



INTRODUCTION TO PRIMARY SENSE

Primary Sense is a Primary Health Network owned and operated population health management, clinical decision support and data extraction tool. It extracts de-identified general practice data and uses evidence-based algorithms to provide GPs with real time medication alerts, reports and patient care prompts.

Primary Sense was developed in 2017 by the Gold Coast PHN and has since been adopted nationally, currently in use by 12 PHNs. WA Primary Health Alliance now manages Primary Sense on behalf of PHNs and has responsibility for development and management of Primary Sense.

78%

OR 164 PRACTICES ON THE
GOLD COAST UTILISE IT

Objective

Demonstrate, monitor and measure desired benefits linked to the use of Primary Sense tool, with the overarching objective to support continuous quality improvement in primary care. Report details performance against the 30 selected KPIs and 14 benefits of the Primary Sense Program.

Each benefit mapped to:

- Quintuple aim
- Type of benefit
- Primary beneficiary
- Characteristics of a world class health system

Though GCPHN has licensed data analytics tools for Gold Coast practices before, this is our first time monitoring and evaluating benefits at this level.



KEY FINDINGS

In 2023/24, Gold Coast PHN's demonstrated progress against a broad range of Primary Sense benefits, with targets for most KPIs met.

1.4 NUMBER OF PRACTICES WHO DOWNLOADED AT LEAST 1 PRIMARY SENSE REPORT IN LAST 12 MONTHS	
YEAR 1 TARGET	Establish baseline
GCPHN ACTIVITIES	Increased uptake of standardised, evidence-based decision support and shared decision-making focused on at-risk patients.
PROGRESS	Satisfactory progress: 91.9% (n=147 of 160) practices downloaded at least one report in the last 12 months.
CHANGE FROM 6-MONTH REPORT	Compared to July – Dec 2023, there was an increase in practices who downloaded a report in the last 12 months (81.5%).

Key Benefits

BENEFIT	MET	PARTIALLY MET	NOT MET	FUNCTIONALITY IS NOT YET DESIGNED, DEVELOPED, OR DEPLOYED
#1 Point of care decisions informed by evidence-based algorithms applied to patient specific general practice data.	2	1	1	1
#2 Support data linkage opportunities that improve needs assessment and health service planning.	2			
#3 General practice data available in real time to inform care and support planning and evaluation.	4			
#4 Ability to understand and monitor health status of patients and the broader community through local general practice data.	3			
#5 Identify high risk patients (with modifiable risks) using patient specific general practice data and target evidence-based interventions that reduce onset of preventable disease and slow the trajectory of chronic disease.	1			1
#6 Optimise GPs and practice staff use of Primary Sense to improve the quality and completeness of patient information to inform risk stratification and prioritisation of care to those most at risk.				1
#7 Optimise use of existing, individualised data in general practice systems to inform healthcare planning and delivery.	2	1		1
#8 Easier and faster for frontline clinicians to proactively manage patient health.				2
#9 Support self-sufficiency of practices in undertaking mature clinical governance (including CQI).		1		
#10 Prompts, alerts, and reports are tailored to needs of practice staff.	1			
#11 PHNs have ownership of IP and product rather than a commercial provider.	1			
#12 PHNs ownership of product provides greater value (cost management) over commercially available alternatives.	1			
#13 GP data available in real time to inform care and support planning and evaluation.	1			
#14 Patients who have modifiable risks receive evidence-based interventions that reduce onset of preventable disease and slow the trajectory of chronic disease.	1			



THE NEXT STEPS

Gold Coast PHN has shared their Benefit Realisation Report with other PHNs using Primary Sense for their adoption. This has generated a national interest to collaborate and align future Primary Sense Benefits Planning and Reporting at a scaled level.