Service event—Medicare referral reason, code N

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# Service event—Medicare referral reason, code N

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| Identifying and definitional attributes | |
| Metadata item type: | Data Element |
| Short name: | Medicare referral reason |
| METEOR identifier: | 610775 |
| Registration status: | [Commonwealth Department of Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 19/08/2023 |
| Definition: | The reason a referral is made to a specialist or consultant physician for further care, services or treatment, as represented by a code. |
| Data Element Concept: | [Service event—Medicare referral reason](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/610766) |
| Value Domain: | [Medicare referral reason code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/610751) |

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| Value domain attributes | | |
| Representational attributes | | |
| Representation class: | Code | |
| Data type: | Number | |
| Format: | N | |
| Maximum character length: | 1 | |
|  | **Value** | **Meaning** |
| Permissible values: | 1 | Pathology |
|  | 2 | Initial or subsequent specialist |
|  | 3 | Initial specialist |
|  | 4 | Subsequent specialist |
|  | 7 | Diagnostic imaging |
|  | 8 | Bone densitometry |
|  | 9 | Allied health |
| Supplementary values: | 0 | Not applicable |

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| Source and reference attributes | |
| Submitting organisation: | Department of Health |

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| Data element attributes | |
| Collection and usage attributes | |
| Guide for use: | The general practitioner is regarded as the primary source of referrals to consultant physicians or specialists. Cross-referrals between specialists and/or consultant physicians should usually occur in consultation with the patient's general practitioner.  For a valid referral to take place, the referring practitioner must communicate relevant information about the patient and the need for referral to the specialist or consultant physician. The referral must be in writing, signed and dated by the referring practitioner.  The referral must be received by the specialist or consultant physician on or prior to the occasion of the professional service to which the referral relates.  Each referral must be accompanied by the code indicating the circumstances of the referral. |
| Source and reference attributes | |
| Submitting organisation: | Department of Health |
| Relational attributes | |
| Implementation in Data Set Specifications: | [Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) state/territory data extract 2013-14](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/603356)  [Commonwealth Department of Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 19/10/2023  ***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2013 ***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2014 ***DSS specific information:***  Variable name = REQREF |