

Medicare Benefit Schedule Variables

These are the variables from the Medicare Benefits Schedule that have been linked to the ALSWH surveys. Those variables with a limited number of categories have their categories shown.

Updated by David Fitzgerald, July 2019

Bill Type **bill_type**

D = 'Bulk bill'
P = 'Other'

Broad type of service description **btor**

A = 'Unreferred attendances – VRGP/GP'
B = 'Unreferred attendances - Other'
C = 'Specialist attendances'
D = 'Obstetrics'
E = 'Anaesthetics'
F = 'Pathology Tests'
G = 'Diagnostic Imaging'
H = 'Operations'
I = 'Assistance at Operations'
J = 'Optometry'
K = 'Radiation Oncology'
L = 'Miscellaneous'
M = 'Unreferred attendances - Enhanced Primary Care'
N = 'Pathology Collection Items'
O = 'Unreferred attendances - Practice Nurse Items'
P = 'Other Allied Health'
X = 'DVA items not elsewhere classified'

Hospind (hospital indicator field) **hosp_ind**

. = Out of hospital
H = Service provided in hospital
A = Pre-admission or post-discharge
R = DVA service 'Rooms'
V = DVA service 'Visit'
N = DVA non-hospital

State **prov_state**

1 = 'NSW'
2 = 'VIC'
3 = 'QLD'
4 = 'SA'
5 = 'WA'
6 = 'TAS'

7 = 'NT'
8 = 'ACT'
9 = 'UNKNOWN'

Provider sex

prov_sex

M = 'Male'
F = 'Female'
U = 'Unknown'

Type

type

M = 'Medicare'
D = 'DVA'

Enrolment type

enrol_type

. = 'Default initial enrolment'
A = 'Australian'
B = 'Academic and teaching staff (Higher Education Funding Act 1988)'
D = 'Change of status (COS), processing entry permits (PEP), diplomat'
E = 'Migrant'
F = 'Fulbright scholars fund (Australian/American Education Foundation)'
G = 'Refugee status'
L = 'Employed in research with federal government funding'
N = 'Employer nomination scheme'
O = 'Employ in skill transfer scheme, Visa 412, 413 or 414'
P = 'Provisional Resident Visa'
R = 'RHCA (Reciprocal Health Care Agreement)'
S = 'Overseas Subsidised Student or AIDAB (Australian International Development Assistance Bureaux)'
T = 'Temporary Visitor, PRC Nationals Visa Codes 437 and 783'
Z = 'Refugee Applicant, not a refugee yet'

Date of Service

DOS

MBS Item

item

Number of Services

services

Benefit (\$)

benefit

Charge (\$)

charge

Scrambled rendering provider number (WHA) prov_scramWHA
ALSWH has re-scrambled the provider numbers randomly.

Scrambled referring provider (WHA) ref_prov_scramWHA
ALSWH has re-scrambled the provider numbers randomly.

Provider Age prov_age
The flagged ages have been set to missing.

Provider Age Flag prov_age_flag
'D' where provider information is missing year of birth

for these providers **year of basic qualification - 25** was used as a proxy for year of birth and flag set to 'D' [derived]

Note: age is age the provider turned in the year

Date of Referral dor

Modifier Flag modifier_flag

**"modifier_flag" is set to 'M' where the item is a bulk billing incentive item (or other item not counted as a service)
or blank when not a modifier/incentive (i.e. an MBS service)**

The service count for these items with value 'M' should be set to 0 [zero] when summing service counts

Note: this is how the claim record arrives from DHS, and also enables counts of incentive items etc. if required

