

Service event—Medicare referral reason, code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Medicare referral reason
METEOR identifier:	610775
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commonwealth Department of Health, Standard 14/10/2015
Definition:	The reason a referral is made to a specialist or consultant physician for further care, services or treatment, as represented by a code.

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code
Data type:	Number
Format:	N
Maximum character length:	1

Permissible values:

Value	Meaning
1	Pathology
2	Initial or subsequent specialist
3	Initial specialist
4	Subsequent specialist
7	Diagnostic imaging
8	Bone densitometry
9	Allied health

Supplementary values:

Value	Meaning
0	Not applicable

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 Commonwealth Department of Health](#), Standard 14/10/2015

Implementation start date: 01/07/2013

Implementation end date: 30/06/2014

DSS specific information:

Variable name = REQREF