



Appendix 1

**This appendix was part of the submitted manuscript and has been peer reviewed.
It is posted as supplied by the authors.**

Appendix to: Kaczmarek MC, Valenti L, Kelly HA, et al. Sevenfold rise in likelihood of pertussis test requests in a stable set of Australian general practice encounters, 2000–2011. *Med J Aust* 2013; 198: 624-628. doi: 10.5694/mja13.10044.

Appendix 1: Bettering Evaluation and Care of Health (BEACH) methods

The BEACH program is a continuous cross-sectional national study collecting details of Australian general practice encounters that began in April 1998. Every year approximately 1,000 randomly selected general practitioners (GPs) record details of 100 consecutive encounters on structured paper recording forms. Fields collected include problems managed, tests ordered and treatments prescribed. Data about the patients, the doctors and their practices are also recorded with collection evenly distributed throughout 50 weeks of each year. GPs are randomly selected quarterly, with those who claimed at least 375 general practice Medicare items of service in the previous quarter eligible to participate.(1)

Each year the proportion of contactable GPs who agree to participate in the BEACH survey is approximately 30%. The age and sex distribution of patients at encounters included in the BEACH study has repeatedly been shown to accurately represent all GP service encounters for which Medicare claims have been made.(1) Problems managed and tests ordered are recorded in the free text by the GPs and are secondarily coded using ICPC-2 Plus (Australian general practice interface terminology classified according to the International Classification of Primary Care – Version 2).(2)

1. Britt H, Miller G, Charles J, Henderson J, Bayram C, Valenti L, et al. General practice activity in Australia 2010–11. Sydney: Sydney University Press; 2011. Available from: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=6442472433>.
2. Wonca International Classification Committee. ICPC–2 English: International Classification of Primary Care - 2nd Edition. Singapore 1998 [cited 2008 7 December]; Available from: <http://www.kith.no/upload/2705/ICPC-2-English.pdf>.