

Practice Incentives Program (PIP) Indigenous Health Incentive

The Practice Incentives Program (PIP) Indigenous Health Incentive (IHI) helps general practices and Indigenous health services provide better healthcare for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) patients, including best practice management of chronic disease.

The PIP IHI is often coupled with the PBS Co-payment Measure, which provides free or low-cost PBS medicines to eligible ATSI patients who are living with, or at risk of, chronic disease.

While eligible patients can be registered using the same [registration form \(IP017\)](#), the PIP IHI and PBS Co-payment Measure provide two distinctly separate areas of assistance – one for the practice and one for the patient – which must be registered for separately.

Payments to practices under the PIP IHI

The PIP IHI offers three payments to practices as outlined in the table below.

<p>1. Sign-on Payment A one-off sign-on payment to practices that agree to undertake specified activities to improve the provision of care to their ATSI patients with a chronic disease.</p>	<p>\$1,000 per practice</p>
<p>2. Patient Registration Payment A payment to practices for each ATSI patient aged 15 years and over who is registered with the practice for chronic disease management.</p>	<p>\$250 per eligible patient per calendar year</p>
<p>3.1 Outcomes Payment Tier 1 A payment to practices for each registered patient for whom a target level of care is provided by the practice in a calendar year.</p>	<p>\$100 per eligible patient per calendar year</p>
<p>3.2 Outcomes Payment Tier 2 A payment to practices for providing the majority of care for a registered patient in a calendar year.</p>	<p>\$150 per eligible patient per calendar year</p>

A rural loading ranging from 15-50%, depending on the remoteness of the practice, is applied to the payments for practices located in Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas (RRMA) 3-7.

The patient registration payment is paid once per patient, per calendar year for patients registered between 1 January and 31 October. Practices should consider setting a recall reminder to re-register PIP IHI registered patients for the next year by November.

A practice will not get a patient registration payment for a patient who is already registered for that calendar year with another practice.

Practice eligibility for the PIP IHI

To be eligible for the PIP IHI, practices must:

- be registered for the PIP
- receive consent forms to register eligible ATSI patients for the PIP IHI and/or the PBS Co-payment Measure
- create and use a system to make sure ATSI patients aged 15 years and over, with a chronic disease, are followed up, e.g. a recall system
- complete cultural awareness training within 12 months of joining the incentive
- annotate PBS prescriptions for ATSI patients participating in the PBS Co-payment Measure.

Patient eligibility for the PIP IHI

To be eligible for the PIP IHI, qualifying patients must:

- have a current Medicare card
- be 15 years of age or older
- be a 'usual' patient of the practice
- have a chronic disease
- have had, or been offered, a health check for ATSI MBS items 715 and 228
- provide informed consent by completing the patient consent part of the [Practice Incentives Program Indigenous Health Incentive and PBS Co-payment Measure patient registration and consent form \(IP017\)](#)
- be registered as a PIP IHI patient annually.

Practices can check if an eligible patient is currently registered with their practice through HPOS, or by calling the PIP enquiry line on 1800 222 032.

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

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Patient eligibility for the PBS Co-payment

The PBS Co-payment Measure helps Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander patients of any age who:

- have an existing chronic disease or chronic disease risk factor
- in the opinion of the doctor, would experience setbacks in the prevention or ongoing management of chronic disease, if they didn't take the prescribed medicine
- are unlikely to follow their medicines routine without help through the measure.

Identification of ATSI patients

GPs or practice staff should ask all patients if they identify as being of ATSI origin.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics advises that the wording of a question can influence a patient's response. Always ask the national standard identification question, "Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?" For a child or a patient unable to respond, ask an accompanying responsible adult, "Is (person's name) of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?"

Their answer should be recorded as stated in their patient record. Practices should respect the patient's choice to self-identify. Patients have the right to choose whether to reveal their ethnic origin and don't need to provide evidence to support this.

Cultural awareness training

Within 12 months of the practice signing on to the PIP IHI, at least two staff members from the practice (including one GP), must complete appropriate cultural awareness training endorsed by:

- a professional medical college (e.g. RACGP) or
- the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) or a state affiliate, such as the Aboriginal Health Council of WA.

Examples of appropriate cultural awareness training:

- [RACGP Cultural Awareness and Safety](#)
- [ACCRM Cultural Awareness](#)
- [Aboriginal Health Council of WA \(AHCWA\)](#)

If a staff member who is counted towards the cultural awareness training requirement leaves the practice, another staff member must meet the requirement or be considered exempt within 12 months.

Exemptions for cultural awareness training

The PIP IHI guidelines list the following exemptions:

- Appropriate training completed up to 12 months before the practice signs on for the incentive.
- Practices under the management of an Aboriginal Board of Directors or a committee of mainly Aboriginal community representatives.
- A GP at the practice who works at an Indigenous Health Service on a regular basis, provided that at least one other staff member has met the requirement or is considered exempt. Note: there is no prescribed definition of 'regular' for the purposes of the PIP IHI.
- If there are only two staff members at a practice, it is sufficient for only one to complete appropriate cultural awareness training or be exempt.
- A staff member is qualified as an Aboriginal Health Worker.
- If the only GP at the practice is on a temporary contract with a tenure of 6 months or less, provided that at least one other staff member has met the requirement or is considered exempt.

How to apply for the PIP IHI

Practices can apply for the PIP IHI when they register for the PIP:

- online via [HPOS](#)
- by completing and submitting the [Practice Incentives application form](#).

Practices already registered for the PIP can apply for the IHI:

- online via [HPOS](#)
- by completing and submitting the [PIP Indigenous Health Incentive practice application form](#).

Further information

To find out more about the Practice Incentives Program (PIP) Indigenous Health Incentive (IHI), visit the [Services Australia website](#), call 1800 222 032 or email pip@servicesaustralia.gov.au