

MedicineInsight Program changes

Background

Since the [Federal Budget announcement to redesign the Quality Use of Diagnostics and Therapeutics Program \(QUDTP\) in March 2022](#), NPS MedicineWise and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (The Commission) have collectively been in contact with your general practice to advise of the change in custodianship of the MedicineInsight Program.

This document outlines some changes made to MedicineInsight as part of the transition, along with the actions required by your practice and participating general practitioners to continue involvement in the program.

All changes outlined below have been approved under a new ethics process with the RACGP National Research Ethics and Evaluation Committee (NRREC) – Reference Number: 23-171.

A New Practice Agreement

In order to reflect the Commissions operational processes and procedures and to fulfil privacy and ethics obligations, a new practice agreement has been developed.

This document will continue to be known as an Agreement and will supersede the previous Agreement in place between your practice and NPS MedicineWise.

While the format of the new Agreement may look different, the functions and arrangements to support MedicineInsight fundamentally remain the same. The Commission will continue to support MedicineInsight, with a commitment to ensure the Program is a leading national primary healthcare data collection used by general practice, researchers, policy makers and other key stakeholders across the healthcare system to enable safety and quality improvement.

It is important to note that some minor adjustments have been made to the Agreement to reflect the Commission's position on consumer engagement. These include processes to support your practice's obligation to notify your patients (consumers) of the practice's involvement in a secondary use data program, such as MedicineInsight. For example:

- Supporting [two forms of display arrangements for the practice poster](#) (i.e. hardcopy and/or digital versions) to ensure patients are aware of the practice's participation in MedicineInsight.
- Encouraging practices and/or general practitioners to [include advice about involvement in the MedicineInsight Program on their website, in privacy policies and in privacy notices](#).
- Further [information about how general practitioners can provide consent to participate in the receipt of custom reports](#) for visualisation within their own practice.

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Note: In order for your practice to continue to participate in the MedicineInsight Program the authorised person (e.g. the practice owner, manager or nominated privacy officer) will need to read and agree to the terms and conditions in the Agreement and return a digitally signed copy to the Commission via the DocuSign email.

Your practice may find the RACGP guideline on key principles for the secondary use of general practice data by third parties a useful resource to consult when undertaking this step: <https://www.racgp.org.au/running-a-practice/security/managing-practice->

Practice Poster

Following the adjustments to the Agreement to support consumer engagement functions, other enhancements have been made to increase accessibility, and strengthen awareness of, the MedicineInsight program among consumers. These changes allow patients to acquire information in their own time to make an informed choice about their decision to opt out. They include:

- **QR code capability on hardcopy and digital versions.** Patients can now scan a QR code that will direct them to the MedicineInsight website to access a digital version of the patient information and opt-out form. This enables consumers to read and act on the information in their own time – *please note that despite the QR code facilitating ease of access to digital documentation, practices are still required to make hardcopy versions of the patient information and the opt-out form available to patients.*
- **Digital version of the practice poster (PowerPoint).** The practice poster is now available for display on practice media devices (i.e. television and/or iPad), social media platforms and website. A copy of this document is enclosed and is available in a suitable format (jpeg file) for upload on one (or more) of the platforms listed above.

Note: Practices are reminded that MedicineInsight receives de-identified data of all patients from a participating practice unless a patient decides to opt out of the program. The opt out process relies on practices displaying the MedicineInsight patient information poster (digitally or via hardcopy) and making the opt-out forms available to patients.

Information and Opt-out Form – Patients

Various updates have been made to promote greater communication and transparency about the opt out approach, and to improve understanding toward the type of data collected, used, and disclosed under the program to align with emerging public interest. This includes:

- Use of **terminology that is consistent with the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)**, the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) and [RACGP's secondary use framework regarding MedicineInsight de-identified patient information](#).
- **Strengthened messaging around the opt out approach** to ensure it is transparent, portrayed as best practice and reflects a type of recruitment method (rather than explicit consent to participate).

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- Further [information on how to opt out](#), including how to access opt-out forms, so patients can make an informed choice to opt out if desired.
- Recognition of guardian and person responsible arrangements for a patient who is a child or has cognitive impairment and/or intellectual disability.
- Development of an [Easy English version](#) to increase accessibility among patients from all backgrounds and literacy levels. This version also serves as an adjunct to the translated material (twelve languages) for [Culturally and Linguistically Diverse \(CALD\) communities](#).
- Statements that confirm the [release of MedicineInsight data in line](#) with Commonwealth data sharing principles and the [Five Safes Framework](#).
- A digital version of the form is available to patients who scan the [QR code](#) on the practice poster.

Information Document and Consent Form – General Practitioners

The above changes to the patient information and opt-out form have been translated across the health practitioner information documents and consent form where applicable. In addition to these changes the following updates have been made:

- A digital version (PowerPoint) is available for the practice to upload to their local electronic information systems (e.g. upload to a local Intranet page, social media or in practice TV).

Practices are reminded that general practitioners must provide their consent for the use of their personal information to enable insights at a provider level in practice reports relative to their practice. It is therefore the responsibility of the practice to ensure the information document and consent form is made available to general practitioners – including those new to the practice.