PBS 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
atc_code	ATC Code	Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) classification code allocated by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology (www.whocc.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

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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		
net_benefit	Net Benefit	benefit that Services Australia paid to the pharmacy	num		
patient_category	Patient Category	code which refers to the patient's concessional status at the time of	char	$PATCAT.	rPBS records have unique categories 7 = *rPBS* –

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		supply of the benefit of the item			*Ordinary* and 8 = *rPBS - Safety Net*
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		

Variable Name	Variable Label	Description	Variable Type	SAS Format Name	Comment
scrambled_prescriber_number	Scrambled Prescriber Number	unique scrambled prescriber number identifying the doctor who prescribed the PBS item	num		Based on 6-digit provider number (i.e. corresponds to 1 GP regardless of location). May not be reliable for 2004, 2005, 2008 & 2009 data due to high level of missing data in our extracts (see technical note)
RPBS	rPBS data flag	Flags records that are funded by the Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (rPBS)	num		1=rPBS data, 0 = PBS data. rPBS records are included in the data from 2013 onwards.