



Practice Incentives Program Cervical Screening Incentive

The Practice Incentives Program (PIP) Cervical Screening Incentive aims to encourage general practitioners to screen under-screened women aged 24 years and 9 months but less than 75 years of age, for cervical cancer and to increase overall screening rates.

To be eligible for the Cervical Screening Incentive, practices must be registered for the PIP.

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 Cervical Screening Incentive has three components:

- Sign-on payment - \$0.25 per SPWE
- Outcomes payment - \$3.00 per eligible SWPE
- Service incentive payment - \$35.00 per patient

Sign-on payment

To sign-on for the PIP Cervical Screening Incentive, practices need to:

- Apply for the PIP Cervical Screening Incentive.
- Agree to have their practice details provided to state and territory cervical screening registers.

- Receive information from state and territory cervical screening registers and consider how they can improve the level and quality of participation in the National Cervical Screening Program.
- Agree to state and territory cervical screening registers giving the Department of Health information about the aggregate number of women screened in the practice.

If the practice's application to participate in the PIP Cervical Screening Incentive is successful, they do not need to do anything to receive the sign-on payment. It will be paid in the next quarterly payment to the bank nominated by the practice.

Outcomes payment

Practices need to achieve the screening target, which is to screen at least 70 per cent of the practice's female patients aged 24 years and 9 months but less than 75 years of age, in a 30-month reference period.

Once a practice meets the requirements of the outcomes payment, it is automatically paid with the next PIP quarterly payment to the bank account nominated by the practice.

Note: the cytology service item in the Pathology Services Section (Group P6) of the MBS is used to determine the number of women who have been screened. The patient's age is determined as at the last day of the reference period.

Service incentive payment

A service incentive payment is paid quarterly to general practitioners for each cervical smear on an under-screened woman aged 24 years and 9 months but less than 75 years of age. An under-screened woman is someone who has not had a cervical smear in the last four years.

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

Claiming a Service Incentive Payment

General practitioners must use one of the specific cervical screening MBS item numbers when a cervical smear is performed on an under screened women 25 to 74 years. This will indicate the requirements have been met and trigger a payment.

Service Incentive Payment MBS item numbers

MBS item number	Level	Description	Fee
2497	Level A	Service in a consulting room	\$16.95
2501	Level B		\$37.05
2504	Level C		\$71.70
2507	Level D		\$105.55
2503	Level B	At a place other than consulting rooms	Derived fee*
2506	Level C		
2509	Level D		

Derived fees

Derived fees [*] are calculated at the *in consulting room* rate, plus \$25.95 divided by the number of patients seen, up to a maximum of six patients. For seven or more patients - the fee for item 2507 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 Cervical Screening Incentive when they apply for the PIP:

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

Practices already participating in the PIP can apply for the Cervical Screening Incentive;

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

More information

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/health-professionals/services/medicare/practice-incentives-program>

See also

Practice Assist Fact Sheets and Resources:

- After-hours Incentive
- Asthma 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
- National Cancer Screening Programs
- Revised Cervical Cancer Screening Programs