

---

## 5A General practice — attachment

Definitions for the indicators and descriptors in this attachment are in section 5A.2. Unsourced information was obtained from Commonwealth, State or Territory Governments.

The data contained in this attachment may be subject to revision. The web page version of the Report contains the most up-to-date data where changes have occurred. This attachment can be found at [www.pc.gov.au/service/gsp/2000/attach5A.pdf](http://www.pc.gov.au/service/gsp/2000/attach5A.pdf). Users without Internet access can contact the Secretariat (details inside front cover of the Report).

### 5A.1 All jurisdictions' data — general practice

#### Descriptors

Table 5A.1 **GPs billing Medicare, by jurisdiction and type of practitioner, 1998-99 (number)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
General practitioners	6 409	4 457	3 270	1 756	1 636	524	180	347	18 579
Other medical practitioners	1 620	1 460	1 286	571	384	131	79	66	5 597
Specialists	6 285	4 660	2 949	1 473	1 640	365	99	303	17 774
Total	14 314	10 577	7 505	3 800	3 660	1 020	358	716	41 950

Source: DHAC (1999a).

Table 5A.2 **Full time workload equivalent GPs billing Medicare, by jurisdiction (number)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
1991-92	5 219	3 432	2 475	1 136	1 213	341	201	73	14 090
1992-93	5 388	3 618	2 605	1 201	1 244	352	215	76	14 697
1993-94	5 573	3 764	2 741	1 254	1 289	362	219	77	15 279

(Continued on next page)

**Table 5A.2 (Continued)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
1994-95	5 680	3 871	2 818	1 301	1 278	370	223	87	15 629
1995-96	5 790	3 959	2 884	1 368	1 292	368	225	85	15 971
1996-97	5 787	4 060	2 992	1 381	1 298	372	225	86	16 200
1997-98	5 867	4 003	3 076	1 402	1 318	361	235	90	16 353
1998-99	5 755	4 034	3 101	1 392	1 318	357	226	87	16 268

Source: DHAC (1999 — GP Branch unpublished).

**Table 5A.3 Proportion of all GPs who observed the schedule fee for unreferral attendances (per cent)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
1990-91	81.2	71.5	78.8	75.0	75.0	70.1	61.2	62.0	76.7
1991-92	82.6	76.2	79.6	77.8	77.5	71.9	63.8	63.9	79.1
1992-93	84.2	79.4	81.7	80.2	78.9	74.1	65.2	65.2	81.2
1993-94	85.6	81.9	83.3	82.1	80.3	74.7	67.6	66.8	82.9
1994-95	85.9	82.7	84.0	82.3	80.1	74.5	67.8	68.6	83.4
1995-96	86.7	83.8	85.1	83.8	81.0	75.7	67.5	70.9	84.4
1996-97	86.5	84.3	85.4	84.1	81.1	76.3	68.4	71.0	84.5
1997-98	85.5	83.4	84.8	82.2	80.0	74.0	68.3	69.1	83.5
1998-99	85.2	83.1	84.7	81.3	79.6	72.4	68.1	66.7	83.2

Source: DHAC (1999a).

**Table 5A.4 Benefits paid for GP psychiatric service referrals (dollars per person)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Sep 1998	2.04	2.71	1.87	2.24	2.75	1.64	1.46	0.35	2.21
Dec 1998	1.83	2.49	1.77	1.21	2.67	1.65	1.26	0.32	1.96
Mar 1999	1.83	2.32	1.74	1.09	2.37	1.47	1.18	0.34	1.87
Jun 1999	1.99	2.60	1.82	1.17	2.67	1.70	1.27	0.41	2.05

Source: Health Insurance Commission (unpublished — 9 November 1999).

**Table 5A.5 Benefits paid for GP initial specialist referrals (dollars per person)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Sep 1998	4.97	4.14	3.14	3.23	4.21	3.51	3.60	1.36	4.10
Dec 1998	4.61	3.74	3.00	3.24	4.10	3.29	3.44	1.50	3.84
Mar 1999	4.70	3.72	3.08	3.09	3.94	3.07	3.44	1.46	3.85
Jun 1999	4.94	4.06	3.03	3.31	4.20	3.31	3.54	1.65	4.05

Source: Health Insurance Commission (unpublished — 9 November 1999).

**Table 5A.6 Benefits paid for GP subsequent specialist referrals (dollars per person)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Sep 1998	4.92	4.93	3.39	3.05	5.10	3.85	3.45	1.31	4.39
Dec 1998	4.78	4.78	3.36	3.20	5.17	3.78	3.60	1.38	4.32
Mar 1999	4.57	4.53	3.25	2.92	4.71	3.37	3.33	1.33	4.08
June 1999	4.89	4.99	3.30	3.19	5.12	3.64	3.58	1.41	4.38

Source: Health Insurance Commission (unpublished — 9 November 1999).

