

Tips for Clean Data



Clean clinical data is essential for data extraction.

1. Clean up your patient database.

Inactive Patients

Patients who have not attended your practice for two years or more can be made inactive. Use the database search for these patients.

Remove or Inactivate Patient Files with No Clinical Data

New patient files can be created and the patient does not present. These files have no clinical data and can be slowing down your database searches while taking up active space in your program.

Remove Duplicate Patients

These can be merged opportunistically.

Remove Deceased Patients

Deceased patients to be marked as deceased. You can reactivate deceased and deleted patients in the maintenance section if necessary.

Remove Sample Patients

You may have sample patients on your database which can be removed. Have only one sample patient for your internal training purposes.

Ensure patient gender is recorded

2. Clean up your patient's clinical records

Change **Uncoded** to **Coded** Diagnoses *and* **Eliminate Free Text**

Data cannot be extracted when free text has been used in coding a diagnosis.

Check if your Medical Software program has a utility that allows you to change uncoded (free text) into coded diagnosis.

Medication lists should reflect what the patient is currently taking.

Past history should be up to date with correct coded diagnoses (not free text)

3. Clean up your recalls

Delete duplicate, misspelt recalls or unnecessary recall reasons.

Standardise your recall reasons. Have all GPs using the same reasons for recalls.

Results to be “marked as notified” when a GP has discussed the result with the patient.

You can also clean up the address book section in your clinical software programs. Also standardise the document titles and description for scanned and imported documents.

4. Ask you pathology and radiology providers to download your results in HL7 LOINC format.

HL7 LOINC (Health Level 7, Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes) is a communication specification enabling healthcare applications to share clinical data with each other.

When a HL7 LOINC result is downloaded this data is “dynamic”, giving the software the ability to grab particular information and populate corresponding fields in the patient health record.

Ask your IT service provider to confirm compatibility and setup (if any) with your clinical software package.