

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-035

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES REVIEW (PSR) AGENCY

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Senator Di Natale asked:

Is there a particular trend or are there any areas that tend to dominate, in terms of item numbers?

Answer:

Practitioners referred to Professional Services Review (PSR) by the Department of Human Services generally have a claiming profile which is anomalous or has distinct outlying features when compared to their peers. Consultation and attendance items are most commonly reviewed. Examples of the types of concerns referred to PSR include:

- high volume of total services per patient when compared to the practitioners peers;
- high volume of total services when compared to the practitioners peers;
- disproportionate amount of Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) services or Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme prescriptions compared to professional attendances;
- disproportionate amount of prescriptions for drugs of dependence compared to professional attendances;
- disproportionate amount of pathology or diagnostic imaging services initiated compared to Professional attendances; and
- overall pattern of MBS items claimed is distinctly different from the practitioner's peers.