

HEALTH TRACKER

Decision support for primary care professionals

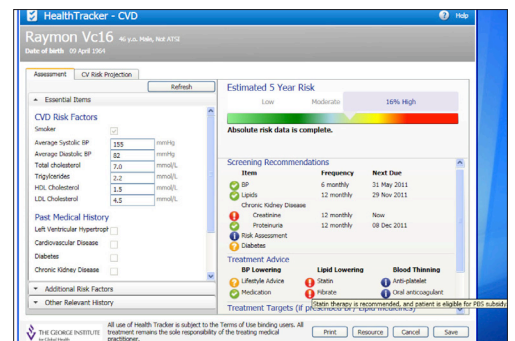
ELECTRONIC DECISION SUPPORT FOR CVD MANAGEMENT

In a short consultation it is often difficult for health staff to assess and advise patients on the best practice recommendations for their health. The Health Tracker electronic decision support system has been designed to help health professionals implement recommendations from trusted clinical guidelines. The first module, Health Tracker - CVD, has now been developed and other chronic care modules are in early development stages. Health Tracker - CVD not only assesses cardiovascular risk but also provides direct treatment advice. Displayed in colour with easy-to-follow charts, the tailored output also makes it easier for patients to understand their risks and see what action they should take.



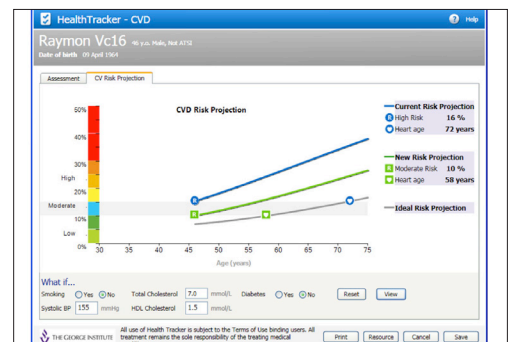
SEAMLESS INTEGRATION WITH THE HEALTH RECORD

Health Tracker CVD interfaces seamlessly with Medical Director and Best Practice via the Pen Computer Systems PrimaryCareSidebar.™ The system automatically extracts information from the patient's health record. In two mouse clicks, Health Tracker calculates the patient's absolute risk of heart attack or stroke and then automatically synthesises recommendations from all relevant guidelines to provide tailored management advice specific to the patient's circumstances. A simple traffic light system is used to alert the practitioner to management recommendations.



IMPROVED COMMUNICATION WITH PATIENTS AND PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

A graphical interface is also provided to explain to patients their cardiovascular risk. This allows the patient and health professional to assess current and projected risk and to perform 'what if scenarios' (eg the effects on future risk if the patient can stop smoking). Health Tracker - CVD is also fully integrated with the Clinical Audit Tool™ and provides simple and comprehensive practice performance monitoring and quality improvement.



DEVELOPMENT

The TORPEDO Study will implement the HealthTracker tool as part of a trial to improve cardiovascular risk management in 40 General Practices and 20 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in NSW and Queensland. Funding has been provided by the National Health and Medical Research Council and NSW Health. The study is managed by the George Institute in collaboration with the University of Sydney, Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council, the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council, University of New South Wales and NSW Health. The George Institute is a not-for-profit research institute affiliated with the University of Sydney.



If you are interested in being involved this project and for further information please contact: Dr David Peiris dpeiris@georgeinstitute.org.au