



# Incentives News Update



## Workforce Incentive Program

From **1 July 2019**, the Workforce Incentive Program (WIP) will replace both the:

- Practice Nurse Incentive Program (PNIP)
- General Practice Rural Incentives Program (GPRIP).

General practices and medical practitioners participating in these programs on 30 June 2019 will automatically transition to the WIP.

### What is the Workforce Incentive Program?

The WIP is part of the Australian Government's Stronger Rural Health Strategy.

The WIP better targets incentives to address workforce requirements in specific areas. It gives patients in rural, regional and remote areas improved access to quality medical, nursing and allied health services.

Funding under the WIP will be available in two streams:

- The PNIP will transition to the WIP Practice Stream and we'll make payments directly to practices.
- The GPRIP will transition to the WIP Doctor Stream and we'll make payments directly to medical practitioners.

The WIP Practice Stream will support eligible general practices to engage the services of:

- nurses
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners
- a range of allied health professionals.

These health professionals will be a key part of the modern general practice healthcare team. They'll deliver team-based and multidisciplinary service models to ensure greater responsiveness to people with chronic and complex conditions.

Each eligible practice will decide which health professional or combination of health professionals they require to meet local need. These arrangements will provide flexibility to address gaps in health services and enable collaborative arrangements with allied health services.

The WIP Doctor Stream will provide targeted financial incentives to encourage medical practitioners to deliver eligible primary healthcare services in regional, rural or remote areas. These areas often have difficulty attracting and retaining medical practitioners.



## What is changing in the transition to the WIP?

These are the key changes that will happen as the PNIP transitions to the WIP Practice Stream:

- Geographical classification will move from the Australian Standard Geographical Classification—Remoteness Area (ASGC-RA) to the Modified Monash Model (MMM).
- Practices within Modified Monash 3–7 locations will be eligible for a rural loading.
- Practices in all locations will be able to engage allied health professionals. The restriction to employ allied health professionals in urban areas of workforce shortage will be removed.
- Eligible health professionals will include nurse practitioners and non-dispensing pharmacists.
- From 1 May 2019, the accreditation assistance payment of \$5,000 per eligible practice will no longer apply.

Workforce incentive payments we currently provide to eligible doctors under the GPRIP will continue under the WIP Doctor Stream.

The Department of Health (Health) is developing WIP Program Guidelines. They'll contain detailed information about how the WIP will operate, including incentive payments, loadings and eligibility requirements. The WIP Program Guidelines will be available on the Health website before 1 July 2019.

### More information

Health will write to general practices and medical practitioners participating in the PNIP and GPRIP in early 2019. They'll provide more information about the transition to the WIP.

Information on the Stronger Rural Health Strategy and the WIP is available on the Health website at [health.gov.au](http://health.gov.au)

Information on MMM geographic classification is on the Doctor Connect website at [doctorconnect.gov.au](http://doctorconnect.gov.au)

You can use it to determine your practice's MMM geographic classification.

## Reminder about the new PIP Quality Improvement Incentive

The Practice Incentives Program (PIP) Quality Improvement (QI) Incentive is scheduled to start on **1 May 2019**.

As part of the Incentive, you'll have to undertake continuous quality improvement activities through the collection and review of practice data or information.

Because we're introducing the PIP QI Incentive, these five PIP incentives will cease on 30 April 2019:

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

These six PIP incentives will stay the same when the PIP QI Incentive begins:

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

The design of the new PIP QI Incentive is now well underway. We'll let you know when we have more information.

## New PIP Teaching Payment claims process

As of **1 November 2018** there's a different process for claiming the PIP Teaching Payment. The new process will reduce delays, as universities don't need to verify teaching sessions after training.

The PIP Teaching Payment encourages general practices to provide teaching sessions to medical students. The payments compensate eligible practices for the reduced number of consultations due to the presence of the students.

Please note:

- You can find the Teaching Payment guidelines and claim form online. Go to [humanservices.gov.au/pip](http://humanservices.gov.au/pip)
- Make sure universities give your practice the new PIP Teaching Payment claim form when referring students to your practice.
- We won't accept old claim forms after 31 January 2019.

## Electronic signatures and signature stamps

From **1 February 2019**, we won't accept electronic signatures or signature stamps on any PIP/PNIP forms. Only owners and authorised contacts registered with us can agree to a declaration under PIP/PNIP. An owner or authorised contact must physically sign all forms. This enables us to verify these signatures against our records.

