



Practice Incentives Program Practice Nurse Incentive Program

The Practice Nurse Incentive Program (PNIP) provides incentive payments to practices to support an enhanced role for nurses working in general practice.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to participate in the PNIP, a practice must:

- Meet the RACGP definition of a 'general practice' as defined in the current RACGP Standards for general practices;
- Maintain full accreditation or be registered for accreditation against the RACGP Standards for general practices;
- Achieve full accreditation within 12 months of joining the PNIP and maintain full accreditation thereafter;
- Maintain current public liability insurance;
- Ensure that all practice general practitioners maintain current professional indemnity cover;
- Ensure that all practice nurses, Aboriginal health workers and allied health professionals (where applicable) are covered by appropriate professional indemnity insurance arrangements as required by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency or by the professional's registration board;
- Employ or otherwise retain the services of eligible practice nurses and/or Aboriginal health workers; and
- Employ or otherwise retain the services of a general practitioner. This may include less than one full-time general practitioner.

All practices eligible under the above criteria can apply for incentives through the PNIP to support the employment and/or retention of registered

nurses, enrolled nurses or Aboriginal health workers.

What roles are covered?

Eligible practices can apply for incentives through the PNIP to employ or otherwise retain the services of:

- registered nurse
- enrolled nurse
- allied health professionals
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers, and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners
- Allied health professionals eligible to participate in the PNIP include:
 - audiologists
 - chiropractors
 - diabetes educators
 - dietitians/nutritionists
 - exercise physiologists
 - occupational therapists
 - orthoptists
 - orthotists/prosthetists
 - osteopaths
 - physiotherapists
 - podiatrists
 - psychologists
 - social workers
 - speech pathologists

See the PNIP Guidelines for the minimum qualifications required for eligible health professionals participating in the PNIP.

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

Practice Assist is an initiative of



WA Primary Health Alliance is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the PHN Program.

Rural Health West is funded by the Australian Government and the WA Country Health Service.

Payments

There are four payments available under the Practice Nurse Incentive Program (PNIP):

- incentive payments
- an accreditation assistance payment
- the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) loading payments, and
- Rural loading payments

Note: Practices are not eligible for PNIP incentives for any hours they are supported to employ or retain the services of a practice nurse, Aboriginal health worker or allied health professional through:

- Australian, state or territory government funding;
- Other private funding, or
- Incentive programs (for example, the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program).

Incentive payment

A practice may be eligible to receive incentive payments of:

- \$25,000 per annum, per 1,000 SWPE where a registered nurse works at least 12 hours 40 minutes per week; and
- \$12,500 per annum, per 1,000 SWPE where an enrolled nurse or Aboriginal health worker works at least 12 hours and 40 minutes per week.

The maximum incentive payment a single practice can receive under PNIP is \$125,000 per year.

The calculation of the payment made to a practice can include a combination of incentives for registered nurses, enrolled nurses and Aboriginal health workers (and allied health professionals where applicable). Where a practice uses the services of registered nurses, enrolled nurses, Aboriginal health workers and/or allied health professionals, where applicable, the higher incentive of \$25,000 will be applied first.

Accreditation assistance payment

Accreditation assistance, a one-off payment of \$5,000, is only available for practices previously not accredited or that are registered for accreditation with an accrediting body approved under the National General Practice Accreditation Scheme, at the time of joining the PNIP.

Department of Veterans' Affairs loading

Practices that are eligible for the PNIP and provide general practitioner services to Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card holders will be eligible for a yearly, per veteran payment. These practices will be identified by Medicare Australia and paid in August each year.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs loading will be calculated by determining the number of Gold Card holders who receive an 'in rooms' consultation in an eligible practice during each year. An amount will be paid for each Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card holder, regardless of the practice location, nursing qualifications or the number of nurses per practice. There are no limitations on the number of Department of Veterans' Affairs loadings paid per practice.

Where a Gold Card holder chooses to use more than one practice each year, the Department of Veterans' Affairs loading will be divided across the practices based on the percentage of total consultation fees paid.

Rural loading payments

A rural loading will be applied to the incentive, or part thereof, for which the primary practice is eligible. The rural loading is based on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Areas (RA) classification system.

The rural loading per PNIP incentive is:

- 0% for a RA1 major city area
- 20% for a RA2 inner regional area
- 30% for a RA3 outer regional area
- 40% for a RA4 remote area, and
- 50% for a RA5 very remote area

Applying

Practices can apply for the Practice Nurse Incentive Program when they apply for the PIP:

- Through HPOS;
- By completing the [Practice Incentives application form](#).

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

Practice Nurse Incentive Program Guidelines

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/health-professionals/services/medicare/practice-nurse-incentive-programme>

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
- Quality Prescribing Initiative
- Rural Loading Incentive
- Teaching Payment
- What is the Practice Incentives Program?
- Practice Incentives Program Overview