



Securely Sharing Practice Data with WAPHA Benefits to GPs and Patients

Sharing your de-identified patient data with WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) allows us to provide your practice with access to quality data extraction and analysis that can assist you with accurately recording patient information and better understand your patient population.

It also helps WAPHA to commission the right kind of services where they are needed the most to support you and your patients.

In return, general practices who share their de-identified patient data with WAPHA will receive the suite of CAT Plus software and personalised support at no cost to them.

Use of a quality data extraction tool such as CAT Plus can support your practice to better understand the health and needs of your patients, improve patient care by implementing patient recall and reminder registers, and identify patients who are at risk and require more targeted intervention and screening.

It can also support your practice to operate more efficiently, including ensuring appropriate MBS billing for chronic disease management.

WAPHA also provides monthly data reports and support to help practices improve their data quality, billing accuracy and care delivery.

Quality data extraction and analysis dramatically increases the quality of patient record keeping by easily identifying gaps in demographic information. GPs are in turn, better able to provide advice and support to their patients when they are confident in the knowledge the information they have is correct and up to date.

- Licenses to the CAT Plus software suite at no cost to your practice.
- De-identified patient data reporting to improve data quality, billing accuracy and patient centered care delivery.
- Personalised support and training to help your practice extract quality data from Pen CS CAT Plus.

Improving data quality can also benefit your practice through ensuring programmed alerts in clinical software will work, and decreasing time spent uploading a Shared Health Summary to the My Health Record system.

CAT Plus is compatible with most practice software. Secure data extracted includes de-identified patient demographics, conditions, medications, cancer screening rates, pathology, care plan and SIP information, and MBS billing.

WAPHA is a trusted custodian of your de-identified data with robust data governance policies and procedures in place that comply with all national; and international privacy and security standards. This includes maintaining confidentiality and security of the data we collect and ensures information assets are used only for the purpose outlined in data sharing agreements.

Whilst all care has been taken in preparing this document, this information is a guide only and subject to change without notice.

Practice Assist is an initiative of



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Rural Health West is funded by the Australian Government and the WA Country Health Service.



Frequently Asked Questions

How does WAPHA protect general practice data and where is it stored?

WAPHA is a trusted custodian of general practice data, with robust data governance processes in place.

To ensure security, privacy and compliance with national legislation, data is de-identified and extracted by the CAT Plus tool at the practice.

Please refer to WAPHA Privacy and Information Management Policies for further information

Can WAPHA see individual practice data?

The de-identified, aggregated data extracted by CAT Plus from practices is not identifiable as belonging to any individual practice, patient or provider.

Data analysis is focused on the total population of all practices, or a group of practices in a particular region to identify needs or evaluate programs.

Will the data be provided to the Government, Medicare or other organisations?

WAPHA does not share any identifiable general practice data with Government, Medicare or any other organisation unless the practice is involved in a specific project (such as the Health Care Homes Trial).

In this case, the practice would be fully aware of this requirement through a detailed program agreement and have provided WAPHA with explicit consent.

Will the data be used to evaluate GP performance?

No. The data is primarily used at a population or aggregate level to evaluate areas of patient need. It would not however be used to induce any penalty or restriction of commissioned services.

Will other practices be able to see my practice data?

No. The data shared with individual practices is identifiable as belonging to other practices.

Practices will receive reports based on either a state, region or customised cluster population only.

Is CAT Plus compatible with our existing practice software?

CAT Plus is compatible with most clinical software and can complement clinical management tools such as Medicine Insights to provide a full picture of your practice.

More than one data tool can be installed with CAT Plus extracting automatically in the background, without practices actively using the CAT Plus tools in practice (for selected clinical systems).

Do we have to use the CAT Plus tools? Can we use our own tools?

Other clinical audit tools are commercially available. WAPHA only provides free licenses and support for CAT Plus.

More information

If you have any further questions or concerns, please speak with your Primary Health Liaison or contact Practice Assist on 1800 2 277478.

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