**Table 5A.7 BEACH Survey Report: patient characteristics<sup>a</sup>**

<i>Patients</i>	<i>Sample size (n)</i>	<i>Rate per 100 encounters<sup>b</sup></i>
Number of patients	96 901	
Gender		
Males	39 873	41.14
Females	57 042	58.86
Missing gender	1 474	na
Age		
<1 year	2 238	2.3
1–4 years	5 075	5.21
5–14 years	6 992	7.18
15–24 years	9 477	9.73
25–44 years	25 178	25.84
45–64 years	23 744	24.37
65–74 years	12 280	12.6
>75 years	12 465	12.79
Missing age	1 022	na
Ethnicity/Aboriginality		
Non-English speaking background	13 195	13.77
Aboriginal	1 006	1.02
Torres Strait Islander	102	0.1
Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander	38	0.04
Status		
New to practice	9 409	9.69
Seen previously	87 674	90.31
Status missing	1 312	na

<sup>a</sup> Survey period was April 1998 to March 1999. <sup>b</sup> Encounters define the different types of services provided by the participating GPs during the course of their recording period. **na** Not available.

Source: Britt et al., (1999).

**Table 5A.8 BEACH Survey Report: top 30 reasons for encounter<sup>a, b</sup>**

<i>Reasons given for encounter<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>Sample size (n)</i>	<i>% of total reasons for encounters</i>	<i>Rate per 100 encounters</i>
Prescription all*	7 946.1	5.61	8.20
Cough	6 019.0	4.25	6.21
Cardiac check-up*	4 986.0	3.52	5.15
Immunisation all*	4 742.2	3.35	4.89
Throat symptom/complaint	3 696.2	2.61	3.81
Back complaint*	3 461.1	2.44	3.57
Rash*	3 357.4	2.37	3.46
General check-up*	3 032.0	2.14	3.13
Upper respiratory infection, acute	2 794.5	1.97	2.88
Hypertension*	2 231.3	1.57	2.30
Abdominal pain*	2 174.4	1.53	2.24
Depression*	2 047.2	1.44	2.11
Pain, ear/earache	1 881.7	1.33	1.94
Headache	1 875.5	1.32	1.94
Test results*	1 874.1	1.32	1.93
Fever	1 767.5	1.25	1.82
Female genital check-up*	1 651.9	1.17	1.70
Weakness/tiredness general	1 515.5	1.07	1.56
Diarrhoea	1 354.6	0.96	1.40
Asthma	1 327.1	0.94	1.37
Sneezing/nasal congestion	1 307.0	0.92	1.35
Pain, chest NOS	1 268.9	0.90	1.31
Knee symptom/complaint	1 199.9	0.85	1.24
Skin symptom/complaint	1 192.3	0.84	1.23
Foot and toe symptom/complaint	1 161.7	0.82	1.20
Sleep disturbance	1 148.6	0.81	1.19
Pre/post natal*	1 148.5	0.81	1.19
Neck symptom/complaint	1 140.9	0.80	1.18
Anxiety*	1 092.5	0.77	1.13
Swelling*	1 079.5	0.76	1.11
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>71 475</i>	<i>50.42</i>	
<b>Total problems</b>	<b>141 766</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>146.30</b>

<sup>a</sup> Survey period was April 1998 to March 1999. <sup>b</sup> This reflects the patients' expressed demand for care as perceived and recorded by the GP (maximum of three per encounter). <sup>c</sup> The problem label is the individual International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC) rubric label unless denoted by \*, which indicates a grouping of multiple ICPC rubrics under the same problem (concept) label.

Source: Britt et al., (1999).

Table 5A.9 **BEACH Survey Report: problems managed by participating GPs according to ICPC chapter<sup>a, b</sup>**

<i>Problem managed</i>	<i>Sample size (n)</i>	<i>% of total problems</i>	<i>Rate per 100 encounters</i>
Respiratory	23 554	16.73	24.31
Musculoskeletal	16 404	11.65	16.93
Skin	15 976	11.34	16.49
Circulatory	15 638	11.10	16.14
General and unspecified	12 775	9.07	13.18
Psychological	10 142	7.20	10.47
Digestive	9 926	7.05	10.24
Endocrine and metabolic	8 534	6.06	8.81
Female genital system	6 073	4.31	6.27
Ear	4 757	3.38	4.91
Pregnancy and family planning	3 927	2.79	4.05
Neurological	3 898	2.77	4.02
Urology	2 754	1.96	2.84
Eye	2 720	1.93	2.81
Blood	1 642	1.17	1.69
Male genital systems	1 364	0.97	1.41
Social problems	742	0.53	0.77
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>140 824</i>	<i>100.00</i>	
<b>Total problems</b>	<b>140 824</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>145.33</b>

<sup>a</sup> Survey period was April 1998 to March 1999 <sup>b</sup> ICPC = International Classification of Primary Care.

Source: Britt et al., (1999).

Table 5A.10 **BEACH Survey Report: top 30 problems managed by participating GPs<sup>a</sup>**

<i>Problem label<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Sample size (n)</i>	<i>% of total problems</i>	<i>Rate per 100 encounters</i>
Hypertension*	8 042	5.71	8.30
Upper respiratory infection, acute	6 623	4.70	6.83
Immunisation all*	5 025	3.57	5.19
Depression*	3 367	2.39	3.47
Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis	3 185	2.26	3.29
Asthma	3 079	2.19	3.18
Back complaint*	2 816	2.00	2.91
Diabetes – unspecified*	2 473	1.76	2.55
Lipid disorder	2 393	1.70	2.47
Osteoarthritis*	2 118	1.50	2.19
Rash*	2 106	1.50	2.17
Sprain/strain*	1 790	1.27	1.85
Dermatitis, contact/allergic	1 778	1.26	1.83

