



Practice Incentives Program eHealth Incentive

The Practice Incentives Program (PIP) eHealth Incentive aims to encourage practices to keep up to date with digital health and adopt new digital health technology as it becomes available.

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.

Eligibility requirements

The PIP eHealth Incentive eligibility requirements include practices joining the PIP program and meeting each of the following five requirements for the entire quarter prior to the payment month:

1. Integrate Healthcare Identifiers (HI) into electronic practice records.
2. Have a standards-compliant secure messaging capability.
3. Work towards recording the majority of diagnoses for active patients electronically.
4. Ensure the majority of their prescriptions are sent electronically to a Prescription Exchange Service.
5. Use the My Health Record system and meet the shared health summary minimum upload target.

Payments

Eligible practices can receive a maximum payment of \$12,500 per quarter, based on \$6.50 per SWPE.

Requirement 1

Integrate healthcare identifiers into electronic practice records

To meet this requirement general practices will:

- Apply to Human Services to obtain a Healthcare Provider Identifier-Organisation (HPI-O) for the practice and store the HPI-O in a compliant software system.
- Ensure that each general practitioner within the practice has their Healthcare Provider Identifier-Individual (HPI-I) stored in a compliant clinical software system.
- Use a compliant clinical software system to access, retrieve and store verified Individual Healthcare Identifiers (IHI) for presenting patients.

Requirement 2

Secure messaging capability

The general practice will have a standards-compliant secure messaging capability to electronically transmit and receive clinical messages to and from other healthcare providers, use it where feasible, and have a written policy in place to encourage its use.

To meet this requirement practices will have applied for a National Authentication Service for Health (NASH) Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Certificate for Healthcare Provider Organisations, or must apply for one within two weeks of receiving an HPI-O.

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

Requirement 3

Data records and clinical coding

Practices will ensure that where clinically relevant, they are working towards recording the majority of diagnoses for active patients electronically, using a medical vocabulary that can be mapped against a national recognised disease classification or terminology system. Practices will provide a written policy to this effect to all general practitioners within the practice.

Requirement 4

Electronic transfer of prescriptions

The practice will ensure that the majority of their prescriptions are sent electronically to a Prescription Exchange Service (PES).

How does electronic transfer of prescriptions (eTP) work?

A prescription is generated by the health practitioner and printed from the local clinical system that includes a printed barcode.

Electronic transfer of the prescription occurs at this point by sending a copy of the information on the prescription to a repository called the prescription exchange service or the PES.

When the patient presents the paper prescription to the pharmacist, the barcode is scanned and the information is sent directly to the pharmacy dispensing system from the PES, without the need to re-enter the information. This reduces the risk of transcription errors.

There are currently two eTP services available – eRx Script Exchange and MediSecure.

Requirement 5

My Health Record system

The general practice will:

- Apply to participate in the My Health Record system within four weeks of receiving a HPI-O.
- Use compliant software for accessing the My Health Record; and
- Medical practitioners will create and upload shared health summaries and event summaries for a minimum of 0.5 per cent of the practice SWPE per PIP payment quarter;

Applying

Practices can apply for the eHealth 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 eHealth Incentive through HPOS.

More information

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>

Australian Digital Health Agency

<https://www.digitalhealth.gov.au/>

RACGP Computer and Information Security Standards (CISS)

<http://www.racgp.org.au/your-practice/standards/computer-and-information-security-standards/>

Healthcare Identifiers (HI) Service online guide

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/health-professionals/services/medicare/healthcare-identifiers-service-health-professionals>

See also

Practice Assist Fact Sheets and Resources:

- Afte-hours Incentive
- Asthma Incentive
- Cervical Screening Incentive
- Diabetes 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