Major Specialty of Provider provspec

- 2 = 'General medicine'
- 3 = 'Immunology'
- 4 = 'Cardiology'
- 5 = 'Clinical haematology'
- 6 = 'Endocrinology'
- 7 = 'Gastroenterology'
- 8 = 'Renal medicine'
- 9 = 'Neurology'
- 10 = 'Nuclear medicine'
- 11 = 'Paediatric medicine'
- 12 = 'Rehabilitation medicine'
- 13 = 'Rheumatology'
- 14 = 'Thoracic medicine'
- 15 = 'Clinical pharmacology'
- 16 = 'Geriatrics'
- 17 = 'Medical oncology'
- 18 = 'Intensive care'
- 19 = 'Infectious diseases'
- 21 = 'Pathology-specialist'
- 22 = 'Specialist physician - internal medicine'
- 22 = 'Anatomical pathology'
- 23 = 'Clinical chemistry'
- 24 = 'Cytopathology'
- 25 = 'Forensic pathology'
- 26 = 'Haematology'

27 = 'Immunology'
28 = 'Microbiology'
30 = 'Emergency Medicine'
32 = 'General surgery'
33 = 'Cardio-thoracic surgery'
34 = 'Neurosurgery'
35 = 'Orthopaedic surgery'
36 = 'Paediatric surgery'
37 = 'Plastic surgery'
38 = 'Urology'
39 = 'Vascular surgery'
40 = 'Clinical genetics'
41 = 'Occupational physician'
42 = 'Pain management'
43 = 'Palliative medicine'
47 = 'Diagnostic radiology-specialist'
48 = 'Nuclear imaging radiology - specialist'
49 = 'Radiology oncology-specialist'
51 = 'Anaesthetics-specialist'
52 = 'Dermatology-specialist'
53 = 'Obstetrics & Gynaecology - Specialist'
54 = 'Ophthalmology'
55 = 'ENT'
56 = 'Psychiatry'
57 = 'Public health/preventive medicine'
58 = 'Rehabilitation medicine'
59 = 'Medical administration'
60 = 'Anaesthetics-intensive care'
62 = 'Oral surgery - medical'
73 = 'Facio-maxillary surgery'
75 = 'Resuscitation'
76 = 'Neonatal and Perinatal medicine'
77 = 'Palliative medicine'
78 = 'Occupational physician'
79 = 'Infectious diseases'
80 = 'Clinical genetics'
82 = 'General medicine'
83 = 'Immunology'
84 = 'Cardiology'
85 = 'Clinical haematology'
86 = 'Endocrinology'
87 = 'Gastroenterology'
88 = 'Renal medicine'
89 = 'Neurology'
90 = 'Nuclear medicine'
91 = 'Paediatric medicine'
92 = 'Rehabilitation medicine'
93 = 'Rheumatology'
94 = 'Thoracic medicine'
95 = 'Clinical pharmacology'
96 = 'Geriatrics'
97 = 'Medical Oncology'
98 = 'Intensive care'
99 = 'CP Psychiatry'
101 = 'Optometry-participating'
102 = 'Dentistry-oral surgery/other dental specialist'