(Continued on next page)

Table 5A.10 (Continued)

<i>Problem label<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Sample size (n)</i>	<i>% of total problems</i>	<i>Rate per 100 encounters</i>
Acute otitis media/myringitis	1 746	1.24	1.80
Anxiety*	1 639	1.16	1.69
Sleep disturbance	1 580	1.12	1.63
Urinary tract infection*	1 569	1.11	1.62
Female genital check-up*	1 566	1.11	1.62
Sinusitis acute/chronic	1 513	1.07	1.56
General check-up*	1 501	1.07	1.55
Oesophagus disease	1 445	1.03	1.49
Menopausal symptom/complaint	1 428	1.01	1.47
Tonsillitis*	1 422	1.01	1.47
Prescription all*	1 360	0.97	1.40
Viral disease, other/NOS	1 284	0.91	1.32
Cardiac check-up*	1 204	0.86	1.24
Arthritis*	1 097	0.78	1.13
Ischaemic heart disease without angina	1 054	0.75	1.09
Fracture*	1 051	0.75	1.08
Gastroenteritis, presumed infection	1 047	0.74	1.08
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>68 298</i>	<i>48.5</i>	
<b>Total problems</b>	<b>140 824</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>145.30</b>

<sup>a</sup> Survey period was April 1998 to March 1999. <sup>b</sup> The problem label is the individual International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC) rubric label unless denoted by \*, which indicates a grouping of multiple ICPC rubrics under the same problem (concept) label.

Source: Britt et al., (1999).

## Effectiveness

### Outcomes

#### Disease prevention

Table 5A.11 Proportion of valid episodes, by immunisation provider, 1997-98 (per cent)<sup>a</sup>

<i>Provider type</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Individual general practitioners	80.66	43.89	0.82	53.74	65.47	84.10	30.10	0.91	47.93
General practice <sup>b</sup>	0.50	1.25	81.20	2.73	1.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.57
Public hospital	3.85	0.25	4.30	5.99	6.62	0.10	0.97	1.30	3.10
Private hospital	0.25	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09
Aboriginal health service	0.32	1.33	1.00	0.55	0.26	0.00	0.10	0.81	0.73
Community health centre	7.00	0.59	4.10	24.04	6.80	0.05	0.84	98.54	8.60

(Continued on next page)

Table 5A.11 (Continued)

Provider type	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Division of general practice	0.18	0.00	-0.09	1.19	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18
Local government council	7.23	52.68	9.20	8.29	17.48	15.75	0.00	0.00	19.55
State health department	0.00	0.00	-0.22	4.79	0.06	0.00	67.99	0.01	2.06
Flying doctor service	0.01	0.00	0.45	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>a</sup> Each vaccine administered to a child by a recognised immunisation provider (generally a number of episodes are included in an encounter). <sup>b</sup> A group of medical practitioners who have registered at the practice level. One registration number has been allocated for use by all providers at the practice for the purpose of the ACIR.

Source: Health Insurance Commission (1999).

Table 5A.12 Proportion of children turning 12 months of age who were immunised<sup>a, b</sup>

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Fully immunised									
30 June 1997	73.2	80.1	80.6	66.9	77.0	76.0	77.4	61.7	75.9
30 June 1998	82.3	86.2	85.8	83.2	85.3	86.2	85.0	76.0	84.3
30 June 1999	84.3	87.7	88.4	86.2	89.0	87.0	89.0	82.9 <sup>d</sup>	86.5
Immunised against (at 30 June 1999)									
Diphtheria/tetanus	86.2	89.4	89.4	87.2	90.2	88.4	89.5	85.9	88.1
Whooping cough	86.2	89.3	89.3	87.2	90.1	88.2	89.5	85.9	88.0
Diphtheria/tetanus/ whooping cough	86.1	89.3	89.3	87.2	90.0	88.2	89.5	85.9	88.0
Polio	86.0	89.2	89.2	87.3	90.1	88.0	89.5	85.2	87.9
Hib <sup>c</sup>	85.4	88.6	89.7	87.2	89.8	87.6	89.1	89.0	87.7

<sup>a</sup> Only vaccines administered before 12 months are included in the coverage calculation. <sup>b</sup> Fully immunised children are those who have been vaccinated against diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis, polio and Hib

<sup>c</sup> Haemophilus influenzae type b. <sup>d</sup> Estimates of immunisation coverage rates from the NT Government, based on the Territory's Childhood Immunisation Database, are 89 per cent.

Source: Health Insurance Commission (unpublished — 30 September 1999).

