



Incentives News Update

Quality Improvement in PIP

The Practice Incentives Program (PIP) provides funding to eligible general practices to help them with quality improvement activities.

New Quality Improvement Incentive

In the 2017–18 Budget the government announced a new Quality Improvement (QI) Incentive. The new QI Incentive will start from 1 May 2018 to ensure general practices are ready.

The new PIP QI Incentive will help general practices continuously improve the quality, safety, performance and accountability of the care they provide to their patients.

The aim is to improve outcomes for patients.

The changes are a result of consultation conducted in 2016. One of the main outcomes of the consultation was the broad support for the QI Incentive.

After feedback from the community, including general practices, the government has also confirmed that only five existing PIP incentives will end instead of the seven incentives previously announced. After April 2018, funds from the ending incentives will be available to eligible general practices in the new QI Incentive.

Continuing PIP Incentives

Six PIP incentives will remain as they are:

- eHealth
- After Hours
- Rural Loading
- Teaching Payment
- Indigenous Health, and
- Procedural General Practitioner Payment.

The PIP Indigenous Health Incentive and the PIP Procedural General Practitioner Payment will continue to improve the health of Indigenous Australians with chronic disease and patients in rural and remote areas.

PIP Incentives ending

Five PIP incentives will end in their current form on **30 April 2018**:

- Asthma
- Quality Prescribing
- Cervical Screening
- Diabetes, and
- General Practitioner Aged Care Access.

More information about the PIP QI Incentive will be available in the coming months.

Diabetes Incentive—testing for diabetes

The PIP Diabetes Incentive outcomes payments are made to practices who complete a yearly cycle of care for patients with established diabetes.

The PIP calculates the target number of patients with diabetes for outcomes payments based on MBS items 66551 and 66554 only. These items are used to measure HbA1c (glycated haemoglobin) for patients with established diabetes.

You must make sure your pathology provider uses the correct MBS item when measuring HbA1c during the patient's yearly cycle of care.

The HbA1c measure using MBS item 66841 is only used for testing patients at risk of diabetes. It doesn't count towards the number of patients with established diabetes for the PIP outcomes payments.



Register your patients for PIP IHI and PBS Co-payment Measure online through HPOS

At the end of each year, you need to re-register your patients for the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive (IHI) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Co-payment Measure for the next year. It's fastest to do this online through Health Professional Online Services (HPOS). When you re-register patients online you must make sure they still complete the patient consent section of the patient registration form.

When to register your patients

You can start registering your patients for the next calendar year from 1 November each year. If you register a patient for the first time in November or December of that year, the patient is automatically registered for both this calendar year and the next.

If a registered patient moves to your practice during the year you have to wait for the next calendar year to claim the patient registration payment. You can still get outcomes payments for treating patients, even if they're registered at another practice.

The IHI re-registration process doesn't apply to patients at risk of a chronic disease and who are already registered for the PBS Co-payment Measure only. The PBS Co-payment Measure is a once only registration. If a patient develops a chronic disease they can register for IHI.

Registering patients through HPOS

All practice owners and authorised contacts who have access to PIP Online can register patients for the IHI and PBS Co-payment Measure online through HPOS at humanservices.gov.au/hpos

1. Log on to HPOS. Select **PIP**.
2. Select the **Indigenous Health Incentive Patient Registration** option from the main menu.
3. Enter the patient's individual details in the required fields.
4. Complete all mandatory eligibility questions and then select **Submit Registration**.

Registration for the PIP IHI and the PBS Co-payment Measure are independent of each other.

When re-registering patients using PIP Online through HPOS, you don't need to send the Indigenous Health Incentive and PBS Co-payment Measure patient registration and consent form to us. You must keep the signed patient consent section of the form on file for audit purposes for six years.

Managing eHealth

If you're participating in the PIP eHealth Incentive, you need to monitor and check you've met the minimum upload target of Shared Health Summaries (SHS) each quarter.

To check your practice's target SHS for the next payment quarter online, select the update function on the Incentive Summary screen of your practice profile in PIP Online.

If you're not going to meet the target you must opt out of that payment quarter. You need to make sure you do this online by the point-in-time date before the payment month.

Opting out of a payment quarter means you're still registered for the eHealth Incentive, but you won't get a payment for the quarter you opted out of. You'll be automatically opted back in for the next payment quarter. You need to monitor your SHS uploads each quarter.

Withdrawing from the eHealth Incentive is not the same as opting out

If you choose to withdraw from the eHealth Incentive, it means you're no longer registered to participate in the Incentive. You won't get any more payments unless you re-apply for the eHealth Incentive.

You can re-apply for the eHealth Incentive through HPOS.

Monitoring your practice's shared health summary uploads

Most clinical information systems have sidebar tools you can use to monitor the number of uploaded SHS. This can help you track your practice's progress each payment quarter.

Your software provider can help you set up your clinical information system to track your practice's progress. Talk to your software provider if you're unsure about how to do this, or to find out if your software has this function.

If your clinical information system doesn't let you track progress you'll need to keep a manual record of the number of SHS your practice has uploaded each payment quarter.

Eligibility for PNIP payments

If you're a general practice participating in the PNIP and you've given us consent to use your PIP information for the purposes of the PNIP, you must stay eligible in the PIP to continue to get your PNIP payments.

If you withdraw from the PIP or we withdraw you from the PIP due to non-compliance with a core eligibility requirement, we'll also withdraw you from the PNIP.

Practices that want to participate in either program after withdrawal need to make sure they meet the eligibility requirements before re-applying.

Updating PNIP health professional hours through HPOS

If you update the health professional hours for your practice in PNIP Online, you must enter the hours for each of the health professionals. This will make sure your payments are correct.

You can make changes in PNIP Online up to and including the point-in-time date. The changes are immediate.

To update health professional hours

1. Log on to HPOS and select **PNIP**.
2. Select **Health Professional Details**, under **Practice Details** in the main menu.
3. Complete all fields marked by a red asterisk and select **Update Details**.

Make sure the hours entered into all relevant fields are correct for each health professional.

If you don't have access to PNIP Online through HPOS, you can tell us your changes in writing. You must do this at least seven days before the relevant point-in-time date.

Incentives Program—Form updates

We've updated the following forms:

- *Practice Incentives Program Application (IP001)*
- *Practice Incentives Individual general practitioner or nurse practitioner details (IP003)*
- *Practice Incentives Program Diabetes, Cervical Screening and Asthma Incentives and Procedural General Practitioner Payment application (IP004)*
- *Practice Incentives Change of practice details (IP005)*
- *Practice Incentives Program Indigenous Health Incentive practice register authority (IP009)*
- *Practice Incentives Change of practice ownership (IP010)*
- *PIP Indigenous Health Incentive patient registration and consent (IP017)*

- *PIP Indigenous Health Incentive multiple patient registration and consent (IP019)*
- *PIP Indigenous Health Incentive patient withdrawal of consent form (IP029)*
- *Practice Incentives Program Indigenous Health Incentive and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Co-Payment Measure Practice Application (IP026)*

You must use the updated forms for managing your participation in the PIP and PNIP. If you use an old form, we can't process it and you might miss out on payments. Go to humanservices.gov.au/pip or humanservices.gov.au/pnip to download the most up-to-date forms.

Reminders

- Remember to link your PRODA Registration Authority (RA) number to your practice profile to access PIP and PNIP Online. Go to humanservices.gov.au and search 'Linking your RA number' for more information.
- Remember to click **Update Online Subscriptions** on your practice profile to get online notifications and alerts when your payment advice and confirmation statements are ready to view.
- Remember to send each form to us as a separate fax. This will ensure each request is processed.

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