

**Supplementary table 1: Conditions included in the Australian National Healthcare Agreement potentially preventable hospitalisations performance indicator**

PPH category	Condition
<b>Chronic conditions</b>	Asthma Congestive cardiac failure Diabetes complications Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease Angina Iron deficiency anaemia Hypertension Nutritional deficiencies Rheumatic heart disease
<b>Acute conditions</b>	Dehydration and gastroenteritis Pyelonephritis Perforated/Bleeding ulcer Cellulitis Pelvic inflammatory diseases Ear, nose and throat infection Dental conditions Appendicitis with generalised peritonitis Convulsions and epilepsy Gangrene
<b>Vaccine-preventable conditions</b>	Influenza and pneumonia Other vaccine-preventable conditions

**Supplementary table 2: Mean (95% confidence intervals) health care expenditures in the last 6 months of life, by quintile of GP visits in the preceding 12 months stratified by number of comorbidities and self-reported health status at study entry**

	Total	Quintile of GP visits					p value for trend
		0	1-2	3-5	6-10	11+	
<b>Comorbidity=0</b>							
Total cost	18938 (18862-19013)	16212 (16076-16347)	18338 (18155-18521)	20058 (19895-20222)	20294 (20135-20453)	19704 (19540-19868)	<b>0.001</b>
Hospital cost	17316 (17243-17389)	15265 (15128-15401)	17254 (17070-17439)	18696 (18534-18859)	18457 (18303-18612)	16932 (16781-17083)	0.08
Any PPH cost	2587 (2555-2618)	2022 (1969-2076)	2800 (2709-2891)	2802 (2731-2872)	2903 (2830-2976)	2486 (2421-2551)	0.37
ED cost	935 (932-937)	940 (935-946)	891 (885-897)	904 (898-909)	990 (984-995)	933 (927-939)	0.82
MBS cost	457 (449-464)	15.9 (15.7-16.2)	181 (178-185)	327 (322-332)	561 (552-570)	1152 (1133-1171)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
PBS cost							-
<b>Comorbidity=1</b>							
Total cost	20043 (19976-20110)	19197 (19063-19331)	19107 (18948-19265)	19577 (19443-19711)	19763 (19630-19897)	22408 (22248-22567)	<b>0.005</b>
Hospital cost	18356 (18293-18418)	18196 (18062-18330)	17901 (17745-18058)	18131 (18000-18261)	17882 (17755-18010)	19592 (19445-19739)	0.41
Any PPH cost	2817 (2790-2843)	3213 (3149-3276)	2680 (2617-2743)	2645 (2591-2698)	2644 (2591-2696)	2848 (2788-2908)	0.16
ED cost	938 (936-941)	980 (974-986)	936 (929-943)	910 (904-915)	925 (919-931)	938 (932-943)	0.20
MBS cost	437 (431-444)	19.4 (19.3-19.6)	194 (192-197)	335 (332-339)	538 (533-543)	1061 (1051-1071)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
PBS cost							-
<b>Comorbidity=2</b>							
Total cost	20888 (20817-20959)	20767 (20612-20921)	20254 (20075-20433)	19961 (19819-20103)	21682 (21530-21835)	21577 (21419-21736)	0.43
Hospital cost	19175 (19106-19243)	19684 (19529-19839)	19017 (18840-19195)	18520 (18380-18660)	19706 (19559-19853)	18841 (18695-18987)	0.35
Any PPH cost	3473 (3446-3499)	3667 (3608-3726)	3525 (3455-3595)	3339 (3283-3396)	3509 (3452-3567)	3323 (3266-3379)	0.24
ED cost	985 (982-988)	1076 (1070-1083)	927 (920-934)	958 (952-964)	989 (983-995)	949 (943-956)	<b>0.02</b>
MBS cost	452 (445-459)	20.8 (20.6-21.1)	191 (188-194)	343 (339-347)	580 (573-586)	1080 (1066-1093)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
PBS cost							-
<b>Comorbidity=3+</b>							
Total cost	22519 (22428-22611)	21280 (21095-21465)	21724 (21497-21951)	22317 (22125-22510)	22868 (22676-23060)	24264 (24047-24481)	0.05
Hospital cost	20255 (20065-20444)	20540 (20308-20772)	20777 (20584-20971)	20829 (20640-21017)	21367 (21161-21574)	20255 (20065-20444)	0.67
Any PPH cost	4147 (4116-4179)	4328 (4258-4398)	4589 (4501-4678)	4096 (4029-4164)	3961 (3896-4025)	3891 (3827-3955)	0.06
ED cost	1029 (1026-1033)	1050 (1042-1057)	1041 (1032-1050)	1036 (1028-1043)	955 (948-962)	1071 (1063-1080)	0.35
MBS cost	437 (430-444)	22.8 (22.5-23.1)	127 (124-129)	351 (346-357)	543 (535-552)	1080 (1064-1097)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
PBS cost	465 (456-475)	3.1 (3.1-3.2)	67 (66-69)	275 (269-281)	668 (654-681)	1228 (1202-1253)	-
<b>Self-reported health = excellent/very good/good</b>							
Total cost	20174 (20113-20235)	19199 (19075-19323)	19342 (19194-19491)	20094 (19968-20220)	20324 (20200-20447)	21744 (21604-21884)	<b>0.001</b>
Hospital cost	18510 (18453-18568)	18167 (18043-18291)	18183 (18036-18331)	18664 (18541-18787)	18458 (18340-18577)	19012 (18882-19141)	0.51
Any PPH cost	2695 (2674-2716)	2968 (2920-3016)	2555 (2503-2607)	2660 (2614-2705)	2646 (2602-2689)	2585 (2541-2629)	0.15
ED cost	954 (952-956)	1013 (1008-1018)	915 (909-921)	938 (933-943)	944 (939-949)	944 (939-949)	0.02
MBS cost	439 (433-446)	19.7 (19.5-19.9)	173 (171-175)	338 (334-341)	547 (542-553)	1074 (1063-1085)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
PBS cost	311 (306-317)	6.1 (6.0-6.2)	69 (68-70)	187 (185-189)	428 (424-433)	817 (808-826)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
<b>Self-reported health=fair/poor</b>							
Total cost	20806 (20724-20887)	19480 (19317-19642)	20609 (20401-20816)	20372 (20203-20541)	21377 (21203-21550)	22221 (22033-22410)	<b>0.02</b>
Hospital cost	19019 (18941-19096)	18413 (18251-18576)	19323 (19117-19528)	18847 (18681-19012)	19324 (19158-19489)	19312 (19138-19485)	0.76
Any PPH cost	3801 (3774-3827)	3809 (3752-3865)	4154 (4078-4231)	3752 (3695-3809)	3634 (3580-3687)	3771 (3714-3829)	0.23