Table 5A.13 Proportion of children turning 24 months who were immunised<sup>a, b</sup>

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Fully immunised									
30 June 1998	63.8	67.7	72.8	59.2	65.6	67.0	69.7	50.7	66.1
30 June 1999	72.2	77.3	81.1	73.4	76.8	77.1	83.8	67.1	75.9
Immunised against (at 30 June 1999)									
Diphtheria/tetanus	82.1	84.8	86.8	81.9	85.6	85.1	87.0	75.0	84.0
Whooping cough	82.0	84.8	86.7	81.8	85.4	85.2	87.0	75.0	83.9
Diphtheria/tetanus/ whooping cough	81.9	84.7	86.7	81.8	85.4	85.1	87.0	75.0	83.8
Polio	87.9	91.0	91.3	88.3	92.2	91.8	91.7	86.9	89.8

(Continued on next page)

**Table 5A.13 (Continued)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Hib <sup>c</sup>	82.1	84.4	87.0	82.0	83.9	83.8	86.7	82.8	83.8
Measles/mumps/ rubella	86.5	89.7	90.8	87.8	90.1	90.2	91.2	87.3	88.7

<sup>a</sup> Only vaccines administered before 24 months are included in the coverage calculation. <sup>b</sup> Fully immunised children are those who have been vaccinated against diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis, polio and Hib and measles/mumps and rubella. <sup>c</sup> Haemophilus influenzae type b.

Source: Health Insurance Commission (unpublished — 30 September 1999).

**Table 5A.14 Notifications of whooping cough received by State/Territory health authorities (number)<sup>a, b</sup>**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
1994	1 534	447	1 937	568	982	26	19	138	5 651
1995	1 342	376	1 416	448	389	118	34	174	4 297
1996	1 112	1 201	766	183	690	30	33	16	4 031
1997	4 094	1 679	1 785	1 163	1 689	119	115	24	10 668
1998	2569	1 151	1 465	380	701	56	87	23	6432
1999 <sup>c</sup>	581	518	536	38	106	48	48	2	1 877
Notifications per 1000 persons aged 0 – 14 years <sup>d</sup>									
1994	1.2	0.5	2.8	1.5	3.3	0.2	0.3	2.9	1.5
1995	1.0	0.4	2.0	1.2	1.3	1.1	0.5	3.6	1.1
1996	0.9	1.3	1.1	0.5	2.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	1.0
1997	3.1	1.8	2.4	3.0	5.6	1.1	1.7	0.5	2.7
1998	2.0	1.2	2.0	1.0	2.4	0.5	1.3	0.5	1.6
1999	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.0	0.5

<sup>a</sup> Whooping cough is pertussis. <sup>b</sup> Data for 1998 and 1999 are provisional and may be revised. <sup>c</sup> At 20 July 1999. <sup>d</sup> ABS, *Estimated Resident Population, by Age* (cat. no. 3201.0).

Source: NNDSS (1999).

**Table 5A.15 Notifications of Haemophilus influenzae type b received by State/Territory health authorities (number)<sup>a</sup>**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
1994	62	32	38	11	19	4	1	1	168
1995	29	14	9	5	6	5	1	5	74
1996	13	11	11	1	7	1	2	5	51
1997	18	6	15	6	2	2	0	4	53
1998	11	5	11	5	1	2	0	0	35
1999 <sup>b</sup>	7	1	8	3	2	0	0	3	24

<sup>a</sup> Data for 1998 and 1999 are provisional and may be revised. <sup>b</sup> At 3 August 1999.

Source: NNDSS (1999).

**Table 5A.16 Notifications of measles received by State/Territory health authorities (number)<sup>a</sup>**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
1994	1 504	177	2 483	133	70	32	114	402	4 915
1995	649	150	251	58	5	53	48	110	1 324
1996	204	96	93	33	13	23	10	26	498
1997	260	91	261	83	29	38	79	11	852
1998	125	36	44	50	5	36	10	1	307
1999 <sup>b</sup>	23	88	19	15	4	8	5	4	166
Notifications of measles per 1000 people aged 0 – 14 years <sup>c</sup>									
1994	1.2	0.2	3.6	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.7	8.5	1.3
1995	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.7	2.3	0.3
1996	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.1
1997	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.4	1.2	0.2	0.2
1998	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1
1999	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0

<sup>a</sup> Data for 1998 and 1999 are provisional and may be revised. <sup>b</sup> At 3 August 1999. <sup>c</sup> ABS, *Estimated Resident Population, by Age* (cat. no. 3201.0).

Source: NNDSS (1999).

**Table 5A.17 Participation rates of women in cervical cancer screening programs, 1997 and 1998 (per cent)**

<i>Age group (years)</i>	<i>NSW<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
20–24	48.2	48.8	na	54.5	55.8	65.3	52.5	58.4	50.6
25–29	62.6	66.4	na	68.1	69.4	72.4	66.5	65.0	65.4
30–34	65.7	71.5	na	71.3	71.6	72.3	70.2	65.6	69.0
35–39	66.6	74.9	na	73.2	72.5	72.7	70.8	67.5	70.8
40–44	65.4	74.6	na	71.4	72.0	70.2	71.7	64.4	69.8
45–49	64.3	75.6	na	69.6	71.0	69.8	72.8	69.5	69.4
50–54	66.1	80.7	na	72.0	74.0	70.9	79.4	65.8	72.5
55–59	56.6	70.8	na	62.3	65.0	60.4	71.3	61.8	62.9
60–64	48.3	61.6	na	57.0	59.0	53.4	63.2	48.4	54.9
65–69	36.4	51.3	na	45.1	46.6	41.5	50.2	38.7	43.4
70–74	17.0	26.2	na	20.2	12.8	14.7	22.1	22.4	22.4
75–79	8.2	11.9	na	9.1	na	6.6	10.6	14.6	8.5
80–84	4.0	6.0	na	4.3	na	3.3	4.9	8.8	4.2
85 + <sup>d</sup>	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
All ages	53.7	61.0	na	60.7	60.8	58.8	64.2	65.7	57.7
AS Rate (A) <sup>e</sup>	54.2	62.3	na	60.0	60.2	60.7	61.3	57.0	58.4
20-69	60.1	68.1	na	66.4	67.2	67.5	67.4	63.9	63.9
AS Rate (A) <sup>e</sup>	59.4	67.8	na	65.7	66.7	66.9	67.0	62.0	63.8

