

MBS Data Dictionary

Version: October 2020

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 by CHeReL, sax_ppn if not linked to external datasets
benefit_paid	Benefit Paid	Medicare benefit paid to the claimant	num		
bill_type	Bill Type for records received to 2012	method by which the Medicare benefit was claimed	char	\$BILLTYPE.	Used for records received in the first extracts by 45 and Up in 2010 and 2012. Records received in 2009 extract did not have a bill type variable
bill_type13	Bill Type for records received from 2013	method by which the Medicare benefit was claimed	char	\$BILLTYPN.	Used for records received by 45 and Up from 2013

Variable Name	Variable Label	Description	Variable Type	SAS Format Name	Comment
date_of_processing	Date of Processing	date on which Services Australia processed the payment of a claim for Medicare benefits	num	DATE9.	
date_of_referral	Date of Referral	date of referral or request for a service by a provider	num	DATE9.	Not provided in 2009 extract received by 45 and Up
date_of_service	Date of Service	date on which the provider performed the service	num	DATE9.	
hospital_indicator	Hospital Indicator	code as to whether the service was performed in hospital	char		H = <i>performed in hospital</i> , blank or other = <i>not performed in hospital</i>
item_category	Item Category	code that groups similar professional services together based on MBS hierarchical structure of categories, groups, subgroups, and item numbers	char	\$ITEMCAT.	Not provided in 2009 extract received by 45 and Up

Variable Name	Variable Label	Description	Variable Type	SAS Format Name	Comment
item_description	Item Description	description about the service provided by the provider as per the Medicare Benefits Schedule	char		
mbs_item_number	MBS Item Number	code which identifies the service provided by the provider as per the Medicare Benefits Schedule	char	\$MBSITEM.	
ordering_provider_postcode	Ordering Provider Postcode	postcode of referring provider's practice location	char		Not provided in 2009 extract received by 45 and Up. Missing for DVA records up to Feb 2014.
patient_out_of_pocket	Patient Out of Pocket	dollar amount the patient is out of pocket, i.e., provider charge minus benefit paid	num		For DVA records, all missing as all claims are bulk billed.
provider_charge	Provider Charge	dollar amount the provider charged for the service	num		

Variable Name	Variable Label	Description	Variable Type	SAS Format Name	Comment
provider_specialty	Provider Specialty for records received in years other than 2013	specialty of provider as at time of service - not necessarily the major specialty	num	PROVSPEC.	Not provided in 2009 extract received by 45 and Up. Used for records in extracts received by 45 and Up other than for 2013.
provider_specialty13	Provider Specialty for records received in 2013	specialty of provider as at time of service - not necessarily the major specialty	char	\$PROVSPEC2013EXTRACT.	Used for records in extract received by 45 and Up in 2013 only. Extracts prior to 2013 and more recently contain <i>provider_specialty</i> above.
provider_specialty_DVA	Provider Specialty for DVA records	specialty of provider as at time of service - not necessarily the major specialty	char	\$PROVSPED.	Used for records in DVA extracts, for the years 2013 onwards.
rendering_provider_postcode	Rendering Provider Postcode	postcode of servicing provider's practice location	char		Not provided in 2009 extract received by 45 and Up.
schedule_fee	Schedule Fee	fee listed in the Medicare Benefits Schedule	num		Not provided in 2009 extract received by 45 and Up.

Variable Name	Variable Label	Description	Variable Type	SAS Format Name	Comment
scrambled_ordering_provider_num	Scrambled Ordering Provider Number	unique scrambled provider number identifying the doctor who referred the service	num		Based on 6-digit provider number (i.e. corresponds to 1 GP regardless of location). Not provided in 2009 extract received by 45 and Up
scrambled_rendering_provider_num	Scrambled Rendering Provider Number	unique scrambled provider number identifying the doctor who provided the service	num		Based on 6-digit provider number (i.e. corresponds to 1 GP regardless of location). Not provided in 2009 extract received by 45 and Up
DVA_data	DVA data flag	flags records that are funded as a Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) Medical Service	char		1=DVA data, 0=non-DVA data DVA Medical Services records are included in the data from 2013 onwards.