



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Faculty of Medicine,
Dentistry & Health
Sciences

Data for Decisions Information for patients

Medical practices record information about you and your health to provide you with appropriate medical care. From time to time this information may also be used for other reasons such as carrying out medical and health research for the benefit of our community.

What is Data for Decisions?

This medical practice is taking part in a University of Melbourne research initiative called Data for Decisions. We provide the university with non-identifiable (sometimes called 'de-identified') information from patients' general practice records. General practices across Victoria are being invited to contribute. By combining information (data) from thousands of patients, researchers can learn more about the safety of medicines, patterns of disease in the community, and how medicines are prescribed.

What information is gathered?

The de-identified data that is gathered includes information about immunisations, medicines prescribed, illnesses, pathology and radiology results, measurements such as height, weight and blood pressure and lifestyle factors, such as tobacco smoking.

What are the benefits of the research program?

By combining your de-identified information from patient records from other practices and making it available for research, the initiative is helping researchers, medical educators, doctors and other decision-makers to respond to important health and health system issues. This information helps health professionals and the wider community know more about the use of medications and the outcomes of disease or treatment. It will also help in the training of medical students.

For further information please contact

▶ [medicine.unimelb.edu.au/
school-structure/general-
practice/engagement/primary-
care-community](http://medicine.unimelb.edu.au/school-structure/general-practice/engagement/primary-care-community)

☎ 03 8344 3392

✉ vicen-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au



Your privacy and data security

No researcher will have access to your name, address, initials or your full date of birth. None of your personal details or details identifying your GP are provided to researchers. The de-identified information is stored in a database within a secure server at the University of Melbourne (Patron). The information is not openly available nor stored in an off-shore server.

Who will have access to the de-identified data?

Researchers involved in this research program may be from different kinds of organizations, for example universities, government bodies or commercial companies. No one can access the database without first meeting the University's strict rules around ethics, privacy and handling of the data.

Must my de-identified records be included?

Individual patients have the right not to take part. If you do not want your de-identified medical records to be used for this research program, let your doctor or the practice manager know. Or, you can withdraw later at any time. Withdrawal from the project will NOT affect the direct care that you receive from your doctor.

How can I get more information?

If you would like to know more about Data for Decisions or the Patron database, or have any concerns or questions about the project and its associated research, you can speak to your doctor, the practice manager of the GP practice, or you can contact Patron at the Department of General Practice at the University of Melbourne.

Phone: (03) 8344 3392

Email: vicren-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au.

Information about the research projects using data from Patron shall be made available on the university website.