

This medical practice takes part in MedicineInsight

MedicineInsight is a national health information program that uses routinely collected information to improve the quality of health care in Australia. The program collects information from the medical records held in this practice. This information is used to help your doctors provide the best and safest possible patient care.

NPS MedicineWise started MedicineInsight in 2011. NPS MedicineWise is an independent, not-for-profit and evidence-based organisation. We receive funding from the Australian Government Department of Health.

MedicineInsight collects information to achieve better health outcomes for all

MedicineInsight collects healthcare information from patient medical records of participating general practices/ medical centres across Australia. We combine the information to create the MedicineInsight program database.

The information collected is about a patient's:

- ▶ demographics (such as age and sex),
- ▶ medical history (such as conditions, allergies, procedures, weight, age, gender),
- ▶ health care (such as medicines, tests, referrals), and
- ▶ lifestyle (such as smoking and alcohol consumption).

Information collected by MedicineInsight includes a patient's postcode, whether they are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and may include sensitive and notifiable conditions, such as hepatitis C and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Is my privacy protected?

Information that can identify you such as your name, date of birth and address is not shared with MedicineInsight. This means that patient information can be used to improve the health of people in Australia, but no-one will know which patient it came from. Because the patient information we collect is in a non-identifiable form, the risk of re-identification is very low.

Your medical practice and NPS MedicineWise will ensure that the way we collect, store and use your health information is safe, secure and in line with the Australian Privacy Act. We take stringent steps to ensure that your privacy and security are protected.

All MedicineInsight information is stored securely in Australia.

How does MedicineInsight use the information?

We use the information to provide feedback to all general practices participating in the MedicineInsight program to improve the quality of health care provided to patients. The information collected from this practice is also combined with data from other practices and included in NPS MedicineWise educational programs and activities.

The information may also be used for health research projects and to inform health policy. We analyse and report on topics such as:

- ▶ medicine, vaccine or device safety
- ▶ how tests are ordered
- ▶ whether the health care that is provided could be improved;
- ▶ use of health services by different groups such as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people or in different places
- ▶ treatment of chronic conditions (eg, diabetes, asthma, cancer)
- ▶ management of infections (eg, the flu, hepatitis C, human immunodeficiency virus [HIV]).

All project proposals that require access to information from the MedicineInsight program are assessed by an independent committee that includes consumer advocates, privacy experts and researchers, and, where appropriate, by a human research ethics committee before they can go ahead.

Sometimes these third parties may wish to bring together de-identified information about you from different data sources (eg hospital records, education records) to help researchers better understand people's health journeys and patient experience which can lead to improvements in treatment and patient care.

All studies using linked data must have ethical approval and researchers are only provided with de-identified information.

As part of the MedicineInsight program, our team may undertake audit, training, evaluation or quality improvement activities to ensure the de-identified data we collect is accurate.

MedicineInsight is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health. Approved projects using MedicineInsight information may be conducted with, and funded by, third parties. These include government departments, regulatory authorities, universities, medical charities, pharmaceutical companies or insurance companies.

You can find a list of approved projects on the NPS MedicineWise website at:

<https://www.nps.org.au/medicine-insight/approved-projects-using-medicineinsight-data>

Your choice

NPS MedicineWise and the staff in this practice respect that you may choose not to take part in MedicineInsight.

If you do not want this practice to continue to share information from your medical record with MedicineInsight, you can opt out of the program at any time by filling out the form overleaf and giving it to reception.

Choosing not to take part in MedicineInsight will not affect the medical care that you receive in any way.

Further information

Call: **1300 721 726**

NPS MedicineWise privacy policy available at [nps.org.au/privacy](https://www.nps.org.au/privacy).

Email: medicineinsight@nps.org.au

Visit: <https://www.nps.org.au/medicine-insight>

I acknowledge that:

- ▶ I have read and understood the MedicineInsight patient information sheet.
- ▶ I have had the opportunity to ask questions about MedicineInsight. The program has been explained to me, and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.
- ▶ I understand that if I opt out, the practice will stop releasing my non-identifiable information to MedicineInsight.
- ▶ I know that the signed opt-out form will be kept at this medical practice and not shared with NPS MedicineWise.
- ▶ I understand that under the Australian Privacy Act (1988), NPS MedicineWise has the authority to retain and use non-identifiable information already collected.
- ▶ My medical care will not be affected by my choice not to participate in MedicineInsight.

I want to opt out of the MedicineInsight program

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of birth: ____ / ____ / ____ Gender: female male other

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Once completed, please return this form to your GP or the practice reception.

OFFICE USE ONLY

This form must be retained for practice records in a secure place. Do not return this document to NPS MedicineWise.

For additional information call MedicineInsight on 1300 721 726.

Patient has been opted out of MedicineInsight data collection tool

Action taken to ensure patient's records are not used

Name of action officer: _____

Date: _____