

Communicare

PI26 – Pilot Ear Health NKPI

Information for Communicare Administrators and Ear Health Coordinators

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PI26 and Communicare Introduction

A new pilot indicator PI26 '*Proportion of Indigenous regular clients aged 0-14 years who have a completed ear health check recorded*' has been introduced into implementation phase in the latest nKPI reporting specifications.

Ear disease and associated hearing loss disproportionately impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and is experienced earlier, more frequently and more severely compared with non-Indigenous children. Frequent assessment of ear health is important to ensure early identification, management and treatment of ear disease and associated hearing loss. Measuring ear health screening and the prevalence of ear health conditions will improve understanding of coverage and service access in primary health care to target areas most in need.

The indicator counts the proportion of Indigenous regular clients who, in the previous 12 months, have had a completed ear check. There are three parts to this indicator:

1. Appearance of both ear canals and eardrums
2. Movement of both eardrums
3. Appearance of ear canals and ear drums AND movement of both eardrums

A completed ear check is a check of the appearance of the ear canal and eardrum as recorded in the last 12 months.

Please refer to the Knowledge Centre for further information on PI26 in Communicare. [PI 26 - Ear Health Check \(telstrahealth.com\)](https://telstrahealth.com)

There are a number of central clinical items and qualifiers in Communicare that collect this PI26 data, however, if you are using local qualifiers for ear health checks, you will need to ensure that you update your configuration in order to capture the data for PI26 reporting in your Communicare. Your Communicare Administrator will need to add export and system codes to any local qualifiers used in local clinical items that you want to use to capture evidence of an appearance or movement check, for

each ear, to include in nKPI reporting for PI 26 Ear Health Checks. Please refer to the Knowledge Centre for [Codes to support nKPI PI 26 Ear Health Checks \(telstrahealth.com\)](https://telstrahealth.com)

As the Communicare Administrator, you are encouraged to review how your site captures the relevant ear health data now and assess if you need to add export and system codes to any local qualifiers used in local clinical items. This way your current processes can be used to capture evidence of an appearance or movement check, for each ear, to include in nKPI reporting for PI 26 Ear Health Checks, minimising the impact on clinicians. You will find two new Communicare reports for PI26 to assist you with setting up for this new indicator.

The following information may assist you in understanding next steps if you are looking to understand your current ear health workflows and data collection.

Understanding existing central ear health qualifiers

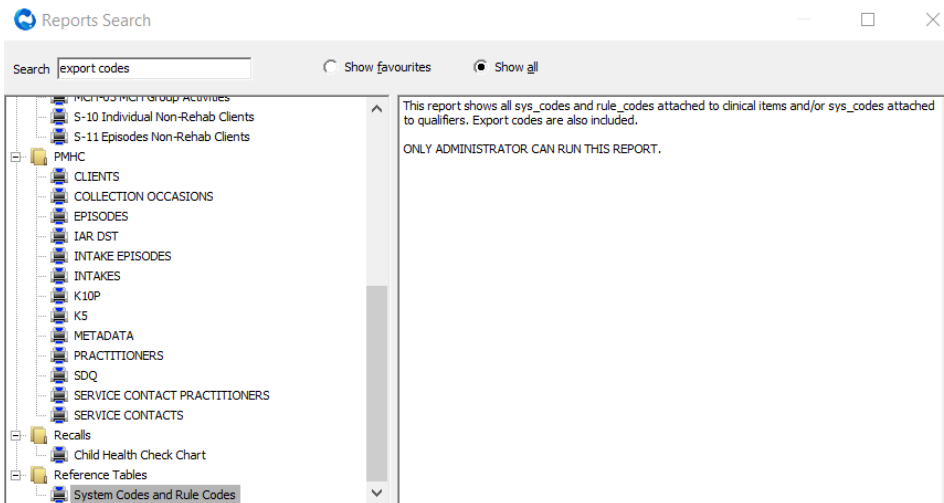
All the existing central qualifiers have been configured with export codes and system codes to report the new pilot PI26 performance indicators. You can see them in the Reference Table report “*System Codes and Rule Codes*”. Below is a sample of the central qualifiers for ear health PI2. If you have local qualifiers with system, export and rules codes configured, they will also appear on this report. Use this report to check that the system and export codes on any local qualifiers are correct for the new PI26.

