



Practice Incentives Program Quality Prescribing Incentive

The Practice Incentives Program (PIP) Quality Prescribing Incentive (QPI) aims to encourage practices to keep up-to-date with information on the quality use of medicines. The PIP QPI rewards participation by practices in a range of activities recognised or provided by the National Prescribing Service (NPS).

The NPS assists general practitioners to achieve more effective, quality prescribing through a range of education, support and prescribing information. The NPS is a professional organisation, run independently of the Australian Government with broad general practitioner representation and leadership.

Minimum participation levels

To qualify for a payment through the PIP QPI, practices are required to participate in three activities in the reference period 1 May to 30 April per each Full Time Equivalent (FTE) general practitioner per year, on average. One of the activities must be a clinical audit. Any changes in the number of general practitioners employed by the practice will impact on the total number of QPI activities to be completed. Each activity is undertaken by the individual general practitioner, but payments are made based on practices meeting a minimum participation level in QPI activities.

Recognised activities include:

- A clinical audit of prescribing for specific drug groups, using materials approved or produced by the NPS (available to all practices three to four times a year).

- Case studies using problem-based distance learning provided by the NPS (available to all practices six times a year). The case studies present a clinical scenario accompanied by a set of questions designed to help participants refine their clinical decision-making skills. The NPS presents each case study in two formats, a printed version inserted with NPS News and an online version.
- Practice visit(s) by an independent pharmaceutical detailer as approved by the NPS. These 'academic detailing' visits will act as a resource for general practitioners and promote the quality use of medicines. The availability of this option may be geographically limited.

For example, a practice with one FTE GP must participate in three activities, including at least one clinical audit, to receive a payment. A practice with five FTE GPs must participate in at least 15 activities, including five clinical audits, to receive a payment. Some GPs in the practice may participate in more or less activities, so long as the practice as a whole averages three activities per FTE general practitioner.

Payments

The PIP QPI payments are calculated at \$1.00 per Standardised Whole Patient Equivalent (SWPE) per year. SWPE is a measure of practice size and includes a weighing factor for the age and gender of patients. As a guide, the average full-time general practitioner has a SWPE value of 1,000 annually.

The payment for the PIP QPI is made to the practice annually in the May quarter.

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

Applying

Practices registered for the PIP do not need to apply for this incentive. However, practices should consult their PIP quarterly payment advices and complete the required activities by 30 April each year.

To receive the annual QPI payment in May each year, practices must also make sure the NPS is advised that the required activities have been completed by 30 April each year. To make sure that payments are accurately calculated, it is important that practice general practitioners provide the NPS with correct details, including provider and prescriber numbers, when undertaking a recognised activity.

References

Medicare Benefits Schedule

<http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Home>

Practice Incentives Program Guidelines

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

More information

PIP Enquiry Line: 1800 222 032
Email: pip@humanservices.gov.au
Fax: 1300 587 696
Practice Incentives Program
Department of Human Services
GPO Box 2572
ADELAIDE SA 5001

See also

Practice Assist Fact Sheets and Resources:

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