

Practice Incentives Program

Fact Sheet

Version 2 / November 2019

What is the Practice Incentives Program?

What is the PIP?

The Practice Incentives Program (PIP) is a suite of incentive payments available to General Practice to encourage continued quality care, enhance capacity and improve patient health outcomes. They are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS) on behalf of the Department of Health.

Incentives paid through the program are in addition to other income earned by GPs and the practice, such as patient payments and Medicare rebates.

See the table on page 2 for available PIP incentives.

How does it work?

Eligible practices need to register for the PIP through Health Professional Online Services (HPOS). Once registered, they can apply for individual incentives.

There are three streams of incentive payments:

1. **Practice payments** – to practices for quality care
2. **Service incentive payments** - to GPs to recognise specified services to patients.
3. **Rural loading payments** – to practices located outside a major metropolitan centre.

There are eight individual incentives under these three payment streams. See table on page 2.

Once you're registered for PIP incentives and your support information is uploaded, DHS will automatically calculate eligible payments. Payments are made in February, May, August and November, directly into the nominated bank account, when requirements for the quarter are met.

Practices can spend their payment in any way they choose, however the PIP is intended to support the practice in purchasing equipment, upgrading facilities or offering additional payment to doctors. Usual taxation rules apply to PIP payments.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for the PIP scheme your practice must:

- be a general practice as defined by the RACGP
- be an open practice as defined by the PIP
- be accredited, or registered for accreditation, against RACGP Standards for general practices.
- have public liability insurance cover
- have professional indemnity insurance cover for all GPs and nurse practitioners.

Eligibility criteria for individual incentives are available on the DHS website:

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

How to apply

Eligible practices can register for PIP through HPOS, using their PRODA account. You will need to upload the following documents:

- signed Practice Incentives Practice ownership details and declaration form ([IP008](#)), with a copy of your accreditation certificate
- signed Practice Incentives Individual GP or nurse practitioner details form ([IP003](#)).

Once registered for PIP, you can apply for individual incentives online.

Specific instructions on registering for PIP using PRODA, HPOS are available on the DHS website:

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/services/medicare/practice-incentives-program/how-apply/applying-pip>.

Calculation of payments using SWPE

PIP practice payments are calculated based on a measure of the practice size known as the Standardised Whole Patient Equivalent (SWPE). SWPE represents the fraction of care provided to each patient, weighted for age and gender.

The SWPE reference period is a rolling 12month period commencing 16months prior to the payment quarter. MBS services provided by both GP's and nurse practitioners are included in the SWPE.

More Information

DHS website:

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

Health Professional Online Services (HPOS):

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/services/medicare/hpos>.

DHS PIP Enquiry Line

Telephone: 1800 222 032

Email: pip@humanservices.gov.au

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

Available Practice Incentive Payments

| Stream | Incentive | Activity | Payment amount | |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| PIP Quality Stream | Indigenous Health Incentive | Sign on payment: once only payment to practices that agree to undertake specified activities to improve the provision of care to their Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander patients with a chronic disease | \$1,000 per practice | |
| | | Patient registration payment: payment to practices for each Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander patient aged 15 years and over who is registered with the practice for chronic disease management | \$250 per eligible patient per calendar year | |
| | | Outcomes payment Tier 1: payment to practices for each registered patient for whom a target level of care is provided by the practice in a calendar year | \$100 per eligible patient per calendar year | |
| Outcomes payment Tier 2: payment to practices for providing the majority of care for a registered patient in a calendar year | | \$150 per eligible patient per calendar year | | |
| | Quality Improvement (PIP QI) | A payment to practices to undertake continuous quality improvement through the collection and review of practice data, and to share de-identified data with their PHN. | \$5.00 per SWPE capped at \$12,500 per quarter | |
| PIP Capacity stream | After Hours Incentive | Level 1: Participation Practices must meet the requirements of Level 1 to qualify for payment at this level | \$1 per SWPE | |
| | | Level 2: Sociable after hours cooperative coverage Practices must meet the requirements of Level 2 to qualify for payment at this level | \$4 per SWPE | |
| | | Level 3: Sociable after hours practice coverage Practices must meet the requirements of Level 3 to qualify for payment at this level | \$5.50 per SWPE | |
| | | Level 4: Complete after hours cooperative coverage Practices must meet the requirements of Level 4 to qualify for payment at this level | \$5.50 per SWPE | |
| | | Level 5: Complete after hours practice coverage Practices must meet the requirements of Level 5 to qualify for payment at this level | \$11 per SWPE | |
| | Aged Care Access Incentive | Tier 1: payment to GPs for providing at least 60 eligible Medicare Benefits Schedule services in residential aged care facilities in the financial year | \$1,500 per financial year | |
| | | Tier 2: payment to GPs for providing at least 140 eligible Medicare Benefits Schedule services in residential aged care facilities in the financial year | \$3,500 per financial year | |
| | | eHealth Incentive | Practices must meet each of the ehealth requirements to qualify for payments through this incentive | \$6.50 per SWPE capped at \$12,500 per practice per quarter |
| | | Teaching Payment | Payment for teaching medical students to a maximum of 2 sessions per GP per day | \$200 per session |
| | PIP Rural support stream | Procedural GP Payment | Tier 1: Payment for a GP in a rural or remote practice who provides at least 1 procedural service, which meets the definition of a procedural service, in the 6-month reference period | \$1,000 per procedural GP per 6 month reference period |
| Tier 2: Payment for a GP in a rural or remote practice who meets the Tier 1 requirement and provides after-hours procedural services on a regular or rostered basis (15 hrs per week on average) throughout ref period | | | \$2,000 per procedural GP per 6 month reference period | |
| Tier 3: Payment for a GP in a rural or remote practice who meets the Tier 2 requirements and provides 25 or more eligible surgical, anaesthetic or obstetric services in the 6-month reference period | | | \$5,000 per procedural GP per 6 month reference period | |
| Tier 4: Payment for a GP in a rural or remote practice who meets the Tier 2 requirements and delivers 10 or more babies in the 6 month reference period or meets the obstetric needs of the community | | | \$8,500 per procedural GP per 6 month reference period | |
| | | Rural loading Incentive | Payment for a practice whose main location is outside a metropolitan area, based on the Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Area (RRMA) Classification. Once all incentive payments are added the rural loading amount is applied. | RRMA 3 - 15% loading RRMA 4 - 20% loading RRMA 5 - 40% loading RRMA 6 - 25% loading RRMA 7 - 50% loading |

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