# Improving Alcohol Status Recording

**Focus area**

**To identify opportunities to improve alcohol status recording in patient health summaries**

**Why focus on this?**

**Quality improvement ideas**

**Resources**

* Alcohol is the most widely used drug in Australia, with about 80% of adults drinking alcohol each year.
* People drink alcohol for a wide range of reasons, and in different social and cultural contexts.
* Alcohol consumption is linked with increased risk of injury, cancer, chronic disease, and harm to the fetus and breastfed infant.
* Moreover, excessive intake of alcohol affects the drinker’s health and can also affect other members of the community.
* Recording alcohol status helps health professionals to communicate risk of harms to patient.
* Identifying and documenting risk factors is a clinical responsibility and is embedded in Accreditation processes.
* Regularly review and manage practice systems and processes.
* Have monthly clinical and all team member meetings scheduled in the ongoing appointment book.
* Appoint and educate a team member who has the primary responsibility for leading quality improvement systems and processes. Document the responsibilities of this role in the position description.
* Provide education and training to practice staff on collection of risk factor status and recording in software.
* Ensure patient waiting time is used to engage them in developing their understanding of their own health journey by providing their social & family history, e.g., no new/update patient form.
* Conduct baseline data to capture the percentage of missing recorded alcohol data by using PenCS CAT4 and TopBar to identify missing data in clinical software.
* Utilise family and social history tab (BP), AUDIT-C (MD) and alcohol tool (Genie).
* Perform assessments during formal Health Assessment attendances regularly.
* Utilise workforce including MPA, Nurses and AHW/P to discuss with patient and collect information.

[The 10 Building Blocks of High Performing Primary Care](https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/nhn/health-professionals/implementation-advice/the-10-building-blocks-of-high-performing-praimary-care)

[RACGP Standards for general practice (5th edition)](https://www.racgp.org.au/running-a-practice/practice-standards/standards-5th-edition/standards-for-general-practices-5th-ed)

[RACGP Red Book Preventative Activities in General Practice](https://www.racgp.org.au/download/Documents/Guidelines/Redbook9/17048-Red-Book-9th-Edition.pdf)

[RACGP Book Indigenous](https://www.racgp.org.au/clinical-resources/clinical-guidelines/key-racgp-guidelines/view-all-racgp-guidelines/national-guide/acknowledgements)

[RACGP SNAP Guide](https://www.racgp.org.au/getattachment/bb78b780-1c37-498a-8ba3-b24a1a4288d9/Smoking-nutrition-alcohol-physical-activity-SNAP.aspx)

[RACGP Prevention](https://www.racgp.org.au/getattachment/2ba9e40f-fe33-44bf-8967-8bf6f18a1c1a/Putting-prevention-into-practice-Guidelines-for-the-implementation-of-prevention-in-the-general-practice-setting.aspx)

[PenCS QIM 7 Recipe](https://help.pencs.com.au/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=47317145)

[NHMRC Alcohol Guideline](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-advice/alcohol)