

POLAR

Population Level Analysis & Reporting (POLAR GP) system

For more information on POLAR GP please contact the ehealth team:

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What is POLAR GP?

Outcome Health's POpulation Level Analysis and Reporting tool (POLAR GP) uses health analytics for understanding population health trends, informing quality improvement in primary health services, and providing insights into local business drivers for general practice.

How can my practice benefit from POLAR GP?

POLAR GP is a 'business intelligence tool' that uses data extracted from clinical & billing software. It is mainly intended for use by GPs, practice managers, and nurses. It informs patient-centred care, quality improvement, and business development. The use of POLAR GP allows practices to identify patient cohorts, workforce needs, and track patient outcomes.

What happens to the data from my practice?

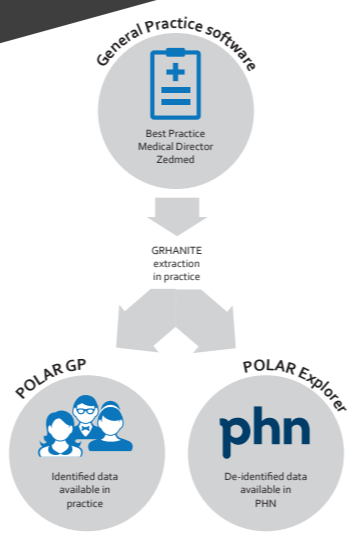
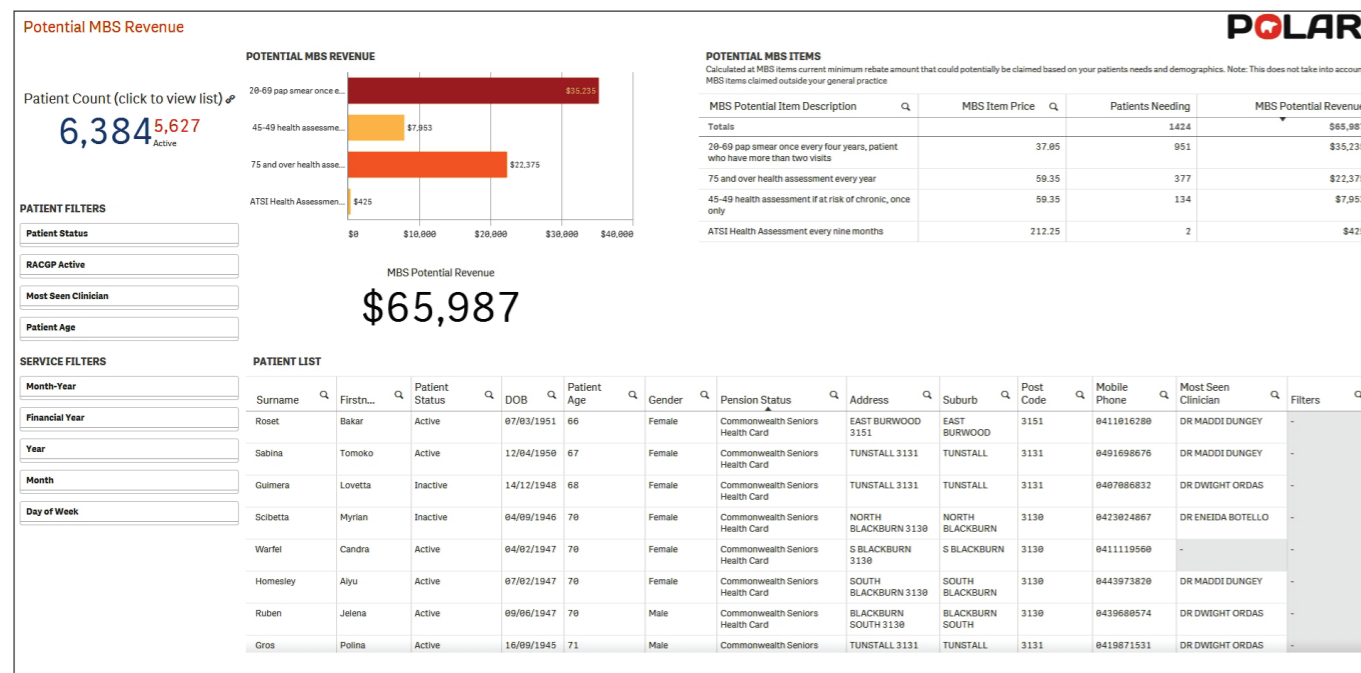
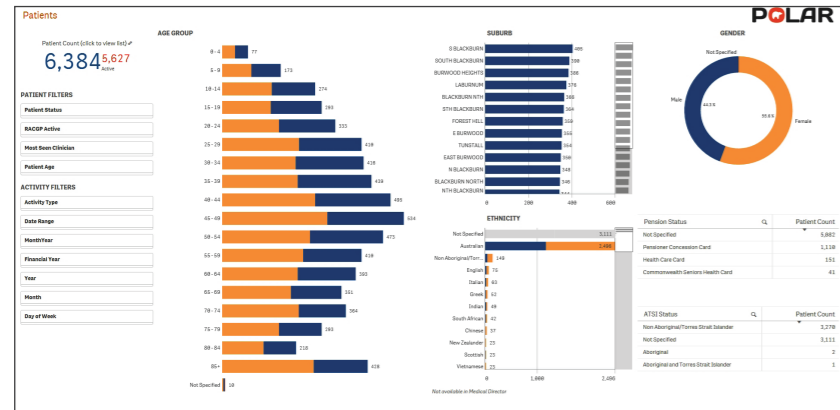
De-identified data is sent to your local Primary Health Network (PHN) for analysis to help them identify system gaps and work towards developing better health services for the community.