## Confirming PNIP health professional hours for your quarterly confirmation statement

You can confirm or update your health professional hours for the quarterly confirmation statement (QCS), through HPOS.

To update health professional hours:

1. Go to **humanservices.gov.au/hpos** and log on using your Provider Digital Access (PRODA) account details.
2. Select **PNIP**.
3. Select the **Quarterly Confirmation Statement** option from the main menu.
4. Select **Edit** and enter the updated hours for each health professional.
5. Check that all the health professional hours entered are correct.
6. Complete the declaration section and then select **Confirm**.

To confirm health professional hours without changes:

1. Go to **humanservices.gov.au/hpos** and log on using your PRODA account details.
2. Select **PNIP**.
3. Select the **Quarterly Confirmation Statement** option from the main menu.
4. Check that all the pre-populated health professional hours are correct.
5. Complete the declaration section and then select **Confirm**.

A green box will appear at the top of the screen if you have successfully entered your confirmed hours.



## Australian Immunisation Register

You can now record and view vaccines delivered through school-based programs on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

The AIR is a national register that records vaccines given to people of all ages in Australia. This includes childhood, adult and travel vaccines.

The AIR now also includes records of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines. These used to be recorded on the National HPV Vaccination Program Register.

You'll be able to see your patient's HPV vaccination details on their AIR record and immunisation history statement.

### New! Record batch numbers and school names

You might see new 'batch number' and 'school name' fields on the AIR site and your practice management software.

This will help you provide a complete record of an immunisation encounter when reporting immunisation details to the AIR, including for patients vaccinated through school programs.

### Find out more

You can contact your state or territory health department for more information about school-based vaccination programs.

For more information about the AIR, or to explore our AIR education modules for health professionals, go to **humanservices.gov.au/hpair**



## Withheld payments—PIP and PNIP

We may withhold payments for a number of reasons including:

- the practice no longer employs a general practitioner
- the practice no longer employs or otherwise retains an eligible health professional
- an enrolled nurse is not supervised by a registered nurse—either directly or indirectly
- there's been a change of practice ownership
- non-compliance
- the practice's accreditation has expired
- the practice has relocated
- the practice did not achieve full accreditation within 12 months of joining the PNIP/PIP
- for a PIP consenting practice, the practice did not achieve full accreditation within 12 months of joining the PIP
- there have been significant changes in practice data
- the practice or health professionals don't have the required insurances
- there are incomplete or inaccurate practice details
- we didn't get the practice's completed confirmation statement in the required time.

If we have to withhold a payment, we'll tell you what we need so that we can release payments.

If we've withheld payments for three consecutive payment quarters, the practice's incentive payments will stop. We'll withdraw the practice from the PIP/PNIP.

Practices must apply to re-join the PIP/PNIP. They must be fully accredited at the time of applying to be eligible to participate. Any withheld payments are forfeited.

If a practice re-applies, payments will start again from the payment quarter following the date the practice has met all eligibility requirements and is approved to participate in the PIP/PNIP.



## PIP/PNIP updates

Make sure you're always using the latest versions of PIP/PNIP forms and guidelines. We won't process old forms. You can find current versions of forms and guidelines online. Go to [humanservices.gov.au/pip](https://humanservices.gov.au/pip) or [humanservices.gov.au/pnip](https://humanservices.gov.au/pnip)

### Latest updates

- Teaching Payment guidelines
- Teaching Payment claim form (IP006)

## Reminders

- Send all enquiries about PIP eHealth compliance to the Department of Health by emailing [epip.compliance@health.gov.au](mailto:epip.compliance@health.gov.au)
- Please make sure you enter full names when filling out any PIP, PNIP or Indigenous Health Incentive forms.
- When claiming Teaching Payments, universities must complete and sign the university certification section of the Teaching Payment claim form before the student attends the teaching session at the practice.
- You need to register all payee provider arrangements with the PIP/PNIP for services to be included in the SWPE.

## 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](https://humanservices.gov.au/healthprofessionalsnews)

### Find out more

Go online to [humanservices.gov.au/pip](https://humanservices.gov.au/pip) and [humanservices.gov.au/pnip](https://humanservices.gov.au/pnip)

Email [pip@humanservices.gov.au](mailto:pip@humanservices.gov.au) or [pnip@humanservices.gov.au](mailto: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.