

Primary Sense

Data extraction and governance

How is the extracted, de-identified data used?

Primary Sense extracts de-identified general practice data and uses evidence-based algorithms to provide general practitioners (GPs) with clinical decision support via real-time medication alerts and patient-care prompts at the point of care.

The software also uses the de-identified data to provide general practices and WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) with on-demand reporting that can offer a better understanding of current and trending population health needs to support continuous quality improvement (CQI) and guide the commissioning of services.

How often is data extracted from a general practice?

The software extracts de-identified data from a general practice every three to five minutes. The de-identified data is securely transferred to a central database where it is run through analytics and evidence-based algorithms, including the [Johns Hopkins University ACG System](#) that identifies high-risk groups and predicts future health needs to improve a patient's care plan.

The processed data is presented back within the practice as alerts, prompts and reports. The data extraction process operates in line with the Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) that the practice signs with WAPHA.

What standards of data security are used?

Primary Sense uses the highest standards of data security to extract, analyse and manage general practice data. All data transmission is encrypted and sent over secure channels. It is stored or contained in reports that are locked down under multiple layers of access control.

The Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) between each general practice and WAPHA specifies what data is being extracted and how it can be used. The data is governed responsibly, privacy protected, securely stored and managed in Australia by the PHN-owned [Primary Health Insights \(PHI\)](#) hosting platform.

PHI has been developed using the following guiding principles:

- Patient privacy, data and cyber security are critical and a fundamental part of the platform.
- Data governance processes are best practice and fit for purpose.
- PHNs maintain full control of the data held on the platform.

The platform features multiple layers of [security](#) and a comprehensive [governance framework](#), and it complies with the Australian Privacy Principles and legislation.

What are the specific source database tables that the data is extracted from?

Primary Sense operates in line with the signed Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) between WAPHA and each individual general practice using the software. The software extracts de-identified data from the practice's Practice Management System (the Practice Data) which is transmitted to the Primary Sense system for processing and storage (the Shared Data) where it is used by the software to populate the reports, notifications and alerts. The specific source database tables that the data is extracted from differ for each Practice Management System and are outlined in the [Primary Sense Data Extraction Guide](#).

Is any personal information extracted during the Primary Sense extraction process?

No data is extracted from any field that is defined as referring to any personally identifying characteristic, such as name, date of birth, residential address or Medicare number.

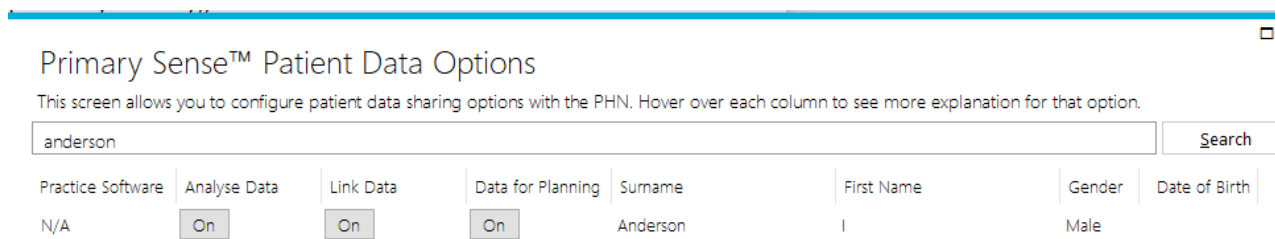
Data from fields containing personal information is accessed (read) by the locally installed Primary Sense software only in the following two specific circumstances:

1. To create unique, non-identifying keys for each patient or practitioner record to enable extracted data to be linked, aggregated and counted correctly.
2. To include patient and practitioner details in reports, notifications and alerts displayed to Primary Sense users locally within the practice.

Personal information is never sent out of the practice and is never accessible to the central Primary Sense system, or to any person or system from WAPHA or to any other third party.

Can patients opt out of sharing their de-identified data?

Patients can opt out of sharing their de-identified data at any time. To change a patient's data sharing options in Primary Sense, click on the Patients icon to open the Patient Data Options window (shown below), search for the patient's name and select the appropriate options. For more information, refer to the [manual](#) or [video](#) about patient opt in/out.



The screenshot shows the 'Primary Sense™ Patient Data Options' window. It includes a search bar with 'anderson' entered and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar is a table with columns for 'Practice Software', 'Analyse Data', 'Link Data', 'Data for Planning', 'Surname', 'First Name', 'Gender', and 'Date of Birth'. The 'Analyse Data', 'Link Data', and 'Data for Planning' columns each have an 'On' button. The 'Surname' column contains 'Anderson', 'First Name' contains 'I', and 'Gender' contains 'Male'.

Practice Software	Analyse Data	Link Data	Data for Planning	Surname	First Name	Gender	Date of Birth
N/A	<input type="button" value="On"/>	<input type="button" value="On"/>	<input type="button" value="On"/>	Anderson	I	Male	

Further information

For further information about Primary Sense:

- Contact the Practice Assist team to book a time that suits your practice and staff. Call 1800 2 ASSIST (1800 2 277 478) or email practiceassist@wapha.org.au
- Visit the [Primary Sense webpage](#) in the Practice Assist Tool Kit.