

PBS DATA DICTIONARY

Version: January 2017

Variable Name	Variable Label	Description	Variable Type	SAS Format Name	Comment
ppn or sax_ppn	CHeReL Project Person Number or SAX Project Person Number	unique identifier to reference each participant	char		Called ppn if project has data linked to external datasets, sax_ppn if not linked to external datasets
atc_code	ATC Code	Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) classification code allocated by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology (www.whooc.no./atcddd/).	char	\$PBSATC.	The \$PBSATC. format is created using atc_code and atc_name in the DHS extract so that atc_name can be excluded to limit file size. Where atc_name differs to previous extract, the version that matches the current online definition is kept
date_of_prescribing	Date of Prescribing	date on which the prescription was written	num	DATE9.	Not included in 2009 extract received by 45 and Up
date_of_supply	Date of Supply	date on which the PBS item was supplied	num	DATE9.	
form_category	Form Category	code which indicates the type of prescription	char	\$REPEATS.	
gross_price	Gross Price	gross price of prescription (patient contribution plus net benefit)	num		
item_description	Item Description	description of the item prescribed as per Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits, e.g., form, strength	char		

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net_benefit	Net Benefit	benefit that Medicare Australia paid to the pharmacy	num		
patient_category	Patient Category	code which refers to the patient's concessional status at the time of supply of the benefit of the item	char	\$PATCAT.	
pbs_item_code	PBS Item Code	code which indicates item prescribed as per Schedule of Pharmaceuticals Benefits or Standard Formula Preparation document	char	\$PBSITEM.	
pharmacy_postcode	Pharmacy Postcode	postcode of the pharmacy where the prescription was dispensed	char		
prescriber_specialty	Prescriber Specialty	specialty of prescribing doctor as of the current quarter when data was extracted	num	PROVSPEC.	
quantity_supplied	Quantity Supplied	quantity of prescribed medication supplied to patient	num		
scrambled_prescriber_number	Scrambled Prescriber Number	unique scrambled prescriber number identifying the doctor who prescribed the PBS item	num		May not be reliable for 2004, 2005, 2008 & 2009 data due to high level of missing data in our extracts (see technical note 3)