



What is the GPR?

The General Practitioner Registry (GPR) is an initiative of the Department of Human Services and Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, implemented by General Practice Divisions Victoria. Its aim is to provide a centralised repository of accurate information about general practitioners' contact details. This is in response to a growing demand by hospitals for accurate GP information for automated notifications and electronic discharge summaries.

The GPR is designed to facilitate continuity of care through faster and more accurate communications between hospitals and GPs. It will not be available for promotional purposes or to commercial organisations. The conditions of use (according to the purpose of the registry) will govern how authorised hospital staff use the information. Measures will be taken to ensure that the conditions of use are respected.

The key objectives of the project are to provide:

- readily available General Practitioner contact information at minimum cost
- a central repository of state-wide GP information for electronic access and update
- easy access for authorised users through the Internet
- accuracy, security and integrity of data
- low on-going administrative costs.

Progress on the General Practitioner Registry (GPR)

The software for the GPR is almost complete. The software comprises a main database populated by GP contact details provided by the Victorian divisions of general practice. At this stage we have been provided with data from 26 (out of 31) divisions of general practice. The main database is linked to interactive Web pages that allow registered users of the system to interrogate the database and extract appropriate information. The Web interface is currently being tested and refined on a temporary Web server. During the month of May, we expect to install the server and communications hardware required for implementation.

Validation of data

The next stage of the project will focus on validating the data. The data must be validated prior to making it available to registered users of the GPR. The process is time consuming but is essential to the success of the system. The process will be

1. The database administrator at GPDV will fax a "snapshot" of their contact details to each GP with a record on the database.
2. The GP will check their record and make corrections as necessary.
3. The GP will then fax back the edited information to GPDV. This approach will raise awareness and remind GPs that their contact details will be placed on a secure system with strict conditions of use. GPs who have not responded will receive a follow-up telephone call.
4. After receiving the fax back from the GPs, the database administrator will "flag" the GP's record as validated and available for access by hospitals. Divisions will be provided with authorised access to the GPR and will be able to access and process data pertinent to their membership only.

Agreement between GPDV and participating hospitals

For your information the *Agreement of Use* between GPDV and hospitals can be perused at <http://www.gpdv.com.au/integ/>. The agreement defines the purpose of the Statewide GPR and the strict conditions of use.

Trial of the GP Registry

At this stage we are discussing involvement in a trial of the database with the Alfred Hospital and Goulburn Valley Health. The specific objectives of the trial will be negotiated between GPDV and the relevant hospitals and divisions. It may include the following broad objectives:

The trial hospital:

- To test the hospitals capacity to use the GPR as a validated source of GP contact information.
- To develop procedures and processes (systems) to forward appropriate discharge information to GPs.

The divisions involved:

- To work with their GP members in assessing the timeliness and quality of the information received via the hospital discharge process.

GPDV:

- To test and modify the GPR.
- To collate information about the trial and create a resource for hospitals considering subscribing to the GPR.

GP contact data pertinent to the divisions involved in the trial will be validated first.

Project Time line (as at 28 April 2000)

Week ending	Task
17 May	• Divisions GP contact information updated if necessary.
26 May	• GP contact data pertinent to the divisions involved in the trial validated.
2 June	• GPR accessible to rural and metropolitan trial hospitals. Commencement of trial.
23 June	• Completion of GP Registry data validation process.
30 June	• GPR accessible to hospitals who are registered to use the system and who have agreed with the conditions of use.

For more information please contact Jenk Akyalcin at GPDV by phone (9341 5200) or e-mail <j.akyalcin@gpdv.com.au>.

Papers and documents associated with the development of the GPR are archived at <http://www.gpdv.com.au/integ/>.

Papers and documents include:

- Audit of Current Practice
- Minimum Requirements for the Transfer of Information between hospitals and GPs
- General Practitioner Registry
- GPR Updates
- Agreement between GPDV and participating hospitals