Figure 1 System Codes and Rule Codes Report (only central qualifiers are in this snapshot)

Qualifiers	L	-	Ear exam: left	1000000945	(R)	OTO-NKPI	(MEMO)
Qualifiers	L	-	Ear exam: left comments/action	1000000944	(T)	OTO-NKPI	(Memo)
Qualifiers	L	-	Otoscope image left ear	1000003404	(I)	OTO-NKPI	(Memo)
Qualifiers	L	-	Otосcopy - Left	1000000277	(T)	OTOSCOPY	(Memo)
Qualifiers	L	-	Otосcopy left ear	1000000217	(R)	OTOSCOPY	(MEMO)
Qualifiers	L	-	Tympanometry - L Canal Vol	1000000295	(N)	TYM-NKPI	(Memo)
Qualifiers	L	-	Tympanometry - L Category	1000000301	(R)	TYM-NKPI	(MEMO)
Qualifiers	L	-	Tympanometry - L Compliance	1000000297	(N)	TYM-NKPI	(Memo)
Qualifiers	L	-	Tympanometry - L Pressure	1000000299	(N)	TYM-NKPI	(Memo)
Qualifiers	L	-	Tympanometry - L ear - interpretation	1000003247	(R)	TYM-NKPI	(MEMO)
Qualifiers	L	-	Tympanometry - left	1000002059	(R)	TYM-NKPI	(MEMO)

To generate this report, go to: Reports | Reference Tables | System Codes and Rule Codes.

Figure 2 Reports Search - System Codes and Rule Codes



Searching your Communicare for qualifiers (using the SQL Editor):

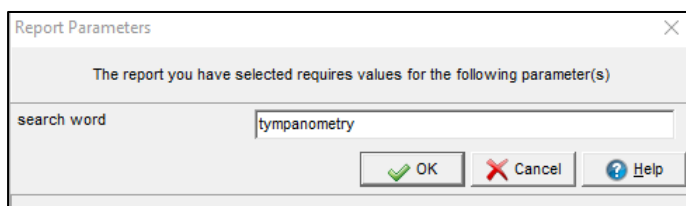
You will find both central and locally created qualifiers in the Reference Table report “System Codes and Rule Codes”, which you can export to Excel to assist you with understanding your system.

However, if you are used to running queries in the Communicare SQL Report Editor via Tools, the following simple SQL script can be run to provide you a word search for qualifiers. Use this SQL script to ‘search’ your Communicare to find qualifiers that have been locally created that contain the word that is being searching for - for example search for: ear, tympanometry, otoscopy, hearing etc.

1. Select Tools
2. Select SQL Report Editor
3. On the load query window select *cancel* (to open the Communicare SQL Editor window)
4. Copy and paste the following query

```
select * from measurement_type where measure_type_desc containing :search_word order by measure_type_desc
```

5. Select Preview Query
6. In the report parameters pop up box type in the search word field words that relate to the PI26 such as ear, tympanometry, otoscopy, hearing ect.



MEASURE TYPE NO	MEASURE TYPE DESC	MEASURE TYPE VALUE UNIT	MEASURE	MEASU	MEASU	MEASU	SYS CODE	MEASURE TYPE DESC UC	MEASURE T	MEASURE TYPE VA	MEASURE TYPE VALUE UNIT	SUMMARY	CREATED TMESTAMP	CREATED USER	MODIFIED USER	MODIFIED TMESTAMP	MODIFIED SYSDBA TIME	EXPORT CODE	DE
1000000270	Tympanometry							TYMPANOMETRY	A	Free text	TITLE	F	07/08/2006 15:06:07	CENTRAL			30/04/2013 11:11:41		(M)
1000000295	Tympanometry - L Canal Vol	cc						TYMPANOMETRY - L CANAL V/N		Numeric	CC	F	07/08/2006 15:06:07	CENTRAL			30/04/2013 11:11:41		(M)
1000000291	Tympanometry - L Category	Reference						TYMPANOMETRY - L CATEGO/R		Dropdown list	REFERENCE	F	07/08/2006 15:06:07	CENTRAL			30/04/2013 11:11:41		(M)
1000000297	Tympanometry - L Compliance	HL						TYMPANOMETRY - L COMPLIA/N		Numeric	DAPA	F	07/08/2006 15:06:07	CENTRAL	CENTRAL	14/08/2006 09:18:17	30/04/2013 11:11:41		(M)
1000000299	Tympanometry - L Pressure	daPa						TYMPANOMETRY - L PRESSUR/N		Numeric	DAPA	F	07/08/2006 15:06:07	CENTRAL			30/04/2013 11:11:41		(M)
1000003247	Tympanometry - L ear - interpretation	Reference						TYMPANOMETRY - L EAR - NTR		Dropdown list	REFERENCE	F	17/11/2020 17:04:05	CENTRAL					(M)
1000000296	Tympanometry - R Canal Vol	cc						TYMPANOMETRY - R CANAL V/N		Numeric	CC	F	07/08/2006 15:06:07	CENTRAL			30/04/2013 11:11:41		(M)
1000000302	Tympanometry - R Category	Reference						TYMPANOMETRY - R CATEGO/R		Dropdown list	REFERENCE	F	07/08/2006 15:06:07	CENTRAL			30/04/2013 11:11:41		(M)
1000000296	Tympanometry - R Compliance	HL						TYMPANOMETRY - R COMPLIA/N		Numeric	HL	F	07/08/2006 15:06:07	CENTRAL	CENTRAL	14/08/2006 09:18:17	30/04/2013 11:11:41		(M)
1000000300	Tympanometry - R Pressure	daPa						TYMPANOMETRY - R PRESSUR/N		Numeric	DAPA	F	07/08/2006 15:06:07	CENTRAL			30/04/2013 11:11:41		(M)
1000003246	Tympanometry - R ear - interpretation	Reference						TYMPANOMETRY - R EAR - NTR		Dropdown list	REFERENCE	F	17/11/2020 17:04:05	CENTRAL					(M)
1000000295	Tympanometry - left	Reference						TYMPANOMETRY - LEFT	R	Dropdown list	REFERENCE	F	06/08/2012 13:12:43	CENTRAL			30/04/2013 11:11:42		(M)
1000000295	Tympanometry - right	Reference						TYMPANOMETRY - RIGHT	R	Dropdown list	REFERENCE	F	06/08/2012 13:12:43	CENTRAL			30/04/2013 11:11:42		(M)
332	Tympanometry left ear	Reference						TYMPANOMETRY LEFT EAR	R	Dropdown list	REFERENCE	F					30/04/2013 11:11:41		(M)
1000003403	Tympanometry notes	Memo						TYMPANOMETRY NOTES	M	Memo	MEMO	F	13/10/2021 12:29:17	CENTRAL					(M)
336	Tympanometry right ear	Reference						TYMPANOMETRY RIGHT EAR	R	Dropdown list	REFERENCE	F					30/04/2013 11:11:41		(M)