<sup>a</sup> All women aged 70 years or more are grouped in the category women aged 70-74 years. <sup>b</sup> Queensland Health Pap Smear Register began operations in February 1999; no data is available for this report. <sup>c</sup> The ACT register contains only women with an ACT address. <sup>d</sup> Rates cannot be calculated for the 85+ age group because hysterectomy fractions are not available for this age group. <sup>e</sup> Rates are expressed per 100 000 women and are age standardised to the Australian 1991 population. **na** Not available.

Source: AIHW (unpublished data).

## Chronic illness management

**Table 5A.18 GP ordered scripts for anti-depressants ('000)**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
1992-93	1305	994	751	282	376	110	39	11	3868
1993-94	1441	1106	859	322	411	120	50	13	4320
1994-95	1554	1200	948	371	447	132	60	15	4727
1995-96	1769	1361	1084	460	503	157	73	19	5424
1996-97	1947	1500	1210	540	560	172	82	22	6034
1997-98	2173	1675	1376	623	617	194	97	26	6781
1998-99	2416	1892	1549	720	687	222	114	29	7628
Annual growth rate %	10.8	11.3	12.8	16.9	10.6	12.4	19.5	17.2	12.0
Number per 1000 persons aged 15 years and over <sup>a</sup>									
1992-93	279	283	320	221	325	303	173	92	283
1993-94	306	313	356	249	354	329	214	102	312
1994-95	326	339	383	282	384	361	256	122	338
1995-96	367	381	426	342	430	426	308	147	382
1996-97	398	415	465	394	477	467	343	167	419
1997-98	438	458	518	444	522	526	403	187	464
1998-99	481	510	571	502	577	599	469	206	514

<sup>a</sup> ABS, *Estimated Resident Population, by Age* (cat. no. 3201.0).

Source: Health Insurance Commission (unpublished — November 1999).

**Table 5A.19 GP ordered scripts for anxiolytics ('000)**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
1992-93	1120	759	641	189	291	113	20	6	3139
1993-94	1106	777	641	193	291	114	22	7	3151
1994-95	1095	799	640	199	296	118	24	7	3179
1995-96	1089	830	657	210	301	122	24	8	3243
1996-97	1085	849	667	217	300	122	25	9	3275
1997-98	1074	843	667	221	300	125	26	10	3267
1998-99	1082	873	677	240	308	128	29	8	3345
Annual growth rate %	-0.6	2.4	0.9	4.1	1.0	2.0	5.9	4.5	1.1
Number per 1000 persons aged 15 years and over <sup>a</sup>									
1992-93	239	216	273	148	251	313	90	51	230
1993-94	235	220	266	149	251	314	95	53	228
1994-95	230	226	259	151	254	321	103	57	227
1995-96	226	232	259	156	258	333	103	66	229
1996-97	222	235	256	158	255	332	106	69	227
1997-98	217	231	251	157	254	339	108	75	224
1998-99	215	235	250	168	259	346	118	57	226

<sup>a</sup> ABS, *Estimated Resident Population, by Age* (cat. no. 3201.0).

Source: Health Insurance Commission (unpublished — November 1999).

---

### *Gatekeeping to secondary care*

See table 4A.10.

### *Prescribing and diagnosis*

**Table 5A.20 Benefits paid for selected referrals ordered by GPs, 1998-99  
(dollars per person)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Pathology tests	37.62	32.81	42.50	33.92	24.05	30.92	31.21	23.20	35.45
Diagnostic imaging	36.61	29.79	31.33	30.41	24.56	27.39	27.15	13.49	31.74

Source: Health Insurance Commission (unpublished — November 1999).

### *Quality*

**Table 5A.21 Full time workload equivalent GPs with vocational registration**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Full time workload equivalent GPs with vocational registration (no.)									
1991-92	3 359	2 331	1 822	759	920	250	154	29	9 623
1992-93	4 664	3 140	2 322	1 041	1 094	311	192	56	12 820
1993-94	4 909	3 303	2 506	1 134	1 154	338	204	61	13 610
1994-95	5 109	3 470	2 616	1 182	1 172	346	205	76	14 176
1995-96	5 210	3 529	2 663	1 234	1 172	348	211	73	14 439
1996-97	5 187	3 592	2 763	1 241	1 200	347	213	76	14 619
1997-98	5 260	3 544	2 833	1 277	1 225	335	222	77	14 772
1998-99	5 229	3 596	2 648	1 275	1 222	327	215	78	14 790
Proportion of full time workload equivalent GPs with vocational registration (%)									
1991-92	64.4	67.9	73.6	66.7	75.9	73.5	76.6	39.9	68.3
1992-93	86.6	86.8	89.1	86.7	88.0	88.3	89.4	74.4	87.2
1993-94	88.1	87.8	91.4	90.4	89.5	93.3	93.1	79.4	89.1
1994-95	89.9	89.6	92.8	90.8	91.7	93.3	92.0	87.1	90.7
1995-96	90.0	89.1	92.3	90.2	90.7	94.4	94.1	85.1	90.4
1996-97	89.6	88.5	92.3	89.8	92.5	93.3	95.0	88.5	90.2
1997-98	89.7	88.5	92.1	91.1	92.9	92.6	94.1	85.9	90.3
1998-99	90.9	89.1	91.8	91.6	92.8	91.7	95.0	89.5	90.9

Source: DHAC (1999 — GP Branch unpublished).

