



Incentives News Update

Stronger Rural Health Strategy

The health of people in regional, rural and remote Australia is the focus of the 2018–19 Federal Budget Stronger Rural Health Strategy measure.

This package of measures will:

- provide new opportunities for Australian doctors through better teaching, training, recruitment and retention initiatives for the health workforce
- enable a stronger role for nurses and allied health professionals in the delivery of more multidisciplinary, team-based models of primary health care
- help address the shortage of medical practitioners in regional, rural and remote areas, and
- help meet the increasingly complex health needs of older people and people with chronic conditions that need multidisciplinary primary health care.

Workforce Incentive Program

The recruitment and retention component of this measure includes targeted financial incentives to encourage medical practitioners to deliver primary health care services in rural and remote areas. These areas have difficulty attracting and retaining medical practitioners.

There are also financial incentives to support general practices to employ or retain the services of health professionals to deliver multidisciplinary and team-based primary health care across Australia. Those eligible include:

- nurses
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers or Health Practitioners, and
- allied health professionals, including non-dispensing pharmacists.

The levels of incentive payment for health professionals will be set using the Modified Monash Model geographic classification.

The Workforce Incentive Program (WIP) will start on 1 July 2019. It'll replace the General Practice Rural Incentives Program (GPRIP) and the Practice Nurse Incentive Program (PNIP). Medical practitioners and



general practices participating in the GPRIP and PNIP on 30 June 2019 will automatically transition to the WIP.

Read more about the Stronger Rural Health Strategy budget measures at humanservices.gov.au/organisations/about-us/budget/budget-2018-19 and on the Department of Health website health.gov.au

Commission releases new advisories for general practice accreditation

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) released two new advisories for the National General Practice Accreditation Scheme (the Scheme) in August 2018.

An advisory is a formal communication to accrediting agencies. It gives guidance and direction on the interpretation and assessment of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Standards for general practices.





The new advisories outline processes for accrediting agencies to follow if:

- an accredited general practice relocates premises, or
- a survey identifies a significant ongoing risk of patient harm.

Earlier this year, the Commission released advisories for general practices wanting to:

- transfer to a different accrediting agency, or
- seek an extension on their accreditation expiry date.

There are now four advisories for the Scheme.

You can read or download the advisories at safetyandquality.gov.au

For more information, call the Commission's advice centre on **1800 304 056** or email NationalGPAccreditation@safetyandquality.gov.au

About advisories

Advisories help with issues related to general practice accreditation assessments by:

- giving details of the processes accrediting agencies and general practices must follow for accreditation, and
- helping ensure consistent assessments across accrediting agencies.

Advisories include input from the industry-based stakeholder committee that oversees the scheme. Accrediting agencies are also consulted.

About the National General Practice Accreditation Scheme

The Scheme helps to make sure there's consistent assessment of Australian general practices. The benchmark is the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Standards for general practices.

The Scheme started on 1 January 2017. It was developed by the Commission in collaboration with the RACGP.

For more information about the Scheme and how it operates go to safetyandquality.gov.au

Register for the Indigenous Health Incentive and the PBS Co-payment Measure

The Indigenous Health Incentive (IHI) aims to support general practices and Indigenous health services to provide better health care for Indigenous patients. This includes best practice management of chronic disease.

You can register if your practice:

- participates in the Practice Incentives Program (PIP), and
- has Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients with or at risk of chronic disease.

Find out more at humanservices.gov.au/pip

Don't forget the CAT!

For your practice to be eligible for the IHI, at least two staff members must complete Cultural Awareness Training (CAT). One of these staff members must be a GP. CAT must happen within 12 months of your practice signing on to the incentive.

If the GP or staff member leaves, another practice staff member will need to either:

- complete CAT, or
- be considered exempt within 12 months of the previous staff member leaving.

Practices must be able to provide evidence that training has been completed or that exemptions apply.

You can find out more on CAT in the IHI guidelines at humanservices.gov.au/pip

New claims process for the PIP Teaching Payment

From 1 November 2018 there'll be a different process for claiming the PIP Teaching Payment.

The PIP Teaching Payment aims to encourage general practices to provide teaching sessions for medical students preparing to enter the Australian medical profession. The payments are to compensate eligible practices for the reduced number of consultations due to the presence of the students.

The new process will reduce payment delays as universities will no longer need to verify the teaching sessions after the training.

Here's the new process for PIP registered general practices and universities:

- Before a student can attend a teaching session, the university needs to complete the 'Certification by university' section and include the student's details in the 'Student attendance' section of the new teaching claim form. The university will need to provide this to the practice before the teaching session. Each student needs a separate teaching claim form.

We've informed participating universities about these changes.

