**Quality Assurance/Clinical Responsibility**

Careful clinical coding will ensure data accuracy. The data can be used for quality assurance purposes and to assess care provided.

* This data can be used to monitor risk factors of patients including those that may not be visiting the practice regularly.
* For example, clinical coding can identify patients who may benefit from a review, as current risk factors are yet to meet recommended targets.

**Trends**

Complete and accurate data will make trends more easily identifiable. This will contribute to appropriate allocation of staffing and resources.

* For example, an increase in patients with type 2 diabetes may indicate the need for additional PN hours or a staff member undertaking more specialised training.

**Identification**

Clinical data can allow you to identify specific populations and key characteristics, even at the GP level. Factors include:

* Socioeconomic status
* Ethnicity status (i.e., Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander)
* Modifiable risk factors
* Age groups
* At risk population

Characterisation of these groups can allow the practice to identify priority areas and develop appropriate business models.

For example, identification of smoking as a risk factor in a significant proportion of patients will guide training and resources use for staff.

**Opportunities and Points of Care**

Clinical software can detect and suggest possible missing diagnoses and points of care based on Medicare billing, pathology results, and other clinical factors. The software can also assist in identifying patients that are due for a review.

* For example, a prescribed medication may indicate that a diagnosis box has yet to be ticked or coded differently. Ensuring this data matches will enable this patient to be included in any future searches for this condition.

**Helpful Links:**

* Pen Cat- Cat 4/Cat Plus: <https://help.pencs.com.au>
* Top Bar: <https://help.pencs.com.au>
* RACGP- Standards for General Practice: <https://www.racgp.org.au>
* Health Pathways: <https://hne.communityhealthpathways.org>
* My Health Record- Data Cleansing and Clinical Coding: <https://www.myhealthrecord.gov.au>
* PHN Website- Community of Practice: <https://www.thephn.com.au>

Tidying up the patient notes (known as data cleansing in the program software) and clinical coding are tools that can drive patient care and assist in improving patient outcomes.

This document illustrates the importance of these tools and how they can be used as accountability tools.

Data accuracy is a result of careful clinical coding, and therefore will be of higher value.