**Table 5A.22 Proportion of practices under the Practice Incentives Program with electronic information or management systems, November 1999 (per cent)**

	<i>Electronic prescribing</i>	<i>Electronic connectivity</i>
Capital city	56	73
Other major metropolitan	63	77
Large rural city	71	84
Small rural city	66	81
Other rural area	68	83
Large remote centre	57	82
Other remote area	47	78
Total	59	76

Source: Health Insurance Commission (unpublished — 29 November 1999).

**Table 5A.23 Practices registered for accreditation, October 1999 (per cent)**

<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
35.0	64.2	64.4	48.6	61.7	62.6	40.2	26.4	49.7

Source: AGPAL (1999).

### *Access and equity*

**Table 5A.24 Proportion of bulk billed attendances provided by recognised GPs (per cent)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
1993-94	80.3	74.5	76.7	75.5	70.1	61.9	62.6	64.2	76.2
1994-95	81.4	76.1	78.5	76.5	71.2	63.4	62.7	65.7	77.5
1995-96	82.9	77.8	80.3	79.1	73.3	65.7	63.2	68.6	79.3
1996-97	82.7	78.5	81.1	79.8	73.9	66.3	64.6	68.8	79.7
1997-98	82.0	77.6	80.8	78.2	73.4	64.2	64.5	66.1	78.9
1998-99	81.6	77.7	80.7	77.6	73.7	61.9	64.3	62.8	78.7

Source: DHAC (1999d).

**Table 5A.25 Proportion of unREFERRED attendances provided by GPs that were bulk billed (per cent)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
1984-85	60.2	46.6	50.3	50.1	48.5	42.3	30.0	44.8	52.5
1985-86	64.5	48.5	53.2	53.0	51.6	45.8	32.0	47.1	55.8
1986-87	69.3	52.5	57.4	56.4	55.5	47.3	34.6	48.5	60.1
1987-88	71.0	53.3	61.1	58.8	57.8	49.0	40.1	50.8	62.0
1989-90	74.5	60.3	68.5	64.3	62.6	55.8	50.6	55.8	67.4

(Continued on next page)

Table 5A.25 (Continued)

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
1990-91	76.1	64.5	72.0	68.4	65.7	58.7	55.7	57.9	70.3
1991-92	76.9	69.0	71.8	70.6	67.0	59.4	58.9	59.2	72.0
1992-93	78.6	72.4	74.4	72.9	68.3	60.9	61.3	62.9	74.2
1993-94	81.0	75.8	76.9	76.0	71.5	62.9	64.3	65.4	77.0
1994-95	82.2	77.5	78.8	77.1	72.5	64.3	64.8	67.6	78.5
1995-96	83.7	79.1	80.6	79.5	74.3	66.2	64.9	70.1	80.1
1996-97	83.6	79.9	81.3	80.2	74.9	66.8	65.9	69.6	80.6
1997-98	82.9	79.1	81.1	78.4	74.1	65.1	66.1	67.9	79.8
1998-99	82.4	78.9	80.9	77.6	74.1	63.0	65.6	65.2	79.4

Source: DHAC (1999d).

Table 5A.26 Female full time workload equivalent GPs

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Number of female full time workload equivalent GPs (no.)									
1991-92	919	548	449	193	199	62	52	18	2 441
1992-93	1 007	614	503	210	223	71	57	17	2 700
1993-94	1 085	683	551	230	253	74	61	18	2 955
1994-95	1 160	750	590	262	265	83	64	22	3 197
1995-96	1 225	811	637	287	270	82	66	24	3 403
1996-97	1 290	860	689	298	268	83	68	24	3 579
1997-98	1 347	867	712	312	279	83	73	26	3 701
1998-99	1 350	889	737	318	286	90	71	28	3 769
Females as a proportion of all full time workload equivalent GPs (%)									
1991-92	17.6	16.0	18.2	17.0	16.4	18.3	25.8	24.6	17.3
1992-93	18.7	17.0	19.3	17.5	17.9	20.1	26.6	22.2	18.4
1993-94	19.5	18.1	20.1	18.3	19.6	20.5	27.9	23.2	19.3
1994-95	20.4	19.4	20.9	20.2	20.7	22.4	28.7	24.8	20.5
1995-96	21.2	20.5	22.1	21.0	20.9	22.1	29.6	28.0	21.3
1996-97	22.3	21.2	23.0	21.6	20.6	22.3	30.3	27.7	22.1
1997-98	23.0	21.7	23.2	22.2	21.2	23.0	31.0	29.4	22.6
1998-99	23.5	22.0	23.8	22.8	21.7	25.3	31.3	31.9	23.2

Source: DHAC (1999 — GP Branch unpublished).

