The new PIP Quality Improvement Incentive has begun

The PIP Quality Improvement (QI) Incentive started on 1 August 2019.

It’s a payment to general practices that participate in activities that support continuous quality improvement in patient outcomes, and deliver best practice care.

There are now 8 incentives under the PIP:
• After Hours Incentive
• eHealth Incentive
• General Practitioner Aged Care Access Incentive
• Indigenous Health Incentive
• Procedural General Practitioner Payment
• Quality Improvement Incentive
• Rural Loading Incentive
• Teaching Payment Incentive.

The following 4 incentives have now ceased:
• Asthma Incentive
• Cervical Screening Incentive
• Diabetes Incentive
• Quality Prescribing Incentive.

To participate in the PIP QI Incentive, your practice must:
• be eligible for the PIP
• register for the PIP QI Incentive
• electronically submit the PIP Eligible Data Set to your local Primary Health Network (PHN) at least once during the data submission period each quarter
• undertake quality improvement activities in partnership with your local PHN.

You should contact your local PHN to talk about what report options are available. You can also explore quality improvement opportunities against the Improvement Measures.

You can find details of your local PHN from health.gov.au/phn and select ‘Contacts’.

Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS), and organisations funded under the Indigenous Australians Health Programme (IAHP) for the delivery of primary health care services, can also participate in the PIP QI. Your practice must:
• be eligible for the PIP
• register for the PIP QI Incentive
• report on the National Key Performance Indicators (nKPIs) to the Department of Health (Health)
• undertake quality improvement activities within your existing arrangement with Health.

To understand the PIP QI requirements, and the PIP Eligible Data Set Governance arrangements, the following documents are available on the Health website:
• PIP QI Guidelines
• Improvement Measures
• PIP Eligible Data Set Data Governance Framework
• PIP QI Frequently Asked Questions.

Go to health.gov.au and search for ‘PIP QI Incentive guidance’.

You can register for PIP QI through Health Professional Online Services (HPOS) using your Provider Digital Access (PRODA) account. Go to humanservices.gov.au/hpos to register for PRODA.
New Workforce Incentive Program

The Workforce Incentive Program (WIP) starts at the beginning of 2020. This will replace the Practice Nurse Incentive Program (PNIP) and the General Practice Rural Incentives Program (GPRIP).

If you take part in the PNIP and GPRIP, you’ll automatically transition to the WIP. However, you need to be aware of some changes.

Geographical classification system changes

The WIP will use the updated Modified Monash Model (MMM) 2019 geographical classification system.

The MMM system has been updated to reflect population and other changes since its introduction in 2015. The model uses 2016 Australian census data to better target health workforce programs according to remoteness and town size. This recognises the challenges small and remote communities face attracting and retaining health professionals.

A map showing the MMM 2019 classifications is now available, noting the changes come into effect from 1 January 2020.

Go to doctorconnect.gov.au for more information about the MMM. You can also find the MMM 2019 classification for your practice or for the locations where eligible primary care services may be provided for the WIP—Doctor Stream.

WIP—Doctor Stream

To get payments under the WIP—Doctor Stream, medical practitioners must provide eligible services in Modified Monash 3-7 locations under the MMM 2019.

The MMM update may change the classification of some locations. Be mindful that this could affect your eligibility for WIP—Doctor Stream payments or payment levels.

GPRIP and WIP—Doctor Stream payments are based on the date we process relevant Medicare claims. This may be different to the date the service was provided.

If you want services provided before 1 January 2020 to be assessed under the current MMM classification, make sure your claims are submitted as soon as possible after the service has taken place so that your claims can be processed. Any claims lodged after 31 December 2019 will be assessed under the new MMM classification.

WIP—Practice Stream rural loadings

Practices in all locations will remain eligible for WIP—Practice Stream incentive payments. If your practice is in Modified Monash 3-7 locations under the MMM 2019, you’ll be eligible for a rural loading. Some practices may get a different rural loading or may no longer be eligible for a rural loading.

Changes to information requirements

We’ll ask you to provide more details to help improve our understanding of health professionals working in general practices across Australia.

We’ll ask practices in the WIP—Practice Stream to provide the name, profession and unique identifier (where available) for each eligible health professional confirming hours in the Quarterly Confirmation Statement.

Unique identifiers can be either a practitioner’s:
- registration number from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). Search for the number at ahpra.gov.au or
- Healthcare Provider Identifier—Individual (HPI–I) number, if they work in a profession that is not registered with AHPRA. Go to humanservices.gov.au/hiservice for information on the HPI–I number.

Health professionals who don’t have a registration or a HPI–I number should provide their full name and profession.