Is POLAR GP easy to use?

The guiding principle behind POLAR GP is that no matter what your skill level is you should be able to access the data you want using a quick and easy method. It should never take more than 2 minutes to find what you want.

For a demonstration on how to use POLAR GP please contact Eastern Melbourne PHN.

A closer look



Frequently asked questions

What is the cost to the practice?

There is no direct cost to the practice. POLAR GP is fully subsidised by the PHN, and there will be no ongoing product costs. An agreement to provide de-identified practice data to the PHN is required for the use of the tool.

How will POLAR GP benefit patient care?

POLAR GP will inform patient-centred care and quality improvement activities. For example your practice can identify at-risk patients on a range of clinical indicators, audit appropriate medications and immunisations, track patient and practitioner outcomes, and improve data quality. This in turn will aid identification of service needs, education requirements and provision of care to your patient population.

How does POLAR GP work?

POLAR GP is a highly intuitive and user-friendly platform that requires very little training. You click directly on the charts to filter down to the information you need. POLAR GP also maps free text diagnoses to internationally recognised diagnosis codes. In other words, it includes the data coded by GPs, as well as the free text-entered data.

How will the privacy of our patients and providers be protected?

Privacy is a top priority. At no point does any identified patient or individual provider information leave your practice. At your practice, the GRHANITE data extraction tool developed by Melbourne University de-identifies the data and sends the encrypted data securely to the Outcome Health data warehouse.

Who has the right to use this data?

Only your PHN can use the de-identified aggregated practice data through a secure web portal. Privacy is further protected in this portal with geographical information concerning patients disappearing once patients drop below a count of 20 people. Data cannot be shared with others without your permission.

How is the PHN going to use the aggregated de-identified patient data?

De-identified patient data will be used alongside state datasets to inform population health planning and service design to bring about better patient outcomes across the region. This will include providing education and training in areas of need, identification of service gaps, commissioning and incentivising of new services, and evaluating program outcomes. This data will also assist in benchmarking your practice across the region to inform and highlight areas of value in your practice. The PHN cannot see your financial information.

How is POLAR GP installed?

The installation process will be carried out by PHN staff and will be followed up with face-to-face training and support with a nominated practice champion.

The installation is carried out in three parts: Installation of GRHANITE (the data extraction tool), Qlik Sense (an interactive reporting application), and POLAR GP (that places your extracted data into the user interface). A standard installation will take 1 – 2 hours, however this is dependent on practice size and system capabilities. Remote installation can also be conducted in many cases.

What training will be provided for POLAR GP?

Training can be provided face-to-face upon installation of POLAR GP and via support videos in the POLAR GP tool.