

Abbreviations

ACE-inhibitor	angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor
Ag	antigen
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ATC	anatomical therapeutic chemical (classification)
A&TSI	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
BEACH	Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health
BMI	body mass index
BP	blood pressure
C&S	culture and sensitivity
CAPS	Coding Atlas for Pharmaceutical Substances
CNS	central nervous system
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CT	computed tomography
CV	cardiovascular
CVS	cardiovascular system
DHAC	Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care
ECG	electrocardiogram
ESR	erythrocyte sedimentation rate
EUC	electrolytes, urea, creatinine
GP	general practitioner
HbA1c	glycohaemoglobin whole blood test
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
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
MBS	Medicare Benefits Schedule
MC&S	microscopy culture and sensitivity
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging
NEC	not elsewhere classified
NESB	non-English-speaking background
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NOS	not otherwise specified
NSAID	nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
OGTT	oral glucose tolerance test

OTCs	medications advised for over-the-counter purchase
PVD	peripheral vascular disease
RACGP	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
RFE	reason for encounter
RICE	rest, ice, compression, elevation
RRMA	rural remote metropolitan area
SAND	Supplementary Analysis of Nominated Data
STD	sexually transmitted disease
TIA	transient ischaemic attack
URTI	upper respiratory tract infection
US	ultrasound
UTI	urinary tract infection
WHO	World Health Organization
WONCA	World Organisation of Family Doctors

Glossary

Aboriginal	The patient identifies himself or herself as an Aboriginal person.
Activity level	Number of general practice Medicare items claimed during the previous 12 months by a general practitioner.
Allied health professionals	Those who provide clinical and other specialised services to patients, including dietitians, pharmacists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists.
Consultation	See <i>Encounter</i> .
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 to any medical practitioner, including the first presentation of a recurrence of a previously resolved problem.
<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.
Encounter (enc)	Any professional interchange between a patient and a general practitioner:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Medicare, including	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><ul style="list-style-type: none">- surgery consultations	encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 3; 23; 36; 44
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><ul style="list-style-type: none">- home visits	encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 4; 24; 37; 47
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><ul style="list-style-type: none">- hospital encounter	encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 19; 33; 40; 50
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><ul style="list-style-type: none">- nursing home visits	encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 20; 35; 43; 51
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><ul style="list-style-type: none">- other institutional visits	encounters identified by any one of MBS item numbers 13; 25; 38; 40
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><ul style="list-style-type: none">- other encounters	encounters identified by an MBS item number which does not identify place of encounter.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Workers' compensation	Encounters paid by workers' compensation insurance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Other	Encounters paid from other sources (e.g. State health departments).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indirect 	Encounter where there is no physical or face-to-face meeting between the patient and the general practitioner but a service is provided (e.g. prescription, referral).
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).
Medication	Medication which is prescribed, advised for over-the-counter purchase or provided by the GP at the encounter.
Medication status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new 	The medication 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 medication prescribed/advised/provided at the encounter is a continuation or repeat of previous therapy for this problem.
Morbidity	Any departure, subjective or objective, from a state of physiological wellbeing. In this sense, sickness, illness and morbid conditions are synonymous.
NESB	The patient reports coming from a non-English-speaking background, i.e. primary language spoken at home is not English.
OTCs	Medications advised for over-the-counter purchase.
Patient status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new • old 	The patient has not been seen before in the practice. The patient has attended the practice before.
Problem	See <i>Diagnosis/problem</i> .
Provider	A person to whom a patient has access when contacting the health care system.
Reason for encounter (RFE)	The subjective reason given by the patient for seeing or contacting the general practitioner. It can be expressed in terms of symptoms, diagnoses or the need for a service.
Recognised GP	A medical practitioner who is: vocationally recognised under Section 3F of the Health Insurance Act, or 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, or 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 1999).

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 specialists, allied health professionals, emergency departments and 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.

Torres Strait Islander

The patient identifies himself or herself as a Torres Strait Islander.

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AIHW web site

Information on cardiovascular disease, its treatment and risk factors can be found on the Cardiovascular Health portal and the National Cardiovascular Disease Database, both located on the Institute's web site <http://www.aihw.gov.au>