

# About the MedicineInsight Program



**This General Practice (GP) will send some information about you to MedicineInsight.**

**This is what it means for you.**

## What is MedicineInsight?

MedicineInsight is a program that collects information from GPs around Australia. It helps us understand what's happening in health care. We use this information to improve treatment.

MedicineInsight is run by the Australian Government through the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission).

There are strict rules to keep the information safe, secure and private.

You can find more about the Commission at [www.safetyandquality.gov.au](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au)

## What information does MedicineInsight collect?

MedicineInsight collects information about you from medical records.

We never collect patients' names or any personal information. There is a special tool on your doctor's computer to take out all the personal information. Here are some examples of the information we collect:

- age, sex, gender, and postcode
- whether a patient identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- medical history (e.g. conditions, allergies, procedures, weight)
- healthcare information (e.g. medicines, medical tests, vaccines, referrals)
- behaviour like smoking and or drinking alcohol
- some illnesses (including hepatitis C and HIV).

We send all the information to a safe database in Australia. We look at it all together to understand more about Australians' health and treatments.

Information also comes in from other doctors around the country.

We work with your doctor to make sure you receive safe and quality health care

Only a few people from the Commission are allowed to see the information in the MedicineInsight database. A copy of our privacy policy is at: [www.safetyandquality.gov.au/about-us/governance/privacy-policy](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/about-us/governance/privacy-policy).

You can also ask your doctor for a copy of their privacy policy.

## How does MedicineInsight use the information?

We use the information to help general practices and doctors improve the way they use tests, treatments and medicines. This means the best health care for all patients.

We also send reports to the Health Department. These reports help the Australian Government plan so everyone gets the medicines and treatments they need. The reports help us see if we need to improve quality and safety. The reports could include information on:

- medicines, vaccines and medical devices or tests
- how health services are used by different groups of people (e.g. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with intellectual disability and/or people in remote and rural places)
- treatment of chronic conditions (e.g. diabetes, asthma, and cancer) and infections (e.g. flu, COVID, hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS).

We also use MedicineInsight data to improve the way we collect and use information from general practice.

Sometimes we share data with other organisations (e.g. government departments, government-funded organisations, not-for-profit organisations, and research institutes). We carefully check all requests to make sure the data stays private and secure. It has to be used for the right reasons and be good to all people. The organisations will never know patients' personal information.

Sometimes other organisations may join up MedicineInsight data with other data (like hospital records or education records). This is called data linkage. It helps improve patient care in different places.

You can see projects that have used MedicineInsight data here: <https://www.nps.org.au/medicine-insight/approved-projects-using-medicineinsight-data>

## Can I say no?

This practice will automatically send your information to MedicineInsight unless you tell them no.

It is OK to say no. It won't change the care your doctor gives you now or in future.

If you don't want this practice to send your information to MedicineInsight, ask for a copy of the opt-out form. They will keep the form in the doctors' practice. They won't share it with the Commission.

If you fill out the form, the practice will stop sending your information to MedicineInsight. If you go to another general practice that is also part of the MedicineInsight program, you will have to fill out another form.

## How can I get more information?

You can ask the receptionist or your doctor for more information.

Or you can call us at the Commission on 1300 721 726 or email [qumcustomerservice@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:qumcustomerservice@safetyandquality.gov.au)

