

National Healthcare Agreement: P25-Specialist services claimed through Medicare, 2010

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National Healthcare Agreement: P25-Specialist services claimed through Medicare, 2010

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Indicator
Indicator type:	Output measure
Short name:	Specialist services claimed through Medicare, 2010
METEOR identifier:	394822
Registration status:	Health , Superseded 08/06/2011
Description:	Differential rates for specialist service use (out-of-hospital private patient) per 1,000 population.
Indicator set:	National Healthcare Agreement (2010) Health , Superseded 08/06/2011
Outcome area:	Primary and Community Health Health , Standard 07/07/2010
Data quality statement:	National Healthcare Agreement: P25-Specialist services claimed through Medicare, 2010 QS Health , Superseded 08/06/2011

Collection and usage attributes

Computation description:	MBS items for specialist services (approximately 5,000 item numbers). Rates are directly age-standardised to the Australian population as at 30 June 2001. Presented per 1,000 population.							
Computation:	$1,000 \times (\text{Numerator} \div \text{Denominator})$.							
Numerator:	Number of specialist services claimed through the Medicare Benefits Schedule or Department of Veterans' Affairs.							
Numerator data elements:	<table><tr><th>Data Element / Data Set</th></tr><tr><td>Data Element</td></tr><tr><td>Medicare item number</td></tr><tr><td>Data Source</td></tr><tr><td>Medicare (MBS) data</td></tr><tr><td>Guide for use</td></tr><tr><td>Data source type: Administrative by-product data</td></tr></table>	Data Element / Data Set	Data Element	Medicare item number	Data Source	Medicare (MBS) data	Guide for use	Data source type: Administrative by-product data
Data Element / Data Set								
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Medicare item number								
Data Source								
Medicare (MBS) data								
Guide for use								
Data source type: Administrative by-product data								
Denominator:	Total population							

Denominator data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Person—estimated resident population of Australia

Data Source

[ABS Estimated resident population \(total population\)](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Census-based plus administrative data

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Person—estimated resident population of Australia

Data Source

[ABS Indigenous experimental estimates and projections \(2001 Census-based\)](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Census-based plus administrative data

Disaggregation data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Person (address)—Australian postcode

Data Source

[Medicare \(MBS\) data](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data
Used for disaggregation by state/territory, remoteness area and SEIFA of residence

Comments:

Specified Disaggregation: Nationally and by state/territory (of patient's residence): by Indigenous status, remoteness area and SEIFA of residence.

Available Disaggregation: Nationally and by state/territory (of patient's residence): by remoteness area and SEIFA of residence.

Most recent data available for 2010 CRC baseline report: 2008-09 with caveats

Representational attributes

Representation class: Rate
Data type: Real
Unit of measure: servicesType
Format: NNNN.N

Indicator conceptual framework

Framework and dimensions: [Accessibility](#)

Data source attributes

Data sources:

Data Source

[ABS Estimated resident population \(total population\)](#)

Frequency

Quarterly

Data quality statement

[ABS Estimated resident population \(total population\), QS](#)

Data custodian

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Data Source

[Medicare \(MBS\) data](#)

Frequency

Annually

Data custodian

Department of Health

Data Source

[ABS Indigenous experimental estimates and projections \(2001 Census-based\)](#)

Frequency

Periodic

Data quality statement

[ABS Indigenous experimental estimates and projections, QS](#)

Data custodian

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Accountability attributes

Organisation responsible for providing data:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Further data development / collection required:

Specification: Proxy

Summary information about outpatient services delivered in public hospitals (e.g. occasions of service for each of 23 clinic types) can be related to specialist service types rebated under the Medicare Benefits Schedule. In the medium-term it is recommended that this mapping be pursued further to ensure that differences in the types of specialist services delivered under public and private funding arrangements can be clearly presented.

Long-term reporting of this indicator relies on development and implementation of a unit record collection (including patient demographics) in hospital outpatient settings and further work to map 'number of specialist services' provided in public and private settings.

Work needs to continue to improve the quality of the Voluntary Indigenous Identifier (VII) in the Medicare database and estimation from the current sample.

Other issues caveats:

This indicator presents rates for total specialist numbers (including all item numbers specified in calculation conditions). If required, this indicator can be presented separately by broad types of services (e.g. Specialist attendance, Obstetrics, Anaesthetics, Pathology, Diagnostic imaging, Operations, Assistance at operations, Radiotherapy and therapeutic nuclear medicine) as is on the Medicare website and in *Australia's Health 2008* (page 368).

MBS item numbers change over time and need to be updated as required.

Disaggregations within individual jurisdictions are subject to data quality considerations.

The indicator as specified is a proxy of the original indicator. The original intent was to measure differentials between private and public specialist services. As private specialist services can not be measured at this time, this indicator measures differentials between different population groups in the use of specialist services claimed through Medicare.

There may be overlap between this and other indicators (e.g. Medicare claims for private sector mental health services are also presented in indicator 28).

Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) has been identified as a data source, however due to lack of data availability it has not been included in the calculation this reporting cycle. Inclusion in future reporting depends on advice from DVA.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Has been superseded by [National Healthcare Agreement: P125-Specialist services, 2011](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 30/10/2011

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: P16-People deferring recommended treatment due to financial barriers, 2010](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 08/06/2011

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: P24-GP-type services, 2010](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 08/06/2011

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: P26-Dental services, 2010](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 08/06/2011

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: P27-Optometry services, 2010](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 08/06/2011

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: P28-Public sector community mental health services, 2010](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 08/06/2011

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: P29-Private sector mental health services, 2010](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 08/06/2011

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: P37-Waiting times for radiotherapy and orthopaedic specialists, 2010](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 08/06/2011

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: P46-Rates of services: Outpatient occasions of service, 2010](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 08/06/2011