The query result contains rows of qualifiers that contain the word searched for. The query result contains columns that display export and system codes as well as qualifiers used. The query result can be exported to CSV/Excel for further analysis.

This information is useful in understanding if your site has added qualifiers to the local configuration. There are other reports that can help with understanding what clinical items and qualifiers have been locally configured.

Available Clinical Items with current Ear Health Qualifiers

For understanding how ear health is currently managed in your Communicare, you will want to look at what clinical items are currently being used. Ask the question, do they fit in with the current clinical workflows that clinicians are using? It might be that a current clinical item that is used in a regular workflow, such as a child health check, may need to be changed to ensure that the PI26 qualifiers are captured by clinicians as they work with patients.

A number of the available Central clinical items have the qualifiers relevant to PI26. In reviewing them all, 'Assessment;hearing' is the one that best covers the PI26 qualifiers. The following diagram illustrates the clinical items in which the central qualifiers for PI26 are currently located.

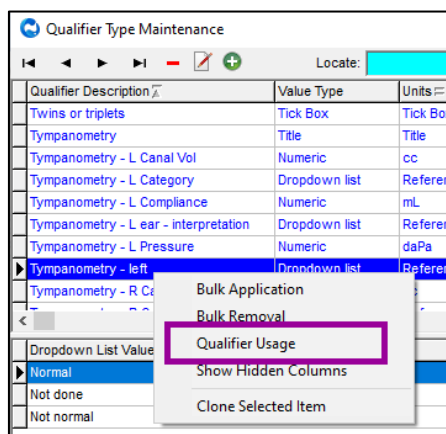
Figure 3 PI26 ear health qualifiers and their central clinical items (note this is left only)