- Once the student has completed the training sessions, both the student and the GP providing the teaching sessions need to sign the claim form to show us that the teaching sessions have occurred.
- The owner or authorised contact of the practice then completes the 'Practice declaration' section and submits the completed and signed claim form for payment. The completed form can be faxed to **1300 587 696** for manual processing. Alternatively, the claim can be lodged online through Health Professional Online Services (HPOS). To do this go to **humanservices.gov.au/hpos** and log on using your Provider Digital Access (PRODA) account details.
- The practice needs to send a copy of the completed and signed claim form back to the university for their records. The university doesn't need to do anything further.
- The new claim form will be available from 1 August 2018. We won't accept old claim forms after 31 January 2019.

Go to **humanservices.gov.au/pip** for more information.

Please make sure universities give your practice the **new** PIP Teaching Payment claim form when referring students to your practice.

New functions on the Australian Immunisation Register site

We've added some useful functions to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) site.

Vaccination providers can record immunisation information for their patients online through the AIR site.

If you're a recognised vaccination provider you'll now be able to use the AIR site to:

- view and print an Immunisation History Statement for your patients
- record a planned immunisation catch up
- see status messages for vaccines you're recording so that you can check information is correct before you send it
- view immunisation information immediately after you've submitted it, and
- download and print some AIR reports in single-file and multi-file formats.

The AIR site has some other useful functions. You can:

- correct vaccines you have previously recorded on a patient's record (as long as an immunisation information payment has not already been made)
- view a patient's immunisation history to check which vaccinations are due or overdue
- record a patient's overseas vaccination/s, and

- record an immunisation medical exemption for a medical contraindication or natural immunity (you must be an **eligible doctor** to access this function).

Make sure you have the latest version of your Practice Management Software and internet browser for access to the latest AIR site functionality.

We're no longer sending accreditation reminder letters



From August 2018, we'll no longer send reminder letters to practices telling them to renew their accreditation for the PIP.

This change won't affect any reminders practices currently receive from their accrediting agency.

For more information about the accreditation requirements for PIP go to **humanservices.gov.au/pip**

Enjoy the benefits of linking your PIP and PNIP practice details

If your practice participates in the PIP and the PNIP with separate practice ID numbers, you can become a PIP consenting practice.

This means you'll only need to update your practice details, including general practitioner details, in your PIP profile. You won't need to make the same updates to your PNIP profile.

When you've become a PIP consenting practice your practice IDs will become identical.

If your practice is already participating in PIP and PNIP and you haven't linked the profiles, your authorised contact or practice owner can submit a written request on official company letterhead. You can email us at **pnip@humanservices.gov.au** and include both practice ID numbers.

More information on practice eligibility, program requirements and impacts on practice Standardised Whole Patient Equivalent (SWPE) is available in the PNIP guidelines at **humanservices.gov.au/pnip**



Updating PNIP nurse hours using HPOS

Using PNIP Online in HPOS means you can make changes up to and including the point-in-time date. The changes are immediate.

If you update the health professional hours for your practice in PNIP Online, remember to enter the average weekly hours for **each** of the health professionals. This will ensure your payments are correct.

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 HPOS, it's easy to sign up and log on using the Provider Digital Access (PRODA) authentication model. For more information go to humanservices.gov.au/hpos

Changes to PIP Quality Improvement Incentive will start next May

The new PIP Quality Improvement (QI) Incentive which was to start on 1 May 2018 will now start on 1 May 2019.

This means the five incentives scheduled to cease on 1 May 2018 will continue through to 30 April 2019. These are the:

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

The six PIP incentives that won't change when the QI Incentive starts are the:

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

PIP updates

Make sure you're always using the latest versions of PIP forms and guidelines. Old forms won't be processed. Current versions of forms and guidelines are available at humanservices.gov.au/pip

Latest updates

- *Practice Incentives—practice ownership details and declaration form (IP008)*
- *Asthma Incentive guidelines*
- *Diabetes Incentive guidelines*
- *Cervical Screening Incentive guidelines*
- *General Practitioner Aged Care Access Incentive guidelines*
- *Indigenous Health Incentive guidelines*

Reminders

- To assist patients to locate a PIP IHI registered practice when they are away from their regular practice, you can apply to be placed on an IHI practice authority register. This will make practice information on the register available to hospitals, general practices, Aboriginal Medical Services, Indigenous health services, patients and other people who contact us. You only need to apply and be approved for the IHI practice authority register once, not yearly.
- If your practice payments are on hold, your practice will get a letter outlining the reasons for the hold and the information or documents required to release the payments. If you have any questions, you can contact us.
- If you've had any changes in your practice arrangements, you must let us know by notifying the PIP or PNIP **directly**. If you don't notify the PIP or PNIP **directly** it may affect your eligibility or incentive payments.

News for health professionals online

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Find out more

Go online to humanservices.gov.au/pip and humanservices.gov.au/pnip

Email pip@humanservices.gov.au or pnip@humanservices.gov.au

Call **1800 222 032*** (8.30 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday, Australian Central Standard Time)

*Call charges apply from mobile and pay phones only.