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## Computers

# Upgrade makes recall easy

Software upgrades are taking data quality and analyses to new heights.

**A**S more GPs and divisions of general practice make use of clinical audits as part of ongoing professional development, Pen Computer Systems has added new features to its Clinical Audit Tool (CAT).

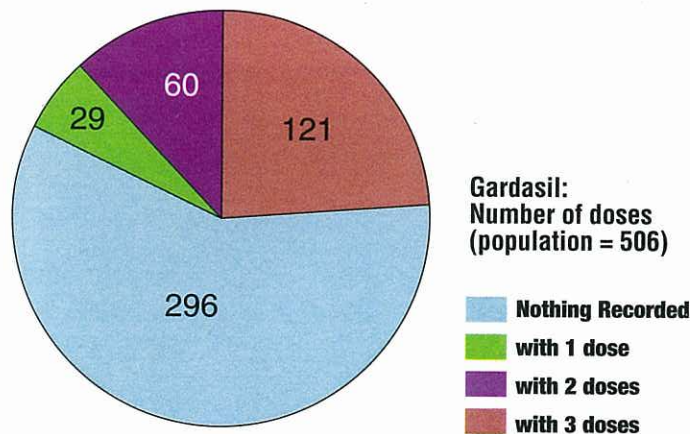
The CAT is an information system for GPs, nurses and practice managers to analyse patient records for clinical performance monitoring, to improve data quality and help meet accreditation standards.

One new feature allows users to analyse the clinical data of individual doctors. One practice manager has already used this feature to develop a table displaying individual doctors' recording of allergies, smoking and diabetes. Doctors should not be threatened or concerned about this approach as it provides a method to achieve continuing quality improvement.

The new immunisation module is another example of features introduced to the CAT to meet GP demand. Practices often seek help to set up systems to follow up patients who have not had their second and third injections of Gardasil and those who haven't had influenza vaccinations.

In Medical Director there is no easy way to identify those patients. With staff from the Melbourne East General Practice Net-

**Computer graphic showing the immunisation status of women in the practice**



**One new feature allows users to analyse clinical data of individual doctors. This facilitates quality improvement.**

work and Dr Peter Eizenberg, executive director of the North East Valley Division of General Practice who is also an immuni-

sation adviser and former member of national immunisation committees, I negotiated with Pen Computer Systems management to include an immunisation module in the CAT. The result was to include pneumococcal, influenza, Gardasil and pertussis in the immunisation module.

The immunisation module became part of the CAT in the September release of the tool. The graph shows the breakdown for 18-26 year olds with none, one, two or three Gardasil injections. This makes it easy to recall those patients who have not completed the course of three injections. By clicking on the wedges of the pie

chart (see left) and then selecting 'Export' you get an "identified" patient list to follow up.

Also included in the September release was the 'Summary' report, which provides an instant snapshot of practice data quality across most of the graphs provided. The user doesn't have to go to each tab and write down the figures. The report can be exported to Excel so the user can create a month-by-month set of figures if needed.

A third feature is the cross-tabulation report that will find patients who appear on more than one graph. This will assist with the identification of target population risk groups.

For example, in a workshop group I worked with in Darwin we were able to create a list of diabetes patients not on anti-diabetic agents who were daily smokers and the percentage of that group who were hypertensive. We were then able to compare the results of a similar search but with patients who were on diabetic medication (the result was those on medication were less likely to be hypertensive).

If you haven't got the PEN Clinical Audit Tool contact your local division. To assist practices and divisions in rolling out the CAT a collection of and examples is available at [www.nevdgp.org.au/?content=13#PEN](http://www.nevdgp.org.au/?content=13#PEN). ●