**Background**

There is no accepted standard definition of ‘chronic’ conditions. MBS CDM items for management of ‘chronic and complex care needs' require assessment (on clinical judgement) of patient eligibility, with little guidance given. The Australian Government defines a chronic condition as *‘one that has been, or is likely to be, present for six months or more’.* Duration is only one aspect of chronicity and no list of eligible conditions provided, just suggested common ones (e.g. asthma, diabetes etc).

**Aims**

To develop a standard definition of ‘chronic’; and associated list of chronic conditions.

**Method**

2004: literature review to define 'chronic'; apply definition to International Classification of Primary Care - Version 2 (ICPC-2), and where necessary, to the Australian PLUS terminology.1

2015–16: Gordon reviewed published list for any changes needed.

**Results**

Identified criteria most relevant to defining chronic conditions:

* Expected duration at least six months.
* Poor prognosis
* Consequences/sequelae that affect quality of life
* Pattern of recurrence/deterioration.

127 ICPC-2 rubrics were ‘chronic’. Another 20 included both chronic and non-chronic—we defined chronicity of each condition at terminology level. Duration was criterion most frequently satisfied (98.4% of chronic rubrics); 88.2% of rubrics met three or four criteria.1 Gordon found no changes required in 2015-16. Full list of conditions classified as chronic according to ICPC-2 available at <http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/fmrc/publications/appendices/DefiningChronicConditions.pdf>

**Conclusion**

The list is not exhaustive; clinical judgement is vital in individual assessment. However, it may broaden GPs ideas about 'chronic conditions' for CDM items or Health Care Homes, and invaluable to researchers analysing large patient databases or EHR data.2

**References**

1. O'Halloran J, Miller GC, Britt H. Defining chronic conditions for primary care with ICPC-2. Fam Pract 2004;21(4):381–86.

2. Gordon J, Miller GC, Britt H. What are chronic conditions that contribute to multimorbidity? AJGP 2018;47, (1-2).