	1.6 (1.5–1.8)	1.8 (1.6–2.0)	1.7 (1.6–1.9)	1.7 (1.6–1.9)	1.7 (1.6–1.9)	1.8 (1.7–2.0)	1.7 (1.5–1.8)	1.5 (1.4–1.6)	—	—
Upper respiratory tract infection	1.2 (1.1–1.4)	1.4 (1.2–1.6)	1.7 (1.5–1.9)	2.0 (1.7–2.2)	1.8 (1.6–2.0)	1.6 (1.4–1.8)	1.8 (1.5–2.0)	1.6 (1.3–1.8)	1.5 (1.3–1.6)	—	—
Hypertension*	0.9 (0.8–1.1)	1.1 (0.9–1.2)	1.4 (1.2–1.6)	1.4 (1.2–1.5)	1.5 (1.3–1.7)	1.3 (1.1–1.4)	1.3 (1.2–1.5)	1.0 (0.9–1.2)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	—	—
Diabetes—all*	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	—	—
Lipid disorders*	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	1.0 (0.9–1.2)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.8)	—	—
Anxiety*	0.8 (0.7–0.8)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.7 (0.7–0.8)	—	—
Gastroenteritis*	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.7 (0.6–0.7)	0.7 (0.6–0.7)	↓	–210
Back complaint*	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	—	—
Sprain/strain*	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	↓	–110
Test results*	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.3–0.6)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	§	—
Obesity	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	§	—
Acute stress reaction	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	—	—
Asthma	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	↓	–310

(continued)

Table 10.8 (continued): The most common problems managed with a clinical treatment, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07

Problem managed	Rate at which a clinical treatment was given, per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)									Change ^(b)	
	1998–99 (n = 96,901)	1999–00 (n = 104,856)	2000–01 (n = 99,307)	2001–02 (n = 96,973)	2002–03 (n = 100,987)	2003–04 (n = 98,877)	2004–05 (n = 94,386)	2005–06 (n = 101,993)	2006–07 (n = 91,805)	↑ ↓	('000)
Acute bronchitis/ bronchiolitis	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	—	—
Osteoarthritis*	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	—	—
General check-up*	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	↑	+100
Tobacco abuse	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	↑	—
Oesophageal disease	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	↑	—
Pregnancy*	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	↑	—
Adverse effect medical agent	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	↑	—
Urinary tract infection*	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	§	—
Menopausal complaint	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	§	—
Total problems	28.7 (27.3–30.2)	30.4 (28.9–31.9)	32.8 (31.1–34.5)	33.6 (31.9–35.2)	32.8 (31.0–34.7)	32.4 (30.7–34.2)	34.4 (32.6–36.2)	26.7 (25.1–28.3)	26.8 (25.1–28.4)	—	—

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

(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 change, and — indicates there was no change. Statistically significant linear changes have been extrapolated to estimate the national average annual 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>).

Note: CI—confidence interval. This table includes individual problems which had clinical treatments given at a rate of ≥ 0.5 per 100 encounters in any year, and any other statistically significant differences of interest.

Table 10.9: The most frequent procedural treatments, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07

Treatment	Rate per 100 encounters (95% CI)									Change ^(a)	
	1998–99 (n = 96,901)	1999–00 (n = 104,856)	2000–01 (n = 99,307)	2001–02 (n = 96,973)	2002–03 (n = 100,987)	2003–04 (n = 98,877)	2004–05 (n = 94,386)	2005–06 (n = 101,993)	2006–07 (n = 91,805)	↑ ↓	('000)
Excision/removal tissue/ biopsy/destruction/ debridement/cauterisation*	2.8 (2.6–3.0)	3.0 (2.8–3.2)	2.6 (2.4–2.9)	2.7 (2.5–3.0)	2.9 (2.6–3.1)	3.1 (2.7–3.6)	3.3 (3.0–3.6)	3.0 (2.7–3.2)	3.4 (3.0–3.7)	↑	+600
Dressing/pressure/ compression/tamponade*	2.0 (1.8–2.2)	2.2 (2.0–2.3)	1.8 (1.6–1.9)	1.8 (1.7–1.9)	2.0 (1.8–2.1)	1.8 (1.7–2.0)	2.0 (1.8–2.1)	2.1 (1.9–2.3)	2.3 (2.1–2.4)	—	—
Local injection/ infiltration ^(b)	0.3 (0.1–0.5)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	1.2 (0.9–1.4)	1.5 (1.3–1.7)	1.6 (1.4–1.8)	2.0 (1.7–2.2)	2.0 (1.8–2.2)	1.9 (1.7–2.1)	↑	+920
Physical medicine/ rehabilitation*	1.8 (1.5–2.1)	1.7 (1.5–1.8)	2.0 (1.8–2.3)	2.2 (1.9–2.4)	2.1 (1.8–2.4)	1.7 (1.5–1.9)	2.0 (1.7–2.3)	1.4 (1.1–1.6)	1.1 (0.9–1.3)	§	—
Incision/drainage/flushing/ aspiration/removal body fluid*	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	1.1 (1.0–1.2)	1.1 (1.0–1.1)	1.2 (1.0–1.2)	1.1 (1.0–1.2)	1.2 (1.1–1.3)	1.0 (1.0–1.1)	1.3 (1.2–1.4)	1.3 (1.1–1.4)	↑	+300
Pap smear*	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	1.1 (0.9–1.2)	1.1 (0.9–1.3)	1.0 (0.8–1.1)	1.0 (0.8–1.1)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	↑	+300
Repair/fixation—suture/ cast/prosthetic device (apply/remove)*	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	—	—
Other therapeutic procedures/surgery NEC*	0.9 (0.7–1.1)	1.1 (0.8–1.3)	1.1 (0.9–1.4)	1.4 (1.2–1.7)	1.2 (1.0–1.4)	1.1 (0.9–1.3)	1.2 (0.9–1.5)	0.8 (0.6–0.9)	0.7 (0.6–0.9)	—	—
Physical function test*	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.5 (0.3–0.6)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.7)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.6 (0.4–0.7)	↑	+310
Electrical tracings*	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	—	—
Urine test*	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	↑	+100
Glucose test*	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	↓	–210

