Prescriber—geographic remoteness, PBS classification (ASGS-RA) X

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Prescriber—geographic remoteness, PBS classification (ASGS-RA) X

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Geographic remoteness of prescriber (PBS-specific code)
METEOR identifier:	616995
Registration status:	Commonwealth Department of Health , Standard 17/12/2015
Definition:	The remoteness of a **Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescriber**, based on the physical road distance to the nearest urban centre and its population size, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Prescriber—geographic remoteness
Value Domain:	Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) remoteness classification (ASGS-RA) X

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Classification scheme:	Australian Statistical Geography Standard 2011
Representation class:	Code
Data type:	String
Format:	X
Maximum character length:	1

	Value	**Meaning**
Permissible values:	1	Major cities of Australia
	2	Inner and Outer regional Australia
	3	Remote and Very remote Australia
Supplementary values:	U	Unknown

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	This value domain is intended exclusively for use in the analysis of data relating to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

In the context of PBS data, the allocation of remoteness categories is based on the postcodes of patients, prescribers or pharmacies, as appropriate. Postcode areas are converted to Statistical Area Level 1s (SA1s) which are then used to allocate remoteness categories.

CODE 1   Major cities of Australia

'Major cities of Australia' includes postcode areas that correspond with SA1s with an average Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+) index value of 0 to 0.2.

This code approximates Code 1 in the more widely used value domain Remoteness classification (ASGS-RA) N.

CODE 2   Inner and Outer regional Australia

'Inner regional Australia' includes postcode areas that correspond with SA1s with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 0.2 and less than or equal to 2.4.

'Outer regional Australia' includes postcode areas that correspond with SA1s with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 2.4 and less than or equal to 5.92.

This code approximates Codes 2 and 3 in the more widely used value domain Remoteness classification (ASGS-RA) N.

CODE 3   Remote and Very remote Australia

'Remote Australia' includes postcode areas that correspond with SA1s with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 5.92 and less than or equal to 10.53.

'Very remote Australia' includes postcode areas that correspond with SA1s with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 10.53.

This code approximates Codes 4 and 5 in the more widely used value domain Remoteness classification (ASGS-RA) N.

Collection methods:	In this value domain, physical distance is defined in terms of ARIA+ index values, rather than a simple linear distance between points.
Comments:	Prior to 2011, ARIA+ scores were calculated for individual Census Collection Districts (CCDs). Following the phasing out of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) and the introduction of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) by the ABS in 2011, ARIA+ scores are calculated for individual Statistical Area Level 1s (SA1s).

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:	Department of Health
Steward:	Department of Health
Origin:	Publications detailing the ASGS remoteness classification are available free of charge from the ABS website:

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2013. 1270.055.005 - Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 5 - Remoteness Structure, July 2011. Viewed 15 July 2013, http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/ 1270.0.55.005July%202011?OpenDocument

Reference documents: Information relating to the development of the ARIA and ARIA+ scores by the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographic Information Systems (GISCA) is available from the APMRC website:

Australian Population and Migration Research Centre (APMRC) 2013. ARIA (Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia). Viewed 15 July 2013, http://www.adelaide.edu.au/apmrc/research/projects/ category/about_aria.html

Data element attributes

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Department of Health

Relational attributes

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) state/territory data extract 2013-14 Commonwealth Department of Health , Standard 17/12/2015
Implementation start date: 01/07/2013
Implementation end date: 30/06/2014
DSS specific information:

Variable name = PRESC_RA

In the context of PBS data, this data element describes the geographic remoteness of the prescriber, and is based on the postcode of the location at which the prescriber performed the majority of Medicare services for the most recent relevant quarter.