

Defining the Purpose and Scope of Your Database

Use your data framework to help clarify the goals of your database



1. Purpose and objectives

- What is the primary purpose of the database?
- What problems or challenges will the database address?
- What specific goals or outcomes do we want to achieve with this database?



2. Data Requirements

- What types of data will the database need to store (e.g., patient records, device readings)?
- What are the data sources, and how will data be collected?
- Are there specific data formats or structures required (e.g., images, time-series data, JSON)?
- What level of detail is required? E.g., individual-level data about individual entities stored at the most detailed level or aggregate-level data grouped and summarised to provide an overview.



3. Users and Access

- Who are the primary users of the database (e.g., clinicians, researchers, administrators)?
- What are the varying access levels or permissions for different users?
- What interface will users need to interact with the database (e.g., dashboards, APIs)?



4. Functionality and Features

- What key functionalities must the database support (e.g., search, reporting, real-time updates)?
- Are there specific queries or analysis tasks that need to be automated?
- How will data integrity and accuracy be maintained?



5. Scalability and Performance

- What is the expected size of the database initially and over time?
- How many users are expected to access the database concurrently?
- Are there performance requirements, such as response times for queries?



6. Integration and Compatibility

- Does the database need to integrate with existing systems or platforms?
- Are there specific tools or software it must be compatible with?
- How will data migration from existing systems (if any) be handled?



7. Security and Compliance

- What security measures are required to protect the data?
- Are there specific regulatory requirements (e.g. TGA) the database must comply with?
- How will backups and disaster recovery be managed?



8. Maintenance and Management

- Who will manage and maintain the database?
- What are the plans for database updates and scalability?
- How will user feedback or changing requirements be incorporated?



9. Outcome Evaluation

- How will we measure the success or effectiveness of the database?
- What metrics or KPIs will indicate the database is meeting its goals?
- What feedback mechanisms will be in place for ongoing improvement?