



**Australian Government**

**Australian Institute of  
Health and Welfare**

# Classification use in primary care in Australia

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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 12<sup>th</sup> 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

<b>Data</b>	<b>BEACH national study</b>	<b>GPs in clinical EHRs</b>
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	<b>L91003</b>	Osteoarthritis;shoulder	<b>L92007</b>
Osteoarthritis;degenerative	<b>L91001</b>	Osteoarthritis;spine	<b>L84004</b>
Osteoarthritis;hip	<b>L89001</b>	Osteoarthritis;spine;cervical	<b>L83011</b>
Osteoarthritis;knee	<b>L90001</b>	Osteoarthritis;spine;lumbar	<b>L84010</b>
Osteoarthritis;lumbosacral	<b>L84003</b>	Osteoarthritis;spine;thoracic	<b>L84009</b>
Osteoarthritis;sacroiliac	<b>L84012</b>	<i>Select term: computer stores code and <b>classifies</b></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>