



Dear Practice Principal

Primary Health Insights: the new national data storage and analytics platform

In September 2020, WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) wrote to inform you of the development of a national data storage and analytics platform known as Primary Health Insights. We are pleased to announce that the platform is now operational and most of the 27 participating Primary Health Networks (PHN) are storing de-identified patient data in this new environment.

The vision for Primary Health Insights is to use advanced analytics tools to produce greater insights from up to date de-identified general practice data. Reported in user friendly formats, this will assist general practices and PHNs to make informed decisions about Australian primary health care delivery.

The data stored on the platform is determined by the Data Sharing Agreement in place between your practice and WAPHA. This could include data extracted for the purpose of general practice PIP QI data.

Primary Health Insights is a highly secure data storage platform, built using leading edge cloud storage technology and subject to rigorous and ongoing cyber security validation. The platform provides secure lockboxes for each PHN and will facilitate secure sharing of data sets between PHNs in collaboration zones.

Data sets go through a comprehensive privacy impact assessment prior to being allowed onto the platform as required by the robust Data Governance Framework developed by PHNs.

Microsoft Azure technology provides Primary Health Insights with best in class security and cyber protection features that meet health industry information security and data privacy standards, as well as compliance with the Australian Privacy Principles (APP). The data, including back-ups, reside onshore in Australia.

De-identified patient data held on Primary Health Insights cannot be combined with other data sets to identify individuals. In accessing and using the data, WAPHA is required to comply with the Australian Privacy Principles and all applicable data protection and information security obligations.

Design of the platform encompassed detailed briefings with the AMA, RACGP, AIHW, RDAA, ACRRM the Consumer Health Forum and Health Consumers' Council (WA), all of whom expressed their support of the initiative.

WAPHA is now progressing the platform's analytics and reporting capabilities. We will soon be creating the first cross-PHN dataset on the platform, with up to ten PHNs sharing data in a secure collaboration zone.

Primary Health Insights has required no changes to your data extraction software and operates within your practice's current agreements. Further information will be provided to GPs in the coming weeks. We look forward to working with you in this exciting new area of digital health.

Yours sincerely,



Bernadette Kenny
General Manager Primary Care Innovation & Development