



Practice Incentives Program Asthma Incentive

The Practice Incentive Program (PIP) Asthma Incentive encourages general practitioners to better manage the clinical care of people with moderate to severe asthma.

Generally, patients are assessed as having moderate to severe asthma if they meet the following criteria:

- Symptoms on most days; or
- Use of preventative medication; or
- Bronchodilator use at least three times per week; or
- Hospital attendance or admission following an acute exacerbation of asthma.

Common terms

Standardised Whole Patient Equivalent

(SWPE) is used to measure practice size and includes a weighting factor for the age and gender of patients. The average full-time general practitioner has a SWPE value of around 1000 SWPEs each year.

Whole Patient Equivalent (WPE) is based on general practitioner and other non-referred Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item numbers and uses the value of the MBS fee, rather than the number of consultations per patient. The total care for each patient equals one WPE.

Payments

The PIP Asthma Incentive has two components:

1. Sign-on payment - \$0.25 per SWPE
2. Service Incentive Payment (SIP) - \$100 per patient per year

Sign-on payment

The one-off sign-on payment is made to practices that register for the PIP Asthma Incentive. The payment is made to practices in the next available quarterly payment following sign-on.

To sign on for the PIP Asthma Incentive, practices must:

- Participate in the PIP;
- Register for the PIP Asthma Incentive;
- Maintain and keep active a patient register, and a recall and reminder system, which can be electronic or paper-based, for their patients with moderate to severe asthma;
- Agree to implement a cycle of care for their patients with moderate to severe asthma.
- The register and recall and reminder system must include a list of all known patients with asthma attending the practice, including the patient's name, an identifier (eg the practice's patient reference number) and contact details.

Service Incentive Payment

The Service Incentive Payment (SIP) is paid to general practitioners for each cycle of care completed for a patient with moderate to severe asthma. General practitioners must be working at a PIP registered practice that is signed on for the PIP Asthma Incentive. SIPs are paid quarterly.

The asthma cycle of care for a patient with moderate to severe asthma must be delivered within a 12-month period and include the three steps of:

1. Assessment;
2. Planning; and
3. Review.

The assessment and planning steps can be conducted in one consultation, if practical.

Whilst all care has been taken in preparing this document, this information is a guide only and subject to change without notice.

The asthma cycle of care

At a minimum, the asthma cycle of care must include:

- At least two asthma related consultations within 12 months for a patient with moderate to severe asthma;
- At least one of these consultations (the review consultation) to have been planned at a previous consultation;
- Documented diagnosis and assessment of the patient's level of asthma control and severity of asthma;
- Review of the patient's use of, and access to, asthma related medication and devices;
- Provision to the patient of a written asthma action plan;
- Provision of asthma self-management education to the patient; and
- A review of the written or documented asthma action plan.

Medicare item numbers

The usual MBS consultation items should be used where the patient is undergoing assessment, planning and review, leading up to the completion of cycle of care.

Claiming a Service Incentive Payment

Once the minimum requirements of the asthma cycle of care have been completed, the general practitioner should use the specific MBS SIP item numbers below.

This will indicate the requirements have been met and trigger the associated payment.

These items will only be payable for the completion of one asthma cycle of care for each eligible patient per 12-month period, unless a further asthma cycle of care is clinically indicated by exceptional circumstances.

Completion of a cycle of care item numbers

MBS Item Number	Level	Description	Fee
2546	Level B	In consulting rooms	\$37.05
2552	Level C		\$71.70
2558	Level D		\$105.55
2547	Level B	In a place other than consulting rooms	Derived fees*
2553	Level C		
2559	Level D		

Derived fees

Derived fees [*] are calculated at the *in consulting room* rate, plus \$25.95, divided by the number of patients seen in the visit (ie to a nursing home) for up to six patients.

For seven or more patients, use the fee for the *in consulting room* rate plus \$2.00 per patient.

Ready Reckoner Calculator

Standard GP attendances at a hospital, institution or home

- Level B (item 24, 2503, 2518, 2547)
http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/ready_reckoner.cfm?item_num=2503
- Level C (item 37, 2506, 2522, 2553)
http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/ready_reckoner.cfm?item_num=2553
- Level D (item 47, 2509, 2526, 2559)
http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/ready_reckoner.cfm?item_num=2559

Applying

Practices can apply for the PIP Asthma Incentive when they apply for the PIP:

- Through HPOS;
- By completing the Practice Incentives Program application form.

Practices already participating in the PIP can apply for the Asthma Incentive;

- Through HPOS;
- By completing the [PIP Cervical Screening, Asthma and Diabetes Incentives application form](#).

More information

National Asthma Council of Australia

<http://www.nationalasthma.org.au>

The National Asthma Council of Australia produces a range of asthma related templates which can be downloaded free or ordered in bulk.

Medicare Benefits Schedule

<http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/>

Practice Incentives Program

PIP Enquiry Line: 1800 222 032

Email: pip@humanservices.gov.au

Fax: 1300 587 696

Practice Incentives Program Guidelines

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/services/medicare/practice-incentives-program>

Department of Health, Healthy WA

<http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Health-conditions/Asthma>

See also

Practice Assist Fact Sheets and Resources:

- After-hours Incentive
- Diabetes Incentive
- eHealth Incentive
- GP Aged Care Incentive
- Indigenous Health Incentive
- Procedural GP Payment
- Quality Prescribing Initiative
- Rural Loading Incentive
- Teaching Payment
- Practice Nurse Incentive Program
- What is the Practice Incentives Program?
- Practice Incentives Program Overview