ED cost	1008 (1005-1011)	1057 (1051-1064)	1025 (1017-1033)	980 (973-986)	969 (963-975)	1011 (1005-1018)	0.08
MBS cost	416 (410-421)	25.9 (25.7-26.2)	168 (166-170)	316 (313-319)	534 (529-538)	991 (982-999)	<0.001
PBS cost							-
<b>Age at death &lt; 75</b>							
Total cost	24788 (24742-24834)	23903 (23813-23993)	24353 (24238-24468)	25259 (25161-25357)	24277 (24186-24368)	26118 (26015-26220)	0.149
Hospital cost	22919 (22875-22963)	22709 (22618-22800)	23024 (22908-23140)	23653 (23556-23751)	22199 (22111-22288)	23085 (22989-23182)	0.850
Any PPH cost	-	-	-	-	-	-	.
ED cost	1080 (1078-1083)	1143 (1137-1149)	1055 (1048-1062)	1074 (1068-1080)	1033 (1028-1039)	1088 (1082-1094)	0.126
MBS cost	453 (447-459)	31 (31-32)	187 (185-189)	331 (328-334)	602 (597-607)	1067 (1057-1077)	<0.0001
PBS cost	-	-	-	-	-	-	.
<b>Age at death &gt; 75</b>							
Total cost	18730 (18686-18775)	17748 (17655-17841)	18039 (17925-17153)	18212 (18126-18299)	19254 (19166-19343)	20260 (20164-20355)	<0.0001
Hospital cost	17096 (17054-17137)	16758 (16665-16851)	16902 (16789-17016)	16815 (16731-16899)	17381 (17297-17465)	17584 (17496-17671)	0.074
Any PPH cost	3055 (3031-3079)	3031 (2976-3086)	3018 (2934-3102)	2959 (2915-3003)	3238 (3192-3285)	3008 (2962-3054)	0.856
ED cost	931 (929-934)	979 (974-984)	911 (905-917)	901 (896-906)	930 (925-935)	925 (920-931)	0.074
MBS cost	406 (400-411)	19 (18.8-19.1)	161 (159-162)	317 (315-320)	507 (503-511)	982 (974-990)	<0.0001
PBS cost	324 (318-329)	5 (5-5.1)	81 (80-83)	200 (198-203)	457 (451-462)	825 (814-836)	<0.0001

“-“ indicates that convergence was not achieved for estimates of cost due to missing values in some geographic areas. Values were adjusted mean of costs either unadjusted or adjusted for age at death (10-year groups), sex, language, education, private health insurance, number of comorbidities, self-reported health status, functional limitation, psychological distress and random effect of statistical local area. P values for trend were estimated for each comparison using the lowest quintile as a reference group.

**Supplementary table 3. Mean health care expenditure (\$AUD) and its 95% confidence interval (CI) in the last 6 months of life, by quintile of GP visits in the 18-7 months before death: results from a sensitivity analysis**

	Mean health care expenditure (95% CI)	Adjusted mean health care expenditure in the last 6 months of life by quintile of GP visit in the 18-7 months before death					p value for trend
		0	1-2	3-5	6-10	11+	
Total cost	22076 (21892-22260)	21228 (20581-21874)	20711 (20245-21177)	22516 (22126-22905)	22005 (21670-22340)	22707 (22346-23067)	0.214
Hospital cost	19901 (19723-20078)	20234 (19577-20891)	19446 (18978-19914)	20798 (20413-21182)	19768 (19445-20090)	19397 (19066-19728)	0.653
Any PPH cost	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ED cost	948 (939-956)	897 (865-929)	867 (846-888)	973 (954-991)	960 (944-976)	967 (950-983)	0.142
MBS cost	699 (684-714)	118 (115-121)	287 (282-292)	471 (464-478)	720 (711-728)	1250 (1234-1266)	<0.0001
PBS cost	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

“-“ indicates that convergence was not achieved for estimates of cost due to missing values in some geographic areas. Values were adjusted mean of costs either unadjusted or adjusted for age at death (10-year groups), sex, language, education, private health insurance, number of comorbidities, self-reported health status, functional limitation, psychological distress and random effect of statistical local area. P values for trend were estimated for each comparison using the lowest quintile as a reference group.