

POLAR, data definitions, caveats and limitations

POLAR is a primary care data platform used by ~90% of EMPHN general practices that securely extracts and aggregates de-identified data from participating general practice clinical systems.

POLAR extracts data from structured fields (e.g. diagnoses, prescribed medications, measurements) and NOT free-text notes

Differences in how practices code diagnoses, medications etc. can affect completeness and comparability of the data.

POLAR insights are intended to provide system-level or population-level context and support reflection and quality improvement.

RACGP active patient

- Patient who has visited a specific general practice at least three times in the previous two years

Diagnosis of HF (diagnosis field)

- 'heart failure' string
- 'cardiac failure' string
- 'ventricular failure' string
- 'myocardial failure' string
- 'cardiomyopathy' string
- 'cor pulmonale' string
- Abbreviations (e.g. HF, CCF, CHF, HFrEF, HFmrEF, HFpEF)

Diagnosis of HF subtypes based on SNOMED terms

- HFrEF = heart failure with reduced ejection fraction
- HFmrEF = heart failure with mid range ejection fraction
- HFpEF = heart failure with normal ejection fraction

HF-specific beta blockers

- Bisoprolol
- Carvedilol
- Metoprolol succinate CR
- Nebivolol

ACE inhibitors, ARBs and ARNI (including combination products)

- Enalapril
- Lisinopril
- Perindopril arginine / perindopril erbumine
- Ramipril
- Trandolapril
- Candesartan
- Valsartan
- Sacubitril + valsartan

MRA

- Eplerenone
- Spironolactone

SGLT2 inhibitors (including combination products)

- Dapagliflozin
- Empagliflozin

GPCCMP and DMMR / RMMR

- GP management plans (229, 721, 92024, 92055)
- Team care arrangements (230, 723, 92025, 92056)
- Reviews (233, 732, 92028, 92059)
- Prepare a GPCCMP - face to face (965, 392)
- Prepare a GPCCMP - video (92029, 92060)
- Review a GPCCMP - face to face (967, 393)
- Review a GPCCMP - video (92030, 92061)
- DMMRs (245, 900): RMMRs (249, 903)

Vaccinations

- Data only captures vaccinations administered in general practices and recorded in a patient's immunisation record
- COVID-19 vaccines include the Pfizer and the Moderna vaccines (Cormirnaty® and Spikevax®)