



What is Primary Sense?

Primary Sense is a clinical decision support and population health management tool designed to empower general practices. It enables teams to leverage de-identified patient data and evidence-based algorithms to provide real-time medication safety alerts, patient care prompts and insightful reporting.

Through the PHASES project, Primary Sense aims to equip practices to confidently identify and engage high-risk CVD patients, enabling proactive management and supporting better health outcomes.

? Why it matters

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a major but largely preventable condition. It remains the second leading cause of death in Australia,¹ yet up to 80% of cases can be prevented with timely intervention.²

Many people at risk are already in regular contact with their GP, creating a critical opportunity for early identification and proactive management.

Primary Sense supports general practice by putting data to work and delivering clear, targeted, and actionable reports that make identifying, prioritising and managing CVD risk easier and more efficient.

¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2024) Heart, stroke and vascular disease: Australian facts, AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 11 March 2025.

² Yusuf S, Hawken S, Ounpuu S, et al. (2004). Effect of potentially modifiable risk factors associated with myocardial infarction in 52 countries (the INTERHEART study): case-control study. *The Lancet*, 364(9438):937–952. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(04)17018-9.



How does it work?

Confirm active patients: Archive patients not seen in the last two years (per RACGP guidelines) before running reports for the most accurate data.

Run the Primary Sense report: Use the CVD Risk Screening, Recall and Treatment report to identify highest-risk CVD patients.

Flag at-risk patients: Recall systematically or add a follow-up note for upcoming visits.

During consultation: Review and complete risk factors, calculate risk using AusCVD, and manage according to guidelines

Engage patients: Provide tailored clinical advice to reduce their risk of heart attack or stroke.



Benefits for your practice



Streamlined identification:

quickly find patients at high CVD risk with the CVD Risk Screening, Recall and Treatment report.



Improved management:

supports Heart Health Checks and guideline-based care.



Quality improvement:
provides automated reports for PIP QI measures.



No cost:
fully funded by Primary Health Networks (PHNs).



Population health impact:
supports earlier identification and treatment of high-risk patients, helping to prevent CVD events across your practice.



Benefits for your patients



Supports sustained vitality and healthier, longer lives for your patients.



Empower patients to understand their risk and what they can do to take control and make informed lifestyle changes.



Lowens financial and emotional burden on patients and their families.



Prevent complications and hospital visits due to unmanaged CVD.



Supports Queensland's goal of lowering the burden of CVD.



Get started

Contact your PHN for support with Primary Sense.

Access Primary Sense guides and how-to videos here: primarysense.org.au

