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Primary Sense and Data Sharing

Fact Sheet

phn
ADELAIDE

An Australian Government Initiative

We acknowledge the Kurna peoples who are the traditional Custodians of the Adelaide Plains. We pay tribute to their physical and spiritual connection to land, waters and community, enduring now as it has been throughout time. We pay respect to them, their culture and to Elders past and present. We would also like to acknowledge and pay our respects to those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from other Nations who live, work, travel and contribute on Kurna Country.

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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 Adelaide PHN's data extraction tool of choice.

Designed by GPs, for GPs, Primary Sense has been tried and tested since 2018 and is being used by more than 1,700 practices across 12 other PHNS so far.

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 Medical Director and Best Practice.
- 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 Adelaide PHN changing to Primary Sense?

Adelaide PHN (APHN) 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 30 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 APHN, 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.

What are my options?	Financial Cost to practice	Funded by APHN	Data Reports	Clinical Auditing tool	PIP QI Eligible	Compatible software
Primary Sense	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	Best Practice & Medical Director
Submit data via JSON file	X	✓	X	X	✓	All software
PenCS, CATPlus suite	✓	X	X	✓	(only via JSON file post 30 June 2025)	Most clinical information systems
Other data extraction tools	✓	X	X	✓	X	Please refer to individual software providers

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 APHN.
- 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 30 days, initial installation and extraction can also take up to 25 days dependent on the size of your active patient database.

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 APHN after 30th June 2025

- After June 2025 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 APHN

Additional Information

If you would like to discuss your options and seek support through this change, please contact the Adelaide PHN Primary Sense Support Team at primarysense@adelaidephn.com.au or 08 8219 5900.