

# Primary Sense and Data Sharing options

## What is Primary Sense?

Primary Sense is a clinical decision support, population health management and data extraction tool for extracting, analysing and managing general practice data in a confidential and safe way. For detailed information see the [Primary Sense Website](#).

Designed by GPs, data experts and researchers, Primary Sense has been built on the premise of security and safeguarding health information. It uses the highest level of data security available and stringent security policies and practices to minimise the risk of data security breaches.

Primary Sense is WA Primary Health Alliance's (WAPHA) data extraction tool of choice. It is initially being made available to general practices that use Best Practice or Medical Director as a clinical information system (CIS), with more clinical software systems soon to become compatible.

Primary Sense has been tried and tested since 2018 and is being used by more than 700 Gold Coast GPs.

### The tool:

- Includes the Johns Hopkins ACG® System – the world's leading population health analytics software – that identifies high risk groups and predicts future health needs to improve a patient's care plan
- Is easy to use with most GPs requiring little or no training to get started
- Is compatible with major practice clinical software products, e.g., Medical Director and Best Practice (Genie and ZEDMED in the development pipeline)
- At the point of care, delivers real time, evidence-based medication safety alerts, patient care prompts and near real time data extractions
- Provides on-demand reports to proactively plan care that can be used by GPs, practice managers and practice nurses
- Only extracts deidentified data which is privacy protected, securely stored and managed in Australia
- Is hosted on [Primary Health Insights \(PHI\)](#), a secure data storage and analytics platform developed collaboratively by PHNs

Primary Sense and Primary Health Insights are Primary Health Network (PHN) owned and operated. Data is not commercialised.

## Why is WAPHA changing to Primary Sense?

WAPHA is making the change to Primary Sense because the software offers a comprehensive range of features and benefits that were not previously available to general practices and PHNs, including:

- **The Johns Hopkins University ACG® System** - The world's leading population health analytics software is inbuilt into Primary Sense. It identifies high risk groups and predicts future health needs to improve patient's care plan.
- **Real time alerts** - Medication alerts are delivered on screen at the time of the patient's appointment signalling to the GP when a particular medication could pose a risk to a patient. Care prompts work similarly within the appointment, prompting the GP with actions to consider for the patient, providing evidence of the recommended care and giving the GP ways to record any actions taken.
- **On demand reports** - GPs, practice nurses and staff can produce reports on demand to proactively plan a patient's care with on click.

Primary Sense is hosted on Primary Health Insights (PHI), a secure PHN-owned data storage and analytics platform used by 27 of the 31 PHNs nationally. PHI uses leading edge data security, robust data governance and privacy protection in line with the Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) your practice holds with WAPHA.

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WA Primary Health Alliance is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the PHN Program.

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

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## Why share data?

The Practice incentive programs (PIP) Quality Improvement (QI) incentive aims to support improved patient outcomes and best practice care. One of the two components for a practice to qualify for the PIP QI payment is to provide the PIP eligible data set to the appropriate PHN.

General practice continuous quality improvement activities, including improvement in patient outcomes and delivery of best practice care, rely on information and data. Through sharing data with WAPHA, our practice support teams can assist your practice team in the development and implementation of continuous quality improvement.

## What are my data sharing options?

The options available to your practice are listed below, including the outcomes of your decision.

What are my options?	Funded by WAPHA	Data reports	Clinical auditing tool	PIP QI eligible	Compatible software
Primary Sense	✓	✓	✓	✓	Best Practice, Medical Director, Zedmed*, Genie* excluding cloud based
Submit data via JSON file	✓	✗	✗	✓	All software
PenCS, CATPlus suite	✗ Financial cost to practice	✗	✓	✗ (JSON file required post June 2023)	Excluding cloud based software and MasterCare
Other data extraction tools	✗ Financial cost to practice	✗	✓	✗	Please refer to individual software providers

- Zedmed and Genie compatibility currently in development

## Things to consider for your practice:

### Primary Sense

- Primary Sense is a clinical decision support, population health management and data extraction tool
- Primary Sense is funded by WAPHA
- The data is collected every three minutes, meaning it is live and available to your clinical team in real time with no third-party involvement
- Data shared with the PHN is de-identified before it leaves the practice
- Meets PIP QI requirement for sharing data with your PHN

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### Timeframes:

- To ensure continuity of your PIPQI submissions, we recommend you submit your EOI by 1 March 2023
- From EOI receipt until installation can begin can take several weeks.
- The initial installation and extraction process in a one-off event.
- initial installation and extraction process timeframes vary and can take some time. This is because the practice's deidentified data is extracted in small packets, hence the quantum of active data your practice holds is a factor in how long the process takes.
- However, your system's speed or usability will not be impacted during this process.
- Once Primary Sense is installed, future data extractions will be completed in near real time.

### JSON File

- This is a manual process that will require your staff to complete an extraction and upload to the WAPHA Data Upload Facility within set time frames 4 times per year
- JSON file may need to be provided by your software vendor prior to upload
- Data shared is in relation to PIP QI 10 QIMs only
- Meets PIP QI requirement for sharing data with your PHN
- No access to data reports or auditing tool

### PenCS, CAT Plus Suite

- PenCS, CAT Plus Suite is a clinical auditing tool
- PenCS, CAT Plus Suite, will no longer be funded by WAPHA from July 2023
- After June 2023 you will need to purchase your own licence to continue using the tool, and your support will be provided in line with your licensing agreement with the software vendor
- To meet the PIP QI requirements, you will need to complete a new Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) with WAPHA to share data through the submission of a JSON file
- You will no longer receive data reports from WAPHA

## Additional Information

Please refer to the Practice Assist website for additional information on the [Primary Sense Tool Kit](#) and the [Practice Incentive Program Tool Kit](#)

If you would like to discuss your options and seek support through this change, please contact Practice Assist 1800 2 ASSIST (277 478) or email [Practice Assist](#)