More information

Go to the Health website at health.gov.au/workforceincentiveprogram for WIP factsheets and questions and answers.

Professional development resources for nurses

Nurses who work in general practice and primary care can now access learning resources to develop their knowledge, skills and confidence to include mental health skills in day-to-day practice.

There are 6 case-based interactive learning modules of an hour long each, which can be completed one at a time or all in one sitting.

The modules cover mental health, mental illness, therapeutic approaches for everyday practice, mental health assessment, risk assessment and communication strategies.

The learning modules were developed by the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses. The modules are endorsed by the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association and can count towards Continuing Professional Development requirements.

Go to acmhn.org/primary-care to access the modules.
Changes to how you access the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)

We're changing how you can access the AIR—authentication files will soon no longer be used for medical practitioners, nurse practitioners and midwives. You'll need to access it in HPOS using a PRODA account. This is to improve your online security.

From 31 August 2019:
- medical practitioners, midwives and nurse practitioners will only be able to access the AIR site using PRODA
- medical practices will only be able to use their practice’s AIR provider number to access the AIR site using authentication file.

Now's the time to register as a medical practice to make sure you'll have ongoing access to the AIR site before the change.

Individual vaccination providers with a Medicare provider number

If you're an individual vaccination provider with a Medicare provider number, please create a PRODA account. From 31 August 2019, we'll switch off your authentication file.

Benefits of PRODA:
- Greater security than the current authentication file technology
- You can access the AIR site from any device
- You can send attachments to us using secure email in HPOS.

Steps to register your medical practice as a vaccination provider on the AIR:
1. Go to humanservices.gov.au/hpforms and select Application to register as a vaccination provider (IM004)
2. Select medical practice as your provider type for Question 1
3. Complete the form with your principal vaccination provider’s details
4. The principal vaccination provider must sign the form at Question 12
5. Submit the completed form to us.

If you're registering as a medical practice, you don't need state or territory health department approval.

For more information about the AIR, go to humanservices.gov.au/hpair

For more information about PRODA, go to humanservices.gov.au/proda

Medical practices need an AIR vaccination provider number

If your staff need access to AIR, your practice will need to register as a medical practice on the AIR. They'll start using the practice’s AIR provider number.

If your medical practice registers as a vaccination provider before 30 September 2019, we'll issue your practice an authentication file. Your staff can use this to access the AIR site until we transition practices to PRODA in early 2020.

If your practice is already registered as a vaccination provider on the AIR, you can keep using your practice authentication file until we transition you to PRODA in early 2020. We'll share more information with you about the transition to PRODA later this year.

Updates to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)

In July the AIR site was updated to have a consistent look and feel across all screens. The Reports menu is easier to navigate and to find the information you need.

The functions to Request, Modify and View reports are all on one page. We’ve removed the Purpose page when you request or modify a report.

We’ve also removed .txt file reports. All AIR site reports are still available in .csv single files and .csv multiple files.

How to get an AIR site report

Getting an AIR site report is quick and easy:
1. Log into HPOS
2. Select My programs from the HPOS main menu
3. Select the AIR tile
4. Select Reports.

From here you can request, modify and view AIR site reports.
How to use AIR site reports

You can use AIR site reports to:
• check the number of people registered on the AIR
• check the number of people who have received valid vaccinations

Other features

You can also use the AIR site to:
• view an individual’s immunisation history
• update an individual’s immunisation records
• submit immunisation medical exemptions and planned catch-up schedules
• print immunisation history statements
• view immunisation payment statements and change statement preferences
• check claims sent to the AIR

For more information about the AIR, go to humanservices.gov.au/hpair

Latest updates

We’ve updated the following forms:
• Practice Incentives application form (IP001.1908)
• Practice Incentives Individual general practitioner or nurse practitioner details form (IP003.1908)
• Practice Incentives Program Procedural General Practitioner Payment application (IP004.1908)
• Practice Incentives Practice ownership details and declaration form (IP008.1908)
• Practice Incentives Change of practice ownership (IP010.1908)

Please make sure you use the latest forms at humanservices.gov.au/pip

Reminders

• If you submit a form with an incorrect or missing practice ID number, we won’t accept it. If this happens, we’ll write to you and ask for the correct practice ID before we process your request.
• Annual confirmation statements were due 24 July 2019. If you haven’t yet returned it, you need to do so as soon as possible. Please check each page and send it back to us using HPOS or fax. If we don’t get your statement, we’ll hold your payments.

News for health professionals online

Did you know you can keep up to date with news for health professionals online? Subscribe to get news highlights sent to your email every month. You can opt out at any time. Go to humanservices.gov.au/healthprofessionalsnews

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.

Please be aware that there may be risks with sending personal information through unsecured networks or email channels.