



Australian Government

**Australian Institute of
Health and Welfare**

Classification use in primary care in Australia

Professor Helena Britt

Family Medicine Research Centre, &
the Australian GP Statistics & Classification Centre,
on behalf of the Australian Collaborating Centre

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

Primary care in Australia

- Population = 21 million, widely spread
- General practice (GP) is first place to go
- On average, 5 visits to a GP in a year—about 83 minutes face-to-face GP care p.a.
- 23,000 GPs, 97/100,000 population
- Primary Government costs for GP visits= \$AUS 4.5 billion, 5% of total health expenditure.

Standards in Australia

- ICPC-2 is the recommended classification for problems managed in
 - Primary care data *and in*
 - Patient self reported data
- ICD 10-AM is recommended classification for
 - Hospital morbidity data
 - Mortality statistics
- ICF is not yet used

Electronic record (EHR) use by GPs

- 95% of GPs use a computer for clinical activities
- 4/5 produce prescriptions electronically
- 1/2 are using full EHRs (paperless)
- Of these, 21% classifying problems managed in ICPC-2, using an interface terminology called ICPC-2 Plus.

National data collection

- The BEACH program
 - (Bettering the Evaluation And Care of Health)
 - A continuous national study of general practice activity- a paper based survey
 - Been running for 11 years (now in 12th year)
 - So far >11,000 participating GPs have provided details for >1 million patient visits
 - Data secondarily coded by trained Health Information Management students

ICPC-2 used to classify

Data	BEACH national study	GPs in clinical EHRs
Patient reasons for encounter	Yes	In some EHR systems
Problems managed	Yes	Yes
Clinical treatments	Yes	A few GPs
Therapeutic procedures	Yes	A few GPs
Test and investigations	Yes	A few GPs
Referrals	Yes	A few GPs

Coding and classification

- ICPC-2 Plus – an interface terminology, linked to ICPC-2.
- The ‘Plus’ terminology is used by all users of ICPC-2
- GPs, allied health professionals in some government hospitals and community health centres, and for national data collection (BEACH)

Enter key word, get pick list, select term

ICPC-2 Plus terms for keyword 'OA'

All terms also classified to ICD10AM

Osteoarthritis	L91003	Osteoarthritis;shoulder	L92007
Osteoarthritis;degenerative	L91001	Osteoarthritis;spine	L84004
Osteoarthritis;hip	L89001	Osteoarthritis;spine;cervical	L83011
Osteoarthritis;knee	L90001	Osteoarthritis;spine;lumbar	L84010
Osteoarthritis;lumbosacral	L84003	Osteoarthritis;spine;thoracic	L84009
Osteoarthritis;sacroiliac	L84012	<i>Select term: computer stores code and classifies</i>	

Classifications in primary care AUSTRALIA

- Books on national results of BEACH
and
 - More details of ICPC-2 Plus
(download demonstrator)

<http://www.fmrc.org.au>