Table 5A.27 Full time workload equivalent GPs, by region

	<i>Capital city</i>	<i>Other metropolitan centre</i>	<i>Large rural centre</i>	<i>Small rural centre</i>	<i>Other rural centre</i>	<i>Remote centre</i>	<i>Other remote area</i>	<i>Total</i>
Full time workload equivalent nonspecialist medical practitioners (no.)								
1991-92	9 784	1 097	798	825	1 359	110	117	14 090
1992-93	10 218	1 145	830	867	1 414	108	117	14 697
1993-94	10 656	1 195	864	899	1 437	109	118	15 279
1994-95	10 901	1 225	889	924	1 453	114	122	15 629

(Continued on next page)

Table 5A.27 (Continued)

	Capital city	Other metropolitan centre	Large rural centre	Small rural centre	Other rural centre	Remote centre	Other remote area	Total
1995-96	11 172	1 252	908	929	1 472	118	120	15 971
1996-97	11 383	1 267	926	925	1 462	116	121	16 200
1997-98	11 465	1 291	946	930	1 469	121	131	16 353
1998-99	11 428	1 277	939	918	1 458	115	133	16 268
Proportion of full time workload equivalent nonspecialist medical practitioners (%)								
1991-92	69.44	7.79	5.66	5.86	9.65	0.78	0.83	22.78
1992-93	69.52	7.79	5.65	5.90	9.62	0.73	0.80	22.70
1993-94	69.74	7.82	5.65	5.88	9.41	0.71	0.77	22.43
1994-95	69.75	7.84	5.69	5.91	9.30	0.73	0.78	22.41
1995-96	69.95	7.84	5.69	5.82	9.22	0.74	0.75	22.21
1996-97	70.27	7.82	5.72	5.71	9.02	0.72	0.75	21.91
1997-98	70.11	7.89	5.78	5.69	8.98	0.74	0.80	22.00
1998-99	70.25	7.85	5.77	5.64	8.96	0.71	0.82	21.90

Sources: DHFS (1997a, 1997b); DHAC (1999 — GP Branch unpublished).

Table 5A.28 Proportion of full time workload equivalent GPs billing Medicare (per cent)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
1991-92	37.04	24.36	17.57	8.06	8.61	0.24	1.42	0.52	100.00
1992-93	36.66	24.62	17.72	8.17	8.46	2.40	1.46	0.52	100.00
1993-94	36.47	24.64	17.94	8.21	8.44	2.37	1.43	0.50	100.00
1994-95	36.34	24.77	18.03	8.32	8.18	2.37	1.43	0.56	100.00
1995-96	36.25	24.79	18.06	8.57	8.09	2.30	1.41	0.53	100.00
1996-97	35.72	25.06	18.47	8.52	8.01	2.30	1.39	0.53	100.00
1997-98	35.88	24.48	18.81	8.57	8.06	2.21	1.44	0.55	100.00
1998-99	35.38	24.80	19.06	8.56	8.56	2.19	1.39	0.53	100.00

Source: Table 5A.2.

### Efficiency

Table 5A.29 Commonwealth Government expenditure on unreferral consultations to GPs (dollars per 1000 population)<sup>a</sup>

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
At current prices									
1993-94	130.05	119.20	116.96	103.46	123.56	108.35	101.37	63.53	120.24
1994-95	133.12	123.26	119.04	106.24	123.50	111.20	104.47	66.87	124.35
1995-96	138.42	128.92	122.11	113.83	128.47	115.01	106.56	68.46	128.07
1996-97	135.88	130.52	123.40	112.86	128.78	115.87	108.04	66.74	127.78

(Continued on next page)

Table 5A.29 (Continued)

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
1997-98	136.65	127.97	125.30	112.36	130.19	113.41	109.44	67.60	127.77
1998-99	135.71	128.82	125.75	111.23	131.36	114.73	109.99	66.88	127.75
At 1998-99 prices									
1993-94	138.20	126.67	124.29	109.95	131.31	115.14	107.73	67.51	127.78
1994-95	140.27	129.88	125.44	111.95	130.14	117.18	110.08	70.46	131.03
1995-96	142.41	132.63	125.63	117.11	132.17	118.32	109.63	70.43	131.76
1996-97	138.09	132.64	125.41	114.70	130.87	117.75	109.80	67.83	129.86
1997-98	137.20	128.48	125.80	112.81	130.71	113.87	109.88	67.87	128.28
1998-99	135.71	128.82	125.75	111.23	131.36	114.73	109.99	66.88	127.75

<sup>a</sup> Population is estimated resident population for each year.

Sources: ABS (cat. no. 3201.0); DHAC (1999d).

