

The practice you work with has joined the MedicineInsight program.

Please take the time to read this Information Sheet as it provides important information about the MedicineInsight program, the benefits of participating, and your privacy.

## What is MedicineInsight?

MedicineInsight is a national primary healthcare data program developed and managed by NPS MedicineWise, an Australian, independent, not-for-profit organisation.

MedicineInsight extracts longitudinal de-identified patient health records from the software healthcare professionals already use to manage patient records and write prescriptions. The data collected through MedicineInsight enables powerful data-driven evidence to be gained into how medicines and medical tests are used. This includes insights to support policy development, and identification of areas of need for new programs.

As a participant in the MedicineInsight program, your practice is contributing to helping identify evidence gaps in primary healthcare and to improve clinical practice and health outcomes for Australians.

## How does MedicineInsight work?

We will install a data extraction tool that works seamlessly with your clinical information system, to extract data from your medical records, including patient demographics (eg year of birth, sex, postcode, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status), clinical data entered directly by healthcare professionals (eg diagnosis, observations, tests performed) and may include sensitive and notifiable conditions, such as hepatitis C and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

The data is encrypted and securely transmitted to a secure data warehouse managed by NPS MedicineWise. We take robust precautions to protect MedicineInsight data, including encrypting data to government and international best practice standards.

Data is extracted out of office hours so as not to interfere with your day-to-day practice activities.

## How does MedicineInsight use data collected from this practice?

The data collected from this general practice is used by us to provide prescribing, data quality and clinical activity reports to your practice.

We also anonymise the data so that it does not identify the practice, and combine it with data from other participating practices, and use that data for research and evaluation purposes, including:

- ▶ chronic disease and other conditions
- ▶ the quality use of medicines such as antibiotics
- ▶ post-market surveillance of medicines
- ▶ delivering medical education
- ▶ supporting evidence for listing on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

From time to time we will undertake projects funded by other organisations, including State and Australian government departments and agencies, Primary Health Networks, medical colleges, not-for-profit organisations, and pharmaceutical and health insurance organisations.

Sometimes these third parties may wish to bring together de-identified information about patients from different data sources (eg hospital records) to help researchers better understand people's health journeys and patient experience which can lead to improvements in treatment and patient care. All studies using linked data must have ethical approval and researchers are only provided with de-identified information.

Independence and trustworthiness are core to what we do. The stringent governance and approval process we put in place when undertaking funded projects, including approval by an independent committee, means that we guarantee these projects are aligned with the aims of MedicineInsight to improve quality use of medicines, healthcare and patient safety. We never undertake projects for the purpose of promoting or marketing a pharmaceutical product. As part of the MedicineInsight program, our team may undertake audit, training, evaluation or quality improvement activities to ensure the de-identified data we collect is accurate.

## Does MedicineInsight share practice data with other organisations?

No practice level data (that is, data that is directly from a practice and can identify that practice, an individual provider or patient) is available to any other party without explicit signed permission from the relevant practice.

We encourage appropriate and bona fide research to support the quality use of medicines, and may share anonymised, and aggregated data with universities, academic organisations, and medical colleges. We may also share anonymised and aggregated data with Primary Health Networks to support quality improvement activities.

Requests to access MedicineInsight data undergo a rigorous approval process including assessment by an independent committee made up of consumer advocates, privacy and data experts, general practitioners and researchers.

## How is patient privacy protected?

We do not collect identified patient personal information, such as name, date of birth and address. Patient data is de-identified by the data extraction tool before it is securely transmitted to our data warehouse. We ensure confidentiality by adhering to rigorous controls to prevent unintended identification of patient data.

Researchers are bound by their access agreement with NPS MedicineWise and all relevant Australian privacy laws to safeguard the data and report any breaches and/or misuse of the data. Further, it is the role and responsibility of the Data Governance Committee and each ethics committee to evaluate risks against the likely benefits of the research for each application and decide. To allow us to track data about the patient over time, we tag the de-identified patient data with a unique number. This also enables the general practice to re-identify the patient data in the confines of the practice to help improve healthcare for that patient.

