

Data Extraction and Analysis FAQs

Why does WA Primary Health Alliance want our practice data?

Providing effective and efficient health services within limited budgets and an ageing population is becoming increasingly difficult to achieve without using quality primary health data to inform decision making on program funding, allocation and evaluation. General practice remains one of the richest sources primary health data and is vital to ensure quality service delivery. There is significant value in the data being collected within general practice to help identify patient needs and unclaimed revenue. WA Primary Health Alliance can assist your practice in unlocking the full potential of your practice's data to improve patient care and identify your practice's billable items. In exchange for sharing your practice data, WA Primary Health Alliance aims to provide practices with constructive reports and feedback regarding data quality as well as provide evaluation of programs your practice may be participating part in. The data may also be used to assist in the planning and commissioning of health services, including population health analysis.

What tools do WA Primary Health Alliance use?

WA Primary Health Alliance have a licensing agreement with PenCS for their full CATPlus suite of data analysis tools as shown in Figure 1 below. Figure 1 Data audit and analysis tools Practices are provided with licenses to use CAT4 and Topbar* within their practice whilst WA Primary Health Alliance utilises the PAT CAT tool to analyse extracted data from practices. For further information on the CATPlus tools please visit www.pencs.com.au.

*dependent on system compatibility



PenCS develop the CATPlus suite of products for general practice to make better use of the data collected and used in primary health. There are three products in the suite as shown below



CAT4
For practice level data analysis and audit



Topbar
Data about the active patient



PAT CAT
For WAPHA to analyse all practice data

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Where is the data stored?

The deidentified data extracted from general practice is currently stored on a physical server located at Curtin University, which is then aggregated by PAT CAT. This server is commonly referred to as the PAT CAT server. The location of the PAT CAT server may change in the future, but any selected location will be chosen to adhere with all best practice guidelines for the storage of health information within Australia.

Why was Curtin University chosen, why not elsewhere?



WA Primary Health Alliance currently lacks the physical infrastructure required to store health information which includes a dedicated, fire protected room with heavily restricted access and redundancy measures. Curtin University is ISO27001 certified and has extensive experience with managing and storing data, including population health and patient level data, and have provided a server within their secure environment for WA Primary Health Alliance

Who owns the data?

WA Primary Health Alliance acts as a custodian of the data and understands the importance of ensuring this data is kept secure and used only for its intended purpose. This includes managing access to the data by internal staff and external contractors (including Curtin University).

Will the data be provided to the Government?

Not directly, however the data may be used in an aggregated/regional manner, as part of the PHN Population Health Needs Assessments and evaluations undertaken by the WA Primary Health Networks. A health needs assessment is a systematic method of identifying unmet health and health care needs of a population and making choices to meet those unmet needs. It looks at what should be done and what can be done to address regional health needs. Data used in these instances will be aggregated and not be identifiable to any practice.

Will the data be sold?

No, not for any purpose.

Will the data be provided to other organisations?

There is potential for this to be the case. WA Primary Health Alliance understands the importance of and supports the concept of sharing data for the improvement of health care, which may include providing the aggregated PAT CAT data to other organisations for specific

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research or evaluation purposes. Any request to use the PAT CAT data will be evaluated on a case by case basis by WA Primary Health Alliance's Data Governance Committee, with the priority of improving health outcomes for West Australians, without jeopardising patient or provider privacy. Practices will be informed of any intention to use the PAT CAT data for any purpose beyond WA Primary Health Alliance's own and will also be provided the opportunity to opt out.

Will other practices be able to see my practice?

As default, individual practices are not visible to one another. Practices will receive reports based on either State, Region or customised cluster population only, no practices will be identifiable. There is potential to enable this for practices who may wish to be identifiable to others, such as corporate or group practices, but this is controlled by each individual practice.

Can WA Primary Health Alliance see my practice's data?

Yes, staff who WA Primary Health Alliance approve access to the PAT CAT data will be able to see aggregated data for the practice. In return WA Primary Health Alliance aims to provide practices with constructive reports and feedback regarding data quality and population health analysis, as well as provide evaluation of programs your practice may be taking part in. In general, however, data analysis is more likely to be focused on the total population of all practices, or a group of practices, to identify needs or evaluate programs.

Do we have to use the CATPlus tools? Can we use our own tools?

WA Primary Health Alliance supports the use of any clinical audit tool to improve data quality within general practice. At this stage WA Primary Health Alliance is only able to extract and provide aggregate reports on data uploaded to PAT CAT. There may be consideration to adopt other tools for this process in the future, but this cannot be guaranteed. It should also be noted that practices can run more than one data tool at any one time and that data can be extracted to PAT CAT automatically in the background, without practices actively using the CATPlus tools (for selected clinical systems).