## 5A.2 Definitions

Table 5A.30 Terms

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Age standardised	The age standardised rate removes the effect of different age distributions (across jurisdictions or over time) when making comparisons. It is calculated by weighting the age specific rates for each jurisdiction by the national age distribution
Ambulatory services	Services provided by hospitals to non-admitted patients
Case mix adjustment	Adjustment of data on cases treated to account for the number and type of cases. Cases were sorted into diagnosis related groups which represented a class of patients with similar clinical conditions requiring similar hospital services.
Community health services	Health services for individuals and groups delivered in a community setting, rather than in hospitals or in private facilities
Consultations	The different types of services provided by GPs (also called encounters).
Divisions of general practice	Local networks of GPs operating within a defined geographic area.
Full time workload equivalents	A measure of medical practitioner supply based on claims processed by Medicare in a given period. The calculation is made by dividing the practitioner's Medicare billing by the mean billing of full time practitioners for that period. Full time equivalents (FTEs) are calculated in the same way as full time workload equivalents.
General practice	The organisational structure in which one or more GPs provide and supervise health care for a 'population' of patients. This definition includes medical practitioners who work solely with one specific population such as women's health, and Indigenous health.
General practitioner	A recognised general practitioner who had at least half of the schedule fee value of his/her Medicare billing from 'non-referred attendance items'

(Continued on next page)

**Table 5A.30 (Continued)**

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Management	Ongoing process beginning with initial client contact and includes all actions relating to that client. Included are assessment/evaluation, education of the person, family or carer(s), diagnosis, treatment. Problems associated with adherence to treatment and liaison with or referral to other agencies are also included.
Other medical practitioner	A medical practitioner other than a recognised general practitioner who had at least half of the schedule fee value of his/her Medicare billing from 'other non-referred attendance items'
Other specialist	A medical practitioner not classified as 'general practitioner', 'other medical practitioner' or 'recognised specialist' but undertaking a majority of specialist work, although not formally recognised as a specialist by Medicare. Also includes specialists with recognition in one field but working in an unrelated field.
Pap smear	A procedure for the detection of cancer and pre-cancerous conditions of the female genital tract
Primary care	Essential health care based on practical, scientifically sound and socially acceptable methods made universally accessible to individuals and families in the community.
Prevalence	The percentage of the population suffering from a disorder at a given point in time (point prevalence) or during a given period (period prevalence)
Preventive interventions	Programs designed to decrease the incidence, prevalence and negative outcomes of disorders
Public health	The organised, social response to protect and promote health and to prevent illness, injury and disability. The starting point for identifying public health issues, problems and priorities, and for designing and implementing interventions, is the population as a whole or population subgroups.
Psychiatrist	Medical practitioner with specialist training in psychiatry
Reasons for consultation	The expressed demand of the patient for care as perceived and recorded by the GP
Recognised general practitioner	A vocationally registered general practitioner, a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners or equivalent, or a general practice registrar in a training placement
Recognised immunisation provider	A provider recognised by the Health Insurance Commission as a provider of immunisation to children
Recognised specialist	A medical practitioner classified as a specialist on the Medicare database earning at least half of his/her income from relevant specialist items in the schedule having regard to the practitioner's field of specialist recognition
Screening	The performance of tests on apparently well people to detect a medical condition at an earlier stage than would otherwise be possible without the test
Unreferred attendances	GP services, emergency attendances after hours, other prolonged attendances, group therapy and acupuncture. All attendances for specialist services are excluded as these must be 'referred' to receive Medicare reimbursement.
Vocational registration	A formal training program that promotes quality in general practice. Vocationally registered GPs are registered separately from other nonspecialist practitioners for Medicare purposes, and receive higher Medicare benefits for services.

**Table 5A.31 Indicators**

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Immunisation coverage	Percentage of children aged 12 months and 24 months who were fully immunised
Notifications of selected childhood diseases	Number of cases of measles, pertussis and Haemophilus influenzae type b notified by State/Territory health authorities
Cervical cancer screening rates for target population	Percentage of women screened against cervical cancer in the age group 20–60 years
Prescribing rates for mental illness	Number of GP scripts per 1000 persons for anti-depressants and anxiolytics
Standardised separation rates for selected conditions often not requiring secondary treatment	Age- and sex-standardised hospital separation rates for myringotomy and tonsillectomy
Standardised separation rates for selected conditions often requiring secondary treatment	Age- and sex-standardised hospital separation rates for hip replacements, lens insertion and angioplasty
Per person benefits paid for GP ordered pathology	Total benefits paid for pathology tests ordered by GPs divided by the population
Per person benefits paid for GP ordered diagnostic imaging	Total benefits paid for diagnostic imaging tests ordered by GPs divided by the population
Proportion of practices with electronic information management systems	Number of practices with electronic prescribing and/or electronic connectivity, registered under the Practice Incentive Program, divided by the total number of practices registered
Proportion of practices registered for accreditation	Number of practices which have registered for accreditation through Australian General Practice Accreditation Limited divided by the total number of practices in the Divisions of General Practice
Proportion of GPs with vocational registration	Number of full time workload equivalent GPs who are vocationally registered divided by the total number of fulltime workload equivalent GPs
Nonspecialist attendances which are bulk billed	Number of unREFERRED attendances which were bulk billed and provided by nonspecialist medical practitioners divided by the total number of unREFERRED attendances
Nonspecialist medical practitioners by region	Number of full-time workload equivalent nonspecialist medical practitioners practising in capital cities, other metropolitan centres and rural/remote areas, divided by the total number of FWE nonspecialists
Proportion of GPs who are female	Number of all full time workload equivalent GPs who are female divided by the total number of full time workload equivalent GPs
Cost to government per unREFERRED attendance	Cost to the Commonwealth Government of total unREFERRED attendances by nonspecialist medical practitioners per 1000 population.

