What is Primary Health Insights?

Primary Health Insights (PHI) is a highly secure storage and analytics solution designed to store data collected by Primary Health Networks (PHNs) across Australia in accordance with their existing Data Sharing Agreements and privacy legislation.

Primary Health Insights will:

- increase the analytical and reporting capability of all PHNs

- ensure robust data governance and cyber security

- automate a number of manual and governance processes

- facilitate alignment with nationally managed population-level datasets

- standardise reports where possible

- bring together a community of primary health informatics experts across the PHNs to improve population health outcomes for all Australians.

The vision for PHI is to provide easy to use reporting and analytics of practice data to support PHNs and healthcare providers make informed decisions about Australian primary healthcare delivery.

Why is the PHN using Primary Health Insights?

Primary Health Insights is a collective solution developed by the PHN Network to standardise data security, governance and processes associated with data storage and analysis. PHI provides a safe, robust and scalable data warehouse solution to support PHN's with data analytics and reporting needs.

What does this mean for Brisbane North PHN?

Brisbane North PHN has always stored data securely in local databases and data warehouses. The transition to hosting data on the PHI platform will allow the PHN to take advantage of gains in efficiency, productivity, governance and analytics by:

- removing the requirement to purchase, manage and maintain national datasets

- simplifying and systematising data collection and management from general practice and commissioned services

- facilitating working collaboratively with other PHNs to support enhancements in analysis and reporting

- alignment of purpose and consistency in approach across all PHNs, regarding the management, governance and protection of data

- increasing access to training in data and analytics tools to support improved analysis, insight-driven decisions and ultimately, improved health outcomes for our community.

Brisbane North PHN will begin transitioning data to the PHI Platform in late November 2020.

Importantly, all PHNs will continue to maintain custodianship of their data, and data will not be available to other PHNs unless agreements are established to support sharing of data for collaborative activities.

What mental health data will be stored on Primary Health Insights?

The PHN will store the Primary Mental Health Care Minimum Dataset (PMHC-MDS) collected by referrers and service providers delivering mental health and suicide prevention services.

The PMHC-MDS provides the basis for PHNs and the Commonwealth Department of Health to monitor and report on the quantity and quality of mental health services delivered or commissioned by PHNs. Data is collected from both referrers and providers of services, and has been designed to understand who delivers, what services, to whom, at what cost, and with what outcomes.

The transition of data to the PHI platform is aligned with all elements of existing contracts and consent forms – **no changes are required**.

What safeguards are in place to protect the security of data?

One of the main drivers for the development of PHI was to take advantage of technical advancements in data security and cyber protection for primary care data. PHI is built on the Microsoft Azure Cloud Computing Platform, is accredited to ISO 27000 compliance and has met the requirements of the Australian Government for secure storage of both 'sensitive' and 'protected' information through the Information Security Registered Assessors Program (IRAP).

Want know more?

Contact your Program Development Officer regarding queries about the PMHC-MDS. For questions about the storing of the PMHC-MDS on the PHI platform, please contact Evaluation and Reporting Officer via email carla.taylor@brisbanenorthphn.org.au.