(continued)

Table 10.9 (continued): The most frequent procedural treatments, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07

Treatment	Rate per 100 encounters (95% CI)									Change ^(a)	
	1998–99 (n = 96,901)	1999–00 (n = 104,856)	2000–01 (n = 99,307)	2001–02 (n = 96,973)	2002–03 (n = 100,987)	2003–04 (n = 98,877)	2004–05 (n = 94,386)	2005–06 (n = 101,993)	2006–07 (n = 91,805)	↑ ↓	('000)
Other diagnostic procedures*	0.0 (0.0–0.1)	0.1 (0.0–0.1)	0.1 (0.0–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.3)	↑	+210
Total procedural treatments	11.8 (11.2–12.5)	12.5 (11.9–13.0)	12.2 (11.6–12.8)	13.8 (13.1–14.5)	14.6 (13.9–15.3)	14.7 (14.0–15.5)	15.5 (14.6–16.4)	14.4 (13.7–15.1)	15.2 (14.4–16.0)	↑	+3,410

(a) 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 change, and — indicates there was no change. Statistically significant linear changes have been extrapolated to estimate the national average annual change and are reported in thousands in the far right column.

(b) Excludes all local injection/infiltrations performed for immunisations.

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

Note: Rates are reported to one decimal place, a rate of 0.0 indicates that the rate is < 0.05 per 100 encounters. CI—confidence interval; NEC—not elsewhere classified.

Table 10.10: The most common problems managed with a procedural treatment, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07

Problem managed	Rate at which a procedural treatment was given, per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)									Change ^(b)	
	1998–99 (n = 96,901)	1999–00 (n = 104,856)	2000–01 (n = 99,307)	2001–02 (n = 96,973)	2002–03 (n = 100,987)	2003–04 (n = 98,877)	2004–05 (n = 94,386)	2005–06 (n = 101,993)	2006–07 (n = 91,805)	↑ ↓	('000)
Solar keratosis/sunburn	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.8 (0.7–0.8)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.8 (0.6–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.9 (0.8–1.1)	0.9 (0.7–1.1)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	↑	+200
Female genital check-up*	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–1.0)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	↑	+510
Excessive ear wax	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	§	—
Malignant neoplasm skin	0.4 (0.2–0.6)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.6 (0.4–0.7)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	—	—
Laceration/cut	0.7 (0.6–0.7)	0.7 (0.6–0.7)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	—	—

(continued)

Table 10.10 (continued): The most common problems managed with a procedural treatment, summary of annual results, BEACH, 1998–99 to 2006–07

Problem managed	Rate at which a procedural treatment was given, per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)									Change ^(b)	
	1998–99 (n = 96,901)	1999–00 (n = 104,856)	2000–01 (n = 99,307)	2001–02 (n = 96,973)	2002–03 (n = 100,987)	2003–04 (n = 98,877)	2004–05 (n = 94,386)	2005–06 (n = 101,993)	2006–07 (n = 91,805)	↑ ↓	('000)
Back complaint*	0.4 (0.3–0.6)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.6)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	§	—
Warts	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	§	—
Chronic ulcer skin (incl varicose ulcer)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	—	—
Sprain/strain*	0.5 (0.4–0.7)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	↓	–210
Asthma	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	↑	+200
Skin complaint	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	↑	+200
General check-up*	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.3)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	↑	+200
Hypertension*	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.1)	0.1 (0.0–0.1)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	↑	+210
Vitamin/nutritional deficiency	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.0)	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.0)	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.0)	0.1 (0.0–0.1)	0.1 (0.0–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	↑	+100
Total problems	11.2 (10.6–11.7)	11.8 (11.3–12.3)	11.5 (10.9–12.1)	13.1 (12.4–13.7)	13.6 (13.0–14.2)	13.7 (13.1–14.4)	14.3 (13.5–15.0)	13.6 (12.9–14.2)	14.3 (13.6–15.0)	↑	+3,110

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

(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 change, and — indicates there was no change. Statistically significant linear changes have been extrapolated to estimate the national average annual 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>).

† Rates are reported to one decimal place. This indicates that the rate is < 0.05 per 100 encounters.

Note: CI—confidence interval; incl—including; UTI—urinary tract infection. This table includes individual problems which had procedural treatments done at a rate of ≥ 0.5 per 100 encounters in any year, and any other statistically significant differences of interest.