103 = 'Biochemistry'
 104 = 'Other non-specialist (*)'
 105 = 'Optometry'
 110 = 'Other non-specialist fr nov 1996 - not elsewhere classified '
 112 = 'Dentistry-registered'
 114 = 'Health Screening'
 115 = 'Orthodontistry'
 120 = 'Invalid provider'
 121 = 'Overseas provider'
 128 = 'Eligible Orthodontist'
 130 = 'Vocationally Registered GP'
 131 = 'Family Medicine Program Trainee'
 132 = 'Fellow of the College of GPs'
 133 = 'RACGP Trainee'
 134 = 'RACGP Trainee - from Jan 1999'
 135 = 'Chiropractor'
 136 = 'Osteopath'
 137 = 'Physiotherapist'
 138 = 'Podiatrist'
 139 = 'Prosthodontist'
 140 = 'Endodontist'
 141 = 'Paedodontist'
 142 = 'Oral Med & Path'
 143 = 'Periodontist'
 155 = 'Dental specialist non-dpac'
 156 = 'Dental prosthetist'
 157 = 'Dento-maxillofacial radiology'
 158 = 'Oral & maxillofacial surgeon - dental'
 159 = 'Special needs dentistry'
 160 = 'Intern'
 170 = 'Audiologist'
 177 = 'Queensland country relieving program (***)'
 178 = 'Pre vocational GP Placement Program'
 179 = 'Special approved placement prog (***)'
 180 = 'Temporary resident doctor (***)'
 181 = 'TRD bens not payable'
 182 = 'TRD occupational trainee'
 183 = 'TRD occupational trainee - benefits not payable'
 184 = 'Recognised GP - TRD'
 185 = 'TRD - Ten year moratorium completed, assist at ops only (***)'
 186 = 'Remote OMP'
 187 = 'Sports physician'
 188 = 'Medicare Plus pre 1996 OMP (restricted)'
 189 = 'Medicare Plus pre 1996 OMP (un-restricted)'
 190 = 'Local Rural/Remote relief (***)'
 194 = 'After hours (3GA) (***)'
 195 = 'Workforce shortage (***)'
 196 = 'RRAPP'
 197 = 'Private emergency dept (***)'
 198 = 'TROMP not elsewhere classified'
 199 = 'MDS After Hours OMP'
 201 = 'Procedural GP - recognised'
 202 = 'Procedural GP - non-recognised'
 203 = 'Procedural sports physician'
 216 = 'Anaesthetics-non-specialist'
 218 = 'Obstetrics & Gynaecology - non-specialist'

219	=	'IVF'
220	=	'Pathology-non-specialist'
226	=	'Diagnostic Imagist-non-specialist'
231	=	'General surgery, non-standard'
232	=	'Surgeon - non-specialist'
250	=	'Abortion/fertility control'
255	=	'Acupuncture'
265	=	'Unqualified spec'
275	=	'Unclassified specialist'
280	=	'Unclassified non-specialist'
400	=	'Anaesthetics-trainee'
401	=	'Dermatology-trainee'
402	=	'Emergency medicine-trainee'
403	=	'Medical administration-trainee'
404	=	'Obstetrics & Gynaecology - Trainee'
405	=	'Occupational medicine-trainee'
406	=	'Ophthalmology-trainee'
407	=	'Pathology-trainee'
408	=	'Physician-trainee'
409	=	'Psychiatry-trainee'
410	=	'Radiology-trainee'
411	=	'Surgery-trainee'
412	=	'Rehabilitation medicine-trainee'
413	=	'Public health medicine-trainee'
414	=	'Sports physician -trainee'
415	=	'Pain medicine-trainee'
416	=	'Palliative medicine-trainee'
417	=	'Intensive care-trainee'
422	=	'Aboriginal Health Worker'
423	=	'Dietician'
424	=	'Mental Health Worker'
425	=	'Occupational Therapist'
426	=	'Psychologist - non clinical'
427	=	'Speech Pathologist'
428	=	'Diabetes Educator'
429	=	'Exercise Physiologist'
450	=	'GP Trainee - from March 2002 (**)'
505	=	'TRD with 19AB exemption to assist with ops'
549	=	'Registered Optometry'
550	=	'Optometry - from 1 Jan 1999'
555	=	'Employee of participating optometrist'
615	=	'Outer metro OMP'
616	=	'Outer metro spec trainee'
639	=	'Psychologist - clinical - AHPRA endorsed'
640	=	'Psychologist - clinical'
641	=	'Social worker'
642	=	'Mental Health Nurse'
651	=	'Nurse practitioner'
652	=	'Mid wife'
700	=	'Sonographer'
801	=	'Sport and exercise medicine'
802	=	'Addiction medicine'
803	=	'Sexual health medicine'
804	=	'Gynaecological oncology'
805	=	'Maternal-foetal Medicine'
806	=	'Obstetrics and Gynaecological Ultrasound'

807	=	'Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility'
808	=	'Urogynaecology'
898	=	'Paediatric emergency medicine'
899	=	'Community child health'