

What are Disease Registers and what are they used for

Disease registries can be used to improve outcomes in the management of chronic diseases.

Registers can help you systematically target all patients in one particular group for preventative care or ongoing management.

Disease registers can be set for a variety of diseases: for example, asthma, diabetes, hypertension.


After you have assembled a disease register, you can flag these patients for preventative activities at appropriate time intervals using patient reminders (eg reminder letters), and you can also check the register to see who is overdue for a preventive activity.

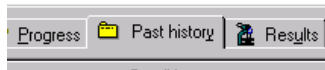
Generating a Register

To generate a register for all patients with a specific condition e.g. asthma, the patient's record must first be marked with that condition.

Step 1: Marking a Patient's Record

In the patient's record:

- Click on the **Past History** tab
- Click the Plus button  on the tool bar. The 'New History item' dialogue window is displayed.

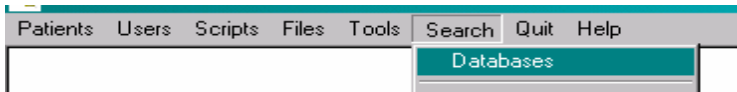


- Key in the first few letters of the condition and a list will appear from which you can choose from a coded list (DOCLE list (a database of diagnosis and diseases) or enter your own in the 'Free Text (uncoded)' text box.
- Double click on the condition so that it reflects in the condition box
- Select the **Active problem** check box
- Selecting the 'Confidential' check box prevents this item from being exported with the patient's record.
- Selecting the 'Summary' check box includes this history item in the patient's Summaries (printouts).
- Add any 'Comments' as required.
- Click **OK**

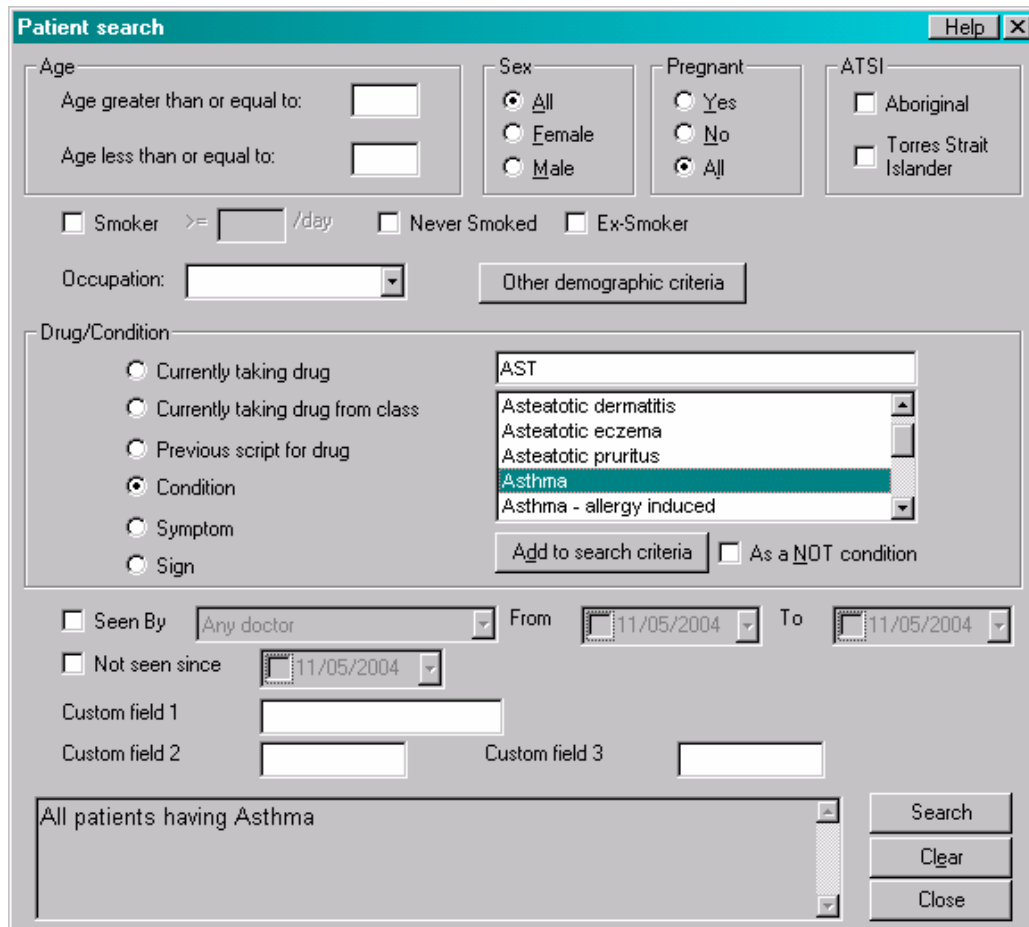
STEP 2: Generating a Register

From the Main Menu:

- Select **Search** ➔ **Database**.



The patient Search window is then displayed.

A screenshot of the 'Patient search' dialog box. The window has a teal title bar with 'Patient search' and 'Help' and 'X' buttons. It contains several sections: 'Age' with two input fields for 'Age greater than or equal to:' and 'Age less than or equal to:'. 'Sex' with radio buttons for 'All', 'Female', and 'Male'. 'Pregnant' with radio buttons for 'Yes', 'No', and 'All'. 'ATSI' with checkboxes for 'Aboriginal' and 'Torres Strait Islander'. A 'Smoker' section with checkboxes for 'Smoker', 'Never Smoked', and 'Ex-Smoker', and a '/day' input field. An 'Occupation' dropdown menu and an 'Other demographic criteria' button. A 'Drug/Condition' section with radio buttons for 'Currently taking drug', 'Currently taking drug from class', 'Previous script for drug', 'Condition' (selected), 'Symptom', and 'Sign'. A text input field containing 'AST' and a list box showing 'Asteatotic dermatitis', 'Asteatotic eczema', 'Asteatotic pruritus', 'Asthma' (highlighted), and 'Asthma - allergy induced'. An 'Add to search criteria' button and an 'As a NOT condition' checkbox. A 'Seen By' dropdown set to 'Any doctor', 'From' and 'To' date pickers both set to '11/05/2004', a 'Not seen since' date picker set to '11/05/2004', and three 'Custom field' input boxes. At the bottom, a text area contains 'All patients having Asthma', and three buttons: 'Search', 'Clear', and 'Close'.

- Under the **Drug/Condition** heading click the check box marked **Condition**, this will search for information stored within the patient's Past Medical History. Your cursor will now be blinking in the empty "text dialog box"
- Type in the first few letters of the condition and then scroll down the list until you find the condition you want to search for, or you can continue to type in the full word.
- Double click on the condition – you will now find that the box in the bottom of the database window will state that your search is for "All patients with *condition you have selected*". (If you have made a mistake, click clear to refresh your search and start again)
- Click on **Search** and a list of all patients with your search criteria will be displayed.

You can now use this list to generate mail merge letters or mark the patient's record for recall etc.

Specific Searches

Medical Director also has a number of specific searches, where you can directly search for specific conditions, including; Asthma, Diabetes, Immunisations and Pap Smears.