<p>Ear exam: left Ear exam: left comments/action</p> <p>The following clinical item types use Ear exam: left:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check up;child; 2 weeks or arrival home Check up;child; 2 months Check up;child; 4 months Check up;child; 6 months Check up;child; 8 months Check up;child;12 months Check up;child;18 months Check up;child;2 years Check up;child;2-and-a-half years Check up;child;3 years 	<p>Otoscope image left ear</p> <p>The following clinical item types use Otoscope image left ear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check up;Aboriginal _TSI Annual Health Check up;Aboriginal _TSI Annual NO MBS Check up;year health 	<p>Otoscopy - Left</p> <p>The following clinical item types use Otoscopy - Left:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment;hearing Check up;Aboriginal _TSI adult Check up;Aboriginal _TSI adult NO MBS 	<p>Otoscopy left ear</p> <p>The following clinical item types use Otoscopy left ear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check up;Aboriginal _TSI Annual Health Check up;Aboriginal _TSI Annual NO MBS Check up;Aboriginal _TSI child Check up;Aboriginal _TSI child NO MBS Check up;HUSK child health check 4 wks Check up;HUSK child health check 8 wks Check up;HUSK child health check 4 mths Check up;HUSK child health check 6 mths Check up;HUSK child health check 9 mths Check up;HUSK child health check 12 mths Check up;HUSK child health check 18 mths Check up;HUSK child health check 2 yrs Check up;HUSK child health check 2.5 yrs Check up;HUSK child health check 3 yrs Check up;HUSK child health check 3.5 yrs Check up;HUSK child health check 4 yrs Check up;HUSK child health check 4.5 yrs Check up;Healthy Kids Check Check up;year health
<p>Tympanometry – L Canal Vol</p> <p>The following clinical item types use Tympanometry - L Canal Vol:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment;hearing Check up;HUSK child health check 12 mths Check up;HUSK child health check 2 yrs Check up;HUSK child health check 3 yrs Check up;HUSK child health check 4 yrs 	<p>Tympanometry – L Category</p> <p>The following clinical item types use Tympanometry - L Category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment;hearing 	<p>Tympanometry – L Compliance</p> <p>The following clinical item types use Tympanometry - L Compliance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment;hearing Check up;HUSK child health check 12 mths Check up;HUSK child health check 2 yrs Check up;HUSK child health check 3 yrs Check up;HUSK child health check 4 yrs 	
<p>Tympanometry – L ear - interpretation</p> <p>The following clinical item types use Tympanometry - L ear - interpretation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check up;HUSK child health check 12 mths Check up;HUSK child health check 2 yrs Check up;HUSK child health check 3 yrs Check up;HUSK child health check 4 yrs 	<p>Tympanometry – left</p> <p>The following clinical item types use Tympanometry - left:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check up;Aboriginal _TSI Annual Health Check up;Aboriginal _TSI Annual NO MBS Check up;HUSK child health check 12 mths (qualifier disabled) Check up;HUSK child health check 18 mths (qualifier disabled) Check up;HUSK child health check 2 yrs (qualifier disabled) Check up;HUSK child health check 3 yrs (qualifier disabled) Check up;HUSK child health check 4 yrs (qualifier disabled) 	<p>Tympanometry – L Pressure</p> <p>The following clinical item types use Tympanometry - L Pressure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment;hearing Check up;HUSK child health check 12 mths Check up;HUSK child health check 2 yrs Check up;HUSK child health check 3 yrs Check up;HUSK child health check 4 yrs 	

Remember that you can find what qualifiers are used in what clinical items by going to:

1. File | Reference Tables | Qualifier Types

2. Right click on the qualifier
3. Select Qualifier Usage



Tympanometry – things to consider

Tympanometry is generally considered a more specialised assessment, although you will notice in your reading and discussions with ear health experts that with the introduction of the nKPI, there is a bigger push for tympanometry to be incorporated into the practice of all primary health clinicians. This is to increase the diagnosis of otitis media with effusion which is considered to be underdiagnosed. Tympanometry is in the CARPA manual which means that rural and remote clinicians will be using it. There are apparently funded programs to ensure that primary health care clinicians have the training and equipment to expand this scope of practice. There is a push to build primary health care capacity to take on the assessment as part of PHC screening and diagnosis tools. Liaise with your local ear health coordinators to better understand the changes in this area.

You may wish to add the tympanometry qualifiers to other clinical items within your clinic workflows – for example the 715 child health check used by your clinicians.

Suggested next steps

1. Assess the most suitable clinical item used by those clinicians that do any of the ear health check activities and could regularly complete the central qualifiers within their established workflow.
2. It might help to run a report on the most used health check clinical items.
3. If it is a local clinical item, then update it with the most relevant PI26 qualifiers.
4. If it is a central clinical item that you would like to add the relevant PI26 qualifiers to, then clone it and add the qualifiers.
 - a. If you do decide to clone a central clinical item, prior to cloning assess impact on enabled automated recall protocols prior to cloning. Communicare Administrators MUST take a considered and informed approach to modifying and/or changing recalls.
5. Review existing recall protocols in relation to ear health management

Communicare is highly configurable and your clinic can manage their own clinical items to support their workflows. For example, you can clone a central clinical item and add either central or local qualifiers (if you have your own) that suit your desired workflow. Note that if you create local qualifiers or clinical items, in order to work with the Communicare NKPI reporting, you must ensure the correct export and system codes to ensure GRT/NKPI data accuracy. As long as the correct export (OTO-NKPI and TYM-NKPI) and system (L R or LR) codes are on the relevant qualifiers the data extraction will not be

compromised. The information in the Knowledge Centre is there to help with the required codes – see: [PI26 - Ear Health Check \(telstrahealth.com\)](https://telstrahealth.com) .

When creating clinical items, it is also worth being considerate of the naming conventions associated with ICPC2 Plus, the underlying coding system within Communicare. The naming conventions for the clinical items are usually ASSESSMENT, CHECKUP, RESULTS – you can read about this in the Knowledge Centre. Also consider your KEYWORDS (\$) if you are using short cut menus in your clinic.

Creating a health check clinical item with the additional qualifiers within the relevant workflows will ensure that clinicians have somewhere to record the ear health checks easily and improve data collection.