POLAR GP

South Western Sydney PHN (SWSPHN) provides the POLAR (**PO**pulation **L**evel **A**nalysis and **R**eporting) clinical audit tool to general practices in South Western Sydney. POLAR provides insights into patient data to help practices better understand their patient cohort. It also enables general practices to more meaningfully analyse their patient data to identify gaps in patient care, track patient outcomes, build on areas of quality improvement and identify opportunities to improve practice revenue.

POLAR demonstration video: https://youtu.be/afsrju0jv30

What is POLAR GP?

POLAR is a secure and powerful business intelligence tool used at general practices via a user-friendly online portal. With the appropriate administrative rights, the tool allows access to practice data. Filters can be applied in an intuitive manner allowing the user to navigate and find the information they require.
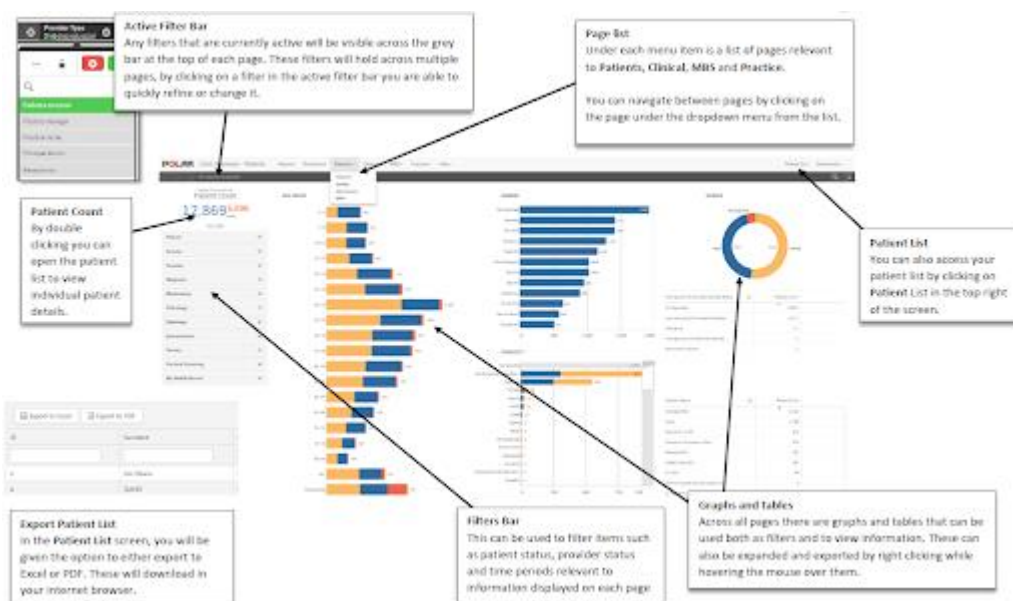
What are the benefits of using POLAR GP?

POLAR GP is designed for use by principal owners, practice managers and other staff. It has five aims:

- To help provide better patient care. Examples include identifying high risk patients based on key clinical indicators
- To improve practice data quality and help meet accreditation standards
- To identify MBS opportunities to support business development
- De-identified data helps with understanding current population health trends to assist with future health planning

- In conjunction with SWSPHN's QIPC program, to provide monthly/quarterly reports comparing your a general practice's data with RACGP Standards (5th edition) and other practices in South Western Sydney.

What does it look like?

Who is eligible?

If your general practice is participating in the PIP QI, you are eligible to have the POLAR GP tool installed. If you are not participating in the PIP QI and would like to do so, you will need to sign a data sharing agreement prior to installation of the tool.

What is the cost to the practice?

There is no direct cost to the practice. SWSPHN fully subsidises POLAR GP and there are no ongoing product costs. An agreement to provide de-identified practice data to SWSPHN is required for use of the tool.

How can your practice get POLAR GP installed?

A SWSPHN representative will contact your practice. Outcome Health will remotely install POLAR GP at an agreed time and date.

What training will be provided for POLAR GP?

Training can be provided face-to-face when SWSPHN staff install the tool or can be provided through support videos in the POLAR GP tool. Visit our resource page for more information.

How will the privacy of your patients and providers be protected?

Privacy concerns are a top priority for SWSPHN. At no point does any identified patient data leave your practice. At your practice, the data extraction tool de-identifies the data and sends the encrypted data securely to the POLAR Data Warehouse.

Who has the right to use this data?

SWSPHN can use the de-identified aggregated practice data through a secure web portal. Privacy is further protected in this portal with geographical information concerning patients disappearing once patients drop below a count of 20 people. Aggregated de-identified patient data may be used for PHN-approved research which will benefit the community and service system.

How is SWSPHN going to use the aggregated de-identified patient data?

De-identified patient data extracted from practices will be used alongside state data sets to improve population health planning and provide better patient outcomes across the region. This will include providing education and training in areas of need, identification of service gaps, commissioning and incentivising of new services, and evaluating program outcomes. This data will also assist in benchmarking your practice across the region to inform and highlight areas of value in your practice.

Find out more?

- Contact your Practice Support Officer (T2 practices)/Health System Improvement Officer (T3 practices) to find out more.

- If you want to jump the queue and get POLAR GP installed ASAP please contact SWSPHN's Health Systems Improvement Team at HSIsupport@swsphn.com.au