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.

Primary Sense will initially be available to general practices that use Best Practice or Medical Director as a clinical information system (CIS) and will be WAPHA's data extraction tool of choice. Further clinical software systems will become compatible soon.

Designed by GPs, for GPs, 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 nurses
- Is hosted in Primary Health Insights (PHI) all data is de-identified then extracted from Primary sense and is privacy protected, securely stored and managed in Australia

Why is WAPHA changing to Primary Sense?

WA Primary Health Alliance (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 Primary Health Networks (PHNs).
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 best in class data security, robust governance and privacy protection in line with the Data Sharing Agreement (DSA).

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 with the appropriate PHN.

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

What are my data sharing options?

You have a range of options available to your practice and below is a list that details the outcomes of your decision.

Primary Sense and Data Sharing

Fact Sheet
V1 / January 2023

What are my options?	Financial Cost to practice	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	✓	✕	✕	✓	✕ (JSON file required post June 2023)	Excluding cloud based software and MasterCare
Other data extraction tools	✓	✕	✕	✓	✕	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 at the site and will not leave your practice in an identified manner
- Meets PIP QI requirement for sharing data with your PHN
- Timeframes: EOI to installation can take up to 25 days, initial installation and extraction can also take up to 25 days dependant on the size of your active patient database. To ensure continuance of PIPQI submissions we recommend submission of your EOI by 30 March 2023

JSON File
- This is a manual process that will require your staff to complete within time frames
- 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 June 2023
- After June 2023 you will be required to purchase a licence to continue using the tool, from this point your support will be provided inline with your licensing agreement
- To meet the PIP QI requirements, you will need to complete a new Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) to share data through 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 via email to Practice Assist