Even though we do not know patient identities, we respect the wishes of those patients who do not want to participate in MedicineInsight. To enable us to respect the choice of patients to opt out, we require the practice to display a Patient Poster, and provide the patient with an Information Sheet if the patient requests more information. If a patient wishes to opt out, then a practice staff member will need to change the consent status in the data extraction tool to stop the patient's data from being extracted.

Your practice has been provided with copies of the Patient Poster, Information Sheet and instructions on how to enable a patient to opt out. This is also available at [nps.org.au/medicine-insight](https://nps.org.au/medicine-insight).

## Does information identify me?

Our data extraction tool collects a minimal amount of personal information of healthcare professionals from your medical records, including name, provider number, and prescriber number. We collect additional personal information about you when you consent to receive individualised prescribing and clinical activity reports, including gender, year of birth or age group, email, address, and number of years practicing.

All personal information is kept secure and confidential. We use your personal information to provide educational

programs and visits, to award CPD points, to provide general practitioners with customised reports (with consent), and for our ongoing engagement with and support to you and your general practice.

**How does MedicineInsight benefit me?**

MedicineInsight adds clarity to your clinical data, making it easier to interpret and act on. It supports you to identify patients who may be undertreated, in need of review or potentially at risk. The benefits include:

- ▶ Free educational visits in-practice on therapeutic areas that provide an opportunity to discuss and reflect on your clinical data alongside the latest evidence and guidelines. Each educational visit is accredited for RACGP (2 QI CPD points), ACRRM (1 core point), and RCNA (1 CNE point).
- ▶ Customised reports that link your information with your regular patients and present clearly on therapeutic parameters to allow you to reflect on your own patterns of prescribing and patient care and compare these at local, regional and national levels. (NOTE: this is currently only available for general practitioners).

A general practitioner will need to opt-in to receiving customised reports by completing the general practitioner Consent Form below. If a general practitioner chooses not to opt in, then their prescribing and patient care information will be aggregated at a practice level.

Choosing not to opt in to receiving customised reports will not preclude a general practitioner from participating in our quality improvement activities, including our free educational visits.

**Further information**

Call: 1300 721 726

NPS MedicineWise privacy policy available at <https://www.nps.org.au/medicine-insight/privacy-security-governance>.

Email: [medicineinsight@nps.org.au](mailto:medicineinsight@nps.org.au)

Visit: <https://www.nps.org.au/medicine-insight>

This Information Sheet is available on our website.

**General Practitioner Consent Form**

By completing this form, you are consenting to NPS MedicineWise collecting, using and disclosing your personal information for the purposes of producing a customised report. This means that in the regular clinical activity reports we provide for your practice (the 'Practice Reports') we will identify your individual prescribing and clinical activity data. The Practice Reports are viewable by any healthcare professional in your practice, including the practice manager.

If you do not complete this form, or you subsequently withdraw your consent, then your prescribing and clinical activity data will be displayed in an aggregated format in the Practice Reports so as not to identify you. This will limit your ability to reflect on your own patterns of prescribing and patient care.

Information collected by this form is also used by us for administrative purposes, including awarding CPD points, and for our ongoing engagement with you and your general practice. For information on how we handle your personal information, how to access and seek correction of your information and how privacy complaints can be made, see the NPS MedicineWise Privacy Policy available at <https://www.nps.org.au/medicine-insight/privacy-security-governance>

I acknowledge that I have completed this form, or authorised for this form to be completed on my behalf

Name: .....

Name of Practice: .....

Email address: .....

Prescriber number: ..... RACGP / ACRRM

Provider number: ..... member number: .....

1. Gender  Female  Male
2. What is your position in the practice?  Employee GP  Contractor GP  Practice principal  Practice partner  GP locum  GP registrar
3. Do you work full time or part time?  Full time  Part time
4. What age group do you fall into?  under 25 years  25-34 years  35-44 years  45-54 years  55-64 years  65-74 years  75+ years
5. Did you complete your medical training in Australia?  Yes  No
6. How long have you been practising in Australia?  0-5 years  6-10 years  11-20 years  20+ years

Once completed, please return by either:

email: [medicineinsight@nps.org.au](mailto:medicineinsight@nps.org.au) | fax: 02 9211 7578 | mail: PO Box 1147, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

**nps.org.au**

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