

# Pharmacy—geographic remoteness, PBS classification (ASGS-RA) X

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# Pharmacy—geographic remoteness, PBS classification (ASGS-RA) X

## Identifying and definitional attributes

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Metadata item type:</b>   | Data Element   |
| <b>Short name:</b>           | Geographic remoteness of pharmacy (PBS-specific code)  |
| <b>METEOR identifier:</b>    | 613726   |
| <b>Registration status:</b>  | <a href="#">Commonwealth Department of Health</a> , Retired 19/10/2023   |
| <b>Definition:</b>           | The remoteness of a pharmacy, based on the physical road distance to the nearest urban centre and its population size, as represented by a code. |
| <b>Data Element Concept:</b> | <a href="#">Pharmacy—geographic remoteness</a>   |
| <b>Value Domain:</b>         | <a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) remoteness classification (ASGS-RA) X</a>   |

## Value domain attributes

## Representational attributes

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Classification scheme:</b>    | <a href="#">Australian Statistical Geography Standard 2011</a> |
| <b>Representation class:</b>     | Code   |
| <b>Data type:</b>                | String   |
| <b>Format:</b>                   | X  |
| <b>Maximum character length:</b> | 1  |

|                              | Value | Meaning                            |
|------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Permissible values:</b>   | 1     | Major cities of Australia          |
|                              | 2     | Inner and Outer regional Australia |
|                              | 3     | Remote and Very remote Australia   |
| <b>Supplementary values:</b> | U     | Unknown                            |

## Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:**

This value domain is intended exclusively for use in the analysis of data relating to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

In the context of PBS data, the allocation of remoteness categories is based on the postcodes of patients, prescribers or pharmacies, as appropriate. Postcode areas are converted to Statistical Area Level 1s (SA1s) which are then used to allocate remoteness categories.

**CODE 1 Major cities of Australia**

'Major cities of Australia' includes postcode areas that correspond with SA1s with an average Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+) index value of 0 to 0.2.

This code approximates Code 1 in the more widely used value domain [Remoteness classification \(ASGS-RA\) N](#).

**CODE 2 Inner and Outer regional Australia**

'Inner regional Australia' includes postcode areas that correspond with SA1s with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 0.2 and less than or equal to 2.4.

'Outer regional Australia' includes postcode areas that correspond with SA1s with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 2.4 and less than or equal to 5.92.

This code approximates Codes 2 and 3 in the more widely used value domain [Remoteness classification \(ASGS-RA\) N](#).

**CODE 3 Remote and Very remote Australia**

'Remote Australia' includes postcode areas that correspond with SA1s with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 5.92 and less than or equal to 10.53.

'Very remote Australia' includes postcode areas that correspond with SA1s with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 10.53.

This code approximates Codes 4 and 5 in the more widely used value domain [Remoteness classification \(ASGS-RA\) N](#).

**Collection methods:**

In this value domain, physical distance is defined in terms of ARIA+ index values, rather than a simple linear distance between points.

**Comments:**

Prior to 2011, ARIA+ scores were calculated for individual Census Collection Districts (CCDs). Following the phasing out of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) and the introduction of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) by the ABS in 2011, ARIA+ scores are calculated for individual Statistical Area Level 1s (SA1s).

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:**

Department of Health

**Steward:**

[Department of Health and Aged Care](#)

**Origin:**

Publications detailing the ASGS remoteness classification are available free of charge from the ABS website:

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2013. 1270.055.005 - Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 5 - Remoteness Structure, July 2011. Viewed 15 July 2013, <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/1270.0.55.005July%202011?OpenDocument>

**Reference documents:** Information relating to the development of the ARIA and ARIA+ scores by the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographic Information Systems (GISCA) is available from the APMRC website:

Australian Population and Migration Research Centre (APMRC) 2013. ARIA (Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia). Viewed 15 July 2013, [http://www.adelaide.edu.au/apmrc/research/projects/category/about\\_aria.html](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/apmrc/research/projects/category/about_aria.html)

## Data element attributes

### Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Department of Health

### Relational attributes

**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:** [Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \(PBS\) state/territory data extract 2013-14](#)  
[Commonwealth Department of Health](#), Retired 19/10/2023

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2013

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2014

**DSS specific information:**

Variable name = PHCY\_RA

In the context of PBS data, this data element describes the geographic remoteness of the dispensing pharmacy, and is based on the postcode of the pharmacy at which the prescription was dispensed.