

National Health Performance Authority, Healthy Communities: Bulk-billed GP attendances, 2013–14

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Indicator
Indicator type:	Indicator
Short name:	Bulk-billed GP attendances, 2013–14
METEOR identifier:	620171
Registration status:	National Health Performance Authority (retired) , Retired 01/07/2016
Description:	The percentage of GP attendances bulk billed in a year.
Indicator set:	National Health Performance Authority: Healthy Communities: 2011– National Health Performance Authority (retired) , Retired 01/07/2016

Collection and usage attributes

Population group age to:	All ages
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Computation description: Bulk billing is an arrangement in which a GP bills Medicare directly for any eligible medical or allied health service that the patient receives, and imposes no other 'gap payment' on the patient. In this arrangement the provider accepts the Medicare benefits as full payment for the service and the patient assigns their right to a Medicare benefit to the service provider.

GP attendances are Medicare benefit-funded patient/doctor encounters, such as visits and consultations, for which the patient has not been referred by another doctor. GP attendances exclude services provided by practice nurses and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners on a GP's behalf.

In terms of 'Broad Type of Service' Groups, GP attendances comprise all items in Broad Type of Services Groups 'A' – GP/VRGP non-referred attendances, 'M' - Enhanced Primary Care and 'B' Non-referred other attendances as published in official MBS statistics by the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health.

For MBS data, Primary Health Network (PHN) was derived from the enrolment postcode for each person from the last MBS service of any type, processed by the Department of Human Services in 2013–14. All MBS services for each individual processed in 2013–14 were attributed to this postcode.

MBS postcode level data were allocated to PHN areas using concordance files provided by ABS.

Numerator data -Medicare (MBS) total GP attendances bulk billed

Denominator data - MBS total GP attendances, from data provided by the Department of Health for the financial year of processing, 2013–14.

Before MBS data are published by the NHPA all confidential data cells are suppressed.

The current definition of confidential data is as follows:

- For number of MBS services:
 - if number of services is less than 6 or
 - if number of services is equal to or greater than 6 but
 - one provider provides more than 85% of services or two providers provide more than 90% of services or
 - one patient receives more than 85% of services or two patients receive more than 90% of services.
- If data on number of services is confidential, corresponding data on other measures such as MBS benefit paid is also regarded as confidential

Computation: $(\text{Numerator} \div \text{Denominator}) \times 100$

Bulk-billed GP attendances

Numerator: Number of bulk-billed GP attendances claimed through the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS)

Numerator data elements:**Data Element / Data Set**

[Address—Australian postcode, Australian postcode code \(Postcode datafile\)](#)
[{NNNN}](#)

Data Source

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

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—General Practitioner MBS health assessment indicator, yes/no code](#)
[N](#)

Data Source

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

Data Element / Data Set

[Service event—bulk billed General Practitioner \(GP\) service, total number](#)
[NN\[N\]](#)

Data Source

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

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Denominator:

Total GP attendances for year of processing

Denominator data elements:**Data Element / Data Set**

[Person—General Practitioner MBS health assessment indicator, yes/no code](#)
[N](#)

Data Source

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

Disaggregation:

By Primary Health Network areas

Disaggregation data elements:**Data Element / Data Set**

[Administrative health region—Primary Health Network identifier, code](#)
[AAANN](#)

Representational attributes

Representation class: Percentage

Data type: Real

Unit of measure: Person

Format: NNNN.N

Indicator conceptual framework

Framework and dimensions: [PAF-Equity of access](#)

Data source attributes

Data sources:**Data Source**[Medicare \(MBS\) data](#)**Frequency**

Annually

Data custodian

Department of Health

Accountability attributes

Reporting requirements: National Health Performance Authority-Performance & Accountability Framework

Organisation responsible for providing data: Department of Health

Accountability: National Health Performance Authority

Further data development / collection required:

Release date: 19/11/2015

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: National Health Performance Authority

Origin: Healthy Communities

Reference documents: National Health Performance Authority-Performance & Accountability Framework

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [National Health Performance Authority, Healthy Communities: Bulk-billed GP attendances, 2012–13](#)
[National Health Performance Authority \(retired\)](#), Retired 01/07/2016
See also [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.5.1–Bulk-billing for non-referred \(GP\) attendances, 2020](#)
[Health](#), Standard 13/10/2021