

# Practice Incentives Program (PIP) Rural Loading Incentive

The Practice Incentives Program (PIP) Rural Loading recognises the difficulties of providing care, often with little professional support, in rural and remote areas.

The PIP Rural Loading is higher for practices in more remote areas, in recognition of the added difficulties of providing medical care.

## Eligibility for the PIP Rural Loading

To be eligible for the PIP Rural Loading, the main practice location must both:

- participate in the PIP
- be in a Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Area (RRMA) 3-7.

## Obligations of the practice

When receiving the PIP Rural Loading, practices must:

- provide information to Services Australia as part of the ongoing audit process to verify that the practice has met eligibility requirements
- make sure the information given is correct
- advise of any changes to practice arrangements:
  - online via [HPOS](#) which can be made up to, and on, the relevant point in time date
  - by completing the [PIP Change of Practice Details form](#)
  - by advising Services Australia in writing no later than seven days prior to the relevant point in time date.

The point in time date corresponds to the last day of the month before the next PIP quarterly payment.

On joining the PIP, practices must nominate an authorised contact person, who will confirm, on the practice's behalf, any changes to information for PIP claims and payments.

## Applying for the PIP Rural Loading

Practices registered for the PIP do not need to apply for this incentive. If your practice is not currently participating in the PIP, you can apply:

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

## PIP Rural Loading payments

The PIP Rural Loading is added to PIP practice payments. Service Incentive Payments (SIPs) and payments through the General Practice Immunisation Incentive (GPII) do not attract a rural loading.

The PIP Rural Loading varies with the remoteness of the practice and is based on the classification of the practice using the [Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas \(RRMA\) Classification](#).

Where a practice with multiple locations is eligible for a rural loading, the loading will be calculated based on the RRMA classification of the main practice location.

## PIP Rural Loading for each RRMA category

RRMA category	Loading
Rural loading – RRMA 1	0 per cent
Rural loading – RRMA 2	0 per cent
Rural loading – RRMA 3	15 per cent
Rural loading – RRMA 4	20 per cent
Rural loading – RRMA 5	40 per cent
Rural loading – RRMA 6	25 per cent
Rural loading – RRMA 7	50 per cent

## Further information

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

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