

Glossary

Aboriginal	The patient identifies himself or herself as an Aboriginal person.
Activity level	Number of general practice Medicare items claimed during the previous twelve months by a participating general practitioner.
Allied health professionals	Those who provide clinical and other specialised services in the management of patients, including physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dietitians and pharmacists.
Chapters	The main divisions within ICPC-2 PLUS: there are 17 chapters primarily representing the body systems.
Complaint	A symptom or disorder expressed by the patient when seeking care.
Component	In ICPC-PLUS there are seven components which act as a second axis across all chapters.
Consultation	See Encounter
Diagnosis/problem	A statement of the provider's understanding of a health problem presented by a patient, family or community. GPs are instructed to record at the most specific level possible from the information available at the time. It may be limited to the level of symptoms.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• new problem	The first presentation of a problem, including the first presentation of a recurrence of a previously resolved problem but excluding the presentation of a problem first assessed by another provider.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• old problem	A previously assessed problem which requires ongoing care. Includes follow-up for a problem or an initial presentation of a problem previously assessed by another provider.
Drug	See Medication
Drug status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• new	The drug prescribed/advised/provided at the encounter is being used for the management of the problem for the first time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• continuation	The drug prescribed/advised/provided at the encounter is a continuation or repeat of previous therapy for this problem.

Encounter (enc)	Any professional interchange between a patient and a general practitioner:
• indirect	Encounter where there is no face-to-face meeting between the patient and the general practitioner but a service is provided (eg: prescription, referral).
• direct	Encounter where there is a face-to-face meeting of the patient and the general practitioner. Direct encounters can be further divided into encounters covered by,
♦ Medicare	
- surgery consultations	encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 3; 23; 36; 44
- home visits	encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 4; 24; 37; 47
- hospital encounter	encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 19; 33; 40; 50
- nursing home visits	encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 20; 35; 43; 51
- other institutional visits	encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 13; 25; 38; 40
- other MBS encounters	encounters identified by an MBS item number which does not identify place of encounter
♦ Workers compensation	encounters paid by workers' compensation insurance
♦ Other paid	encounters paid from another source (e.g. State).
General practitioner (GP)	A medical practitioner who provides primary comprehensive and continuing care to patients and their families within the community' (Royal Australian College of General Practitioners).
Grouper	Multiple ICPC-2 or ICPC-2 PLUS codes which are grouped together for purposes of analysis.
Medication	Medication which is prescribed, advised for over the counter purchase or provided by the GP at the encounter.
MIMS	A widely distributed bi-monthly index of drugs in medicine.
Morbidity	Any departure, subjective or objective, from a state of physiological well-being. In this sense, sickness, illness and morbid conditions are synonymous.
Patient status	
• new	The patient has not been seen before in the practice.
• old	The patient has attended the practice before.
Problem managed	See Diagnosis
Provider	A person to whom a patient has access when contacting the health care system.

Reasons for encounter (RFEs)	The subjective reasons given by the patient for seeing or contacting the general practitioner. These can be expressed in terms of symptoms, diagnoses or the need for a service.
Recognised GP	<p>A medical practitioner who is vocationally recognised under Section 3F of the Health Insurance Act, <i>or</i></p> <p>a holder of the Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners who participates in, and meets the requirements for, quality assurance and continuing medical education as defined in the RACGP Quality Assurance and Continuing Medical Education Program, <i>or</i></p> <p>undertaking an approved placement in general practice as part of a training program for general practice leading to the award of the Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners or undertaking an approved placement in general practice as part of some other training program recognised by the RACGP as being of equivalent standard. (Medicare Benefits Schedule book, 1 November 1998)</p>
Referral	The process by which the responsibility for part or all of the care of a patient is temporarily transferred to another health care provider. Only new referrals to specialist, allied health professionals, and for hospital and nursing home admissions arising at a recorded encounter are included. Continuation referrals are not included. Multiple referrals can be recorded at any one encounter.
Rubric	An individual code in ICPC-2 PLUS.
Torres Strait Islander	The patient identifies himself or herself as a Torres Strait Islander.
Veterans' Affairs Gold	A person who holds a Gold Card from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.
Veterans' Affairs White	A person who holds a White Card from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.
Work related problem	Irrespective of the source of payment for the consultation, it is likely in the GP's view that the problem has resulted from work-related activity or workplace exposures or that a pre-existing condition has been significantly exacerbated by work activity or workplace exposure.

Abbreviations

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AMA	Australian Medical Association
AMS	Aboriginal Medical Service
AMTS	Australian Morbidity and Treatment Survey 1990–91
ATC	Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (classification)
ATSI	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
BEACH	<u>B</u> ettering the <u>E</u> valuation <u>A</u> nd <u>C</u> are of <u>H</u> ealth
BMI	Body mass index
BP	Blood pressure
CAPS	Coding Atlas for Pharmaceutical Substances
CI	Confidence interval (in this report 95% CIs are used)
CNS	Central nervous system
CT	Computed tomography
CVS	Cardiovascular system
DHAC	Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care
ECG	Electrocardiogram
Enc	Encounter
ENT	Ear, nose and throat
ESR	Erythrocyte sedimentation rate
EUC	Electrolytes, urea, creatinine
FBC	Full blood count
FMRU	Family Medicine Research Unit, Department of General Practice, the University of Sydney (now the Family Medicine Research Centre)
GP	General practitioner
GPII	General Practice Immunisation Incentives
GPSCU	General Practice Statistics and Classification Unit, University of Sydney, a collaborating unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
HBA1C	Glycohaemoglobin whole blood test
HCC	Health care card
HIC	Health Insurance Commission
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
ICHPPC	International Classification of Health Problems in Primary Care
ICPC	International Classification of Primary Care
ICPC-2	International Classification of Primary Care (Version 2)
ICPC-2 PLUS	An extended vocabulary of terms classified according to ICPC-2

IHD	Ischaemic heart disease
LCI	Lower confidence interval
MBS	Medicare Benefits Schedule
MC&S	Microscopy culture and sensitivity
NEC	Not elsewhere classified
NESB	The patient reports coming from a non-English speaking background i.e. a language other than English is spoken at home.
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NOS	Not otherwise specified
NSAID	Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
OA	Osteoarthritis
OTCs	Drugs advised for over the counter purchase
PBS	Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
PDD	Prescribed daily dose
Qld	Queensland
RACGP	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
RFE	Reason for encounter (see Glossary)
RRMA	Rural, remote and metropolitan area classification
RSE	Relative standard error
SA	South Australia
SAND	Supplementary analysis of nominated data
Tas	Tasmania
UCI	Upper confidence interval
URTI	Upper respiratory tract infection
UTI	Urinary tract infection
VA	Veterans' Affairs
Vic	Victoria
WA	Western Australia
WHO	World Health Organisation
WONCA	World Organisation of Family Doctors

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