



POpulation Level Analysis & Reporting (POLAR) system

For more information on POLAR
please contact your local PHN



What is POLAR?

Outcome Health's POpulation Level Analysis and Reporting tool (POLAR) uses health analytics to understand and respond to population health trends, support quality in primary health services and provide insights into the local business drivers for general practice.

How can my practice benefit from POLAR?

POLAR is a "business intelligence tool", based on extracted data for clinical/billing software, for GPs, Practice Managers and other staff to use within their practice to help provide better patient centred care, quality improvement and support business development. It allows practices to identify patient cohorts, workforce needs and track patient outcomes.

What happens to the data from my practice?

Reports will be generated to provide your practice with analysed and bench marked data to help you identify the health needs of your community. To generate these reports 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.

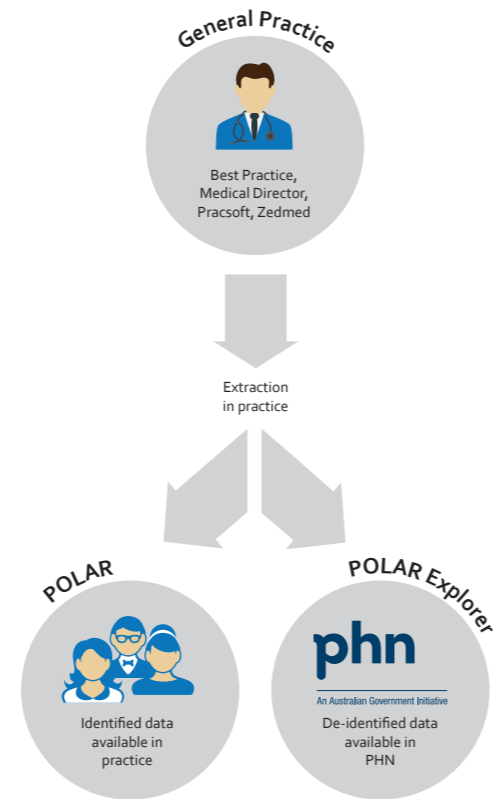
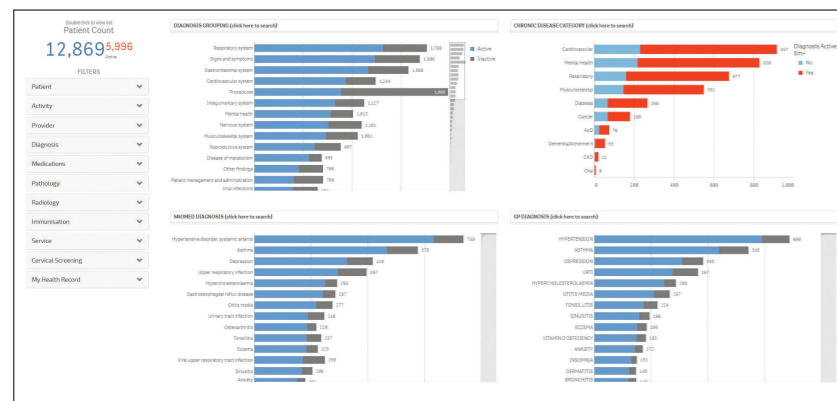
Is POLAR easy to use?

The guiding principle behind POLAR is, no matter what your skill level 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 please contact your local PHN.



A closer look



Frequently asked questions

What is the cost to the practice?

There is no direct cost to the practice. POLAR 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 benefit patient care?

POLAR will support internal operations including patient-centred care and quality improvement activities. For example, on POLAR, 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 work?

POLAR is a highly intuitive and user-friendly platform that requires very little training for use, resulting in a decrease in the time spent auditing. Filters are applied in an easy and intuitive manner allowing practices to determine what information is required. POLAR also allows practices to review their MBS activity and investigate potential MBS revenue. In addition, it enables mapping of GP free text diagnoses to internationally recognised diagnoses codes.

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

Privacy concerns are a top priority. At no point does any identified patient data leave your practice. At your practice the data extraction tool de-identifies the data and sends the encrypted data securely to the POLAR Data Warehouse.

Who has the right to use this data?

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. Aggregated de-identified patient data may be used for PHN approved research that will benefit the community and service system. It will not be shared with any commercial entities (i.e. pharmaceutical companies).

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

De-identified patient data that is extracted from practices will be used alongside state data sets to improve population health planning and provide 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 installed?

The installation process will be carried out by the PHN, however the process has been purposely designed to allow people with minimal IT experience to install the application, and some practices may wish to do it themselves.

What training will be provided for POLAR?

Training can be provided upon installation of POLAR through PHN Practice Engagement staff and through support videos in the POLAR tool. There are also monthly POLAR Q&A webinars conducted by the POLAR team that can answer any additional questions you may have.