

Privacy Statement

Last updated on 22 March 2022

This Privacy Statement sets out how the Ministry of Health (“the Ministry”, “we” and “us”) collects, uses, and shares health consumers’ personal information when providing the National Cardiovascular Disease Risk Assessment Service, risk calculator, API, software, application, product, or website (collectively the CVDRA Service).

What is the purpose of the Cardiovascular Disease Risk Assessment Service?

The Ministry provides a national CVDRA Service to enable the cardiovascular disease risk profile of an individual to be assessed, understood, and managed at the primary care level. It is voluntary for everyone to participate in the CVDRA Service.

The CVDRA Service calculates an individual’s 5-year cardiovascular disease risk based on risk factors specific to the New Zealand population. This CVDRA Service can be used by General Practitioners, nurses, and other clinicians to calculate the risk (expressed as a percentage) of a person having a serious cardiovascular disease event in the next five years. The CVDRA Service can also be used by a health organisation to make the calculator available to the public.

What kinds of information do we collect?

To perform the CVDRA Service we collect personal and health information about health consumers for whom a risk calculation is performed, including:

- Age
- Sex
- National Health Index (NHI) number
- Ethnicity
- New Zealand Deprivation Index (NZDep) score
- Height, weight, smoking status, diabetes, personal health history, family health history, and other clinical measures directly related to cardiovascular disease risk.

We collect information about the health providers each time they use the CVDRA Service¹:

- Health Provider Identifier (HPI) or Common Person Number (CPN)
- Facility Identifier (location where the risk assessment is delivered)

What purposes are we collecting the information for?

The information you provide as part of the CVDRA Service may be used for:

- **Calculating and reporting:** Calculating a cardiovascular risk score of an individual and reporting the risk score to the clinician or other user who uses the CVDRA Service and submits the relevant information to the Service.
- **Healthcare planning:** Improving healthcare service planning and supporting decision making in policy development to increase equitable health outcomes for New Zealanders.

¹ We do not currently collect this information from some of our current integrators.

- **Research and statistical purposes:** Researchers with appropriate permissions can use the CVDRA Service data on its own or in combination with other datasets to further develop and refine the New Zealand specific CVD risk calculation algorithms or for other health and wellbeing research. The default mechanism for sharing is to provide de-identified data. In some instances, third parties may need access to identifiable data. In these instances, approval from the Health and Disability Ethics Committee (HDEC) will be required, or from an appropriate data governance review process, prior to any identifiable information being provided. Users of identifiable data are required to abide by strict conditions for the use and storage of the information to protect its security and privacy.
- **Publication:** We will publish or allow a third-party with the appropriate permissions to publish findings from research and analytics as aggregate data. Health consumers (individuals) will never be identified in any research findings or reports.
- **CVDRA system support:** We use the data to identify and analyse operational and performance issues of the CVDRA Service. We use aggregate data for analytics and reporting on the Service usage and other operational metrics.

Who do we share information with?

All CVD data disclosure will be managed carefully following applicable legislation and guidelines and is overseen by the Ministry's Data Governance Group.

We will only share CVD data with a limited set of organisations, where it is consistent with the purpose of collection and it has been through an appropriate data governance approval process.

Our trusted service providers who help us to provide this CVDRA Service and our authorised system support staff have access to the CVD data. All access is tracked and can be audited.

How is your information stored and protected?

Your personal information will be held and managed by the Ministry in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020² and Health Information Privacy Code 2020³ and overseen by the Ministry's Data Governance Group.

Information that you choose to share with us will be held securely in compliance with Ministry standards. Security measures are in place to protect your information from unauthorised access.

We use Microsoft Azure Services in Australia to deliver the CVDRA Service. The data is hosted in an operational datastore hosted on the Azure server(s) in Australia.

² [Privacy Act 2020 No 31 \(as at 28 October 2021\), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)

³ [Office of the Privacy Commissioner | Health Information Privacy Code 2020](#)

How long will my information be kept for?

We comply with the current Health Information Retention Regulations⁴. We will keep the information for the minimum retention period of 10 years from the date we collect the information.

How can I view or change my information?

If you want to view or change the personal information held by the Ministry about you, or you have any questions about your personal information, email lrc@health.govt.nz or write to

The Privacy Officer
Ministry of Health
PO Box 5013
Wellington

We may require proof of your identity before being able to provide you with any personal information.

If you are not satisfied with our response to any privacy concerns, you can contact the Office of the Privacy Commissioner

[Contact us – Privacy Commissioner](#)

Updates to this Privacy Statement

This Privacy Statement will be updated to let you know about changes in how we collect and process your information or changes in related legislation. The date when the document was last updated is shown on this Privacy Statement.

⁴ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1996/0343/latest/DLM225616.html>