Incentives News Update

medicare

Reminder about the 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 the PNIP and the GPRIP on **30 June 2019**, will automatically transition to the WIP.

There will be two streams of the WIP:

- the PNIP will transition to the WIP—Practice Stream
- the GPRIP will transition to the WIP—Doctor Stream.

The Department of Health (Health) wrote to current PNIP practices in **November 2018** to explain what will change as the PNIP transitions to the WIP.

Health has been discussing the changes with key stakeholders. They've met with medical, nursing and allied health bodies and a range of practices and practice managers. These discussions told us that stakeholders want to know what won't change.

PNIP to the WIP—Practice Stream

- We'll continue to pay incentive payments quarterly and directly to participating practices.
- Eligible health professionals under the PNIP will remain eligible under the WIP. The WIP will support the engagement of registered nurses, enrolled nurses, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers/Practitioners and allied health professionals in all locations.
- Aboriginal Medical Services and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services will continue to receive up to 50% loading on their Standardised Whole Patient Equivalent (SWPE) value—a measure of practice size.
- Maximum incentive payment levels will stay the same.

GPRIP to the WIP—Doctor Stream

- Current incentive payments and eligibility requirements won't change.

More information

Go to the Health website at **health.gov.au** for the WIP Factsheet and WIP Questions and Answers.

As we move closer to **1 July 2019**, Health will write to PNIP practices and GPRIP participants with more updates about the WIP.

Australian Government
Department of Human Services

humanservices.gov.au

Update your bank account details to make sure you get your AIR payments

Some vaccination providers can get payments for recording certain vaccinations on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

> It's important to record or update your bank details so you can get these payments.

How do I update my bank details?

The easiest way to record or update bank details is online using HPOS. If you don't have access to HPOS, you can complete and submit an Australian Immunisation Register—bank account details for vaccination providers form (IM005).

What payments are available?

If you're an eligible vaccination provider, you can get:

- an information payment of up to $6. You'll need to complete a National Immunisation Program schedule for a child under 7 years. You must record the vaccination on the AIR
- a catch up payment of $6. You'll need to follow up and vaccinate a child under 7 years, who is more than 2 months overdue for their childhood vaccinations. You must record the vaccination on the AIR.

All vaccination provider types, except public health units, pharmacies and commercial providers, are eligible for these payments.

Why you should record patient immunisation details on the AIR

The AIR records all vaccinations given to people of all ages, including National Immunisation Program schedule vaccines, flu, shingles and travel vaccinations.

The number of children fully immunised in Australia has hit a record high of 94.5% for five year olds and 93.8% for one year olds. In a significant milestone, the vaccination rate among Indigenous children has also reached its highest recorded level.

The accuracy of the AIR depends on how quickly we get the correct information from you.

It's important to record the vaccines you give to your patients on the AIR at the time of service. This is because we use AIR data to:

- monitor vaccination coverage across Australia
- monitor the effectiveness of vaccines and vaccination programs
- inform immunisation policy and research
- identify any parts of Australia at risk during disease outbreaks
- show a person's immunisation status, regardless of who immunised them
- assess eligibility for Family Tax Benefit and Child Care Subsidy payments
- provide proof of vaccination for entry to child care and school, and for employment purposes.

For more information on AIR payments and recording immunisations, go to **humanservices.gov.au/hpair**

Changing accrediting bodies

Has your practice changed accrediting bodies and have you told us? If your practice participates in the Practice Incentives Program (PIP) or Practice Nurse Incentive Program (PNIP), you must let us know about changes to practice arrangements.

You must tell us about these changes in writing. This must:

- be done within 7 days or at least 7 days before the relevant point-in-time, whichever date is first
- be on your company letterhead and signed by the authorised contact or owner of the practice
- include the accreditation certificate from the new accrediting body
- be sent to either **pip@humanservices.gov.au** or **pnip@humanservices.gov.au**

Suspension of HPOS access

If you use PIP and PNIP Online, make sure you maintain access to HPOS by using it regularly.

Your access to HPOS will now be suspended if you have been inactive in HPOS for 6 months. Suspensions will begin from **1 March 2019**. This means if you haven't accessed your HPOS services since September 2018, your access will be suspended.

If a delegate performs a transaction on your behalf in HPOS, this will maintain your active status.

If you've entered your email address in HPOS, you'll get a notification to this email address:

- after 3 months of inactivity letting you know that we'll suspend your access in 3 months
- after 6 months of inactivity letting you know that we've suspended your access.

If your access is suspended, you can reactivate it by logging on to HPOS and selecting **Reactivate Access to HPOS**. This will appear when you try to log on.

This suspension won't impact Registration Authority (RA) numbers that you have linked in PIP or PNIP Online.

Moving from PKI to PRODA

We're changing the way you do business with us so we can keep strengthening online security.

About the change

You used to be able to use PKI certificates to access HPOS. You'll now need to use a PRODA account instead. This is a more secure way to access digital services.

When your PKI individual certificate expires, it won't be renewed. We'll send you a letter to remind you about this. Once your certificate has expired, you'll need to use your PRODA account or create one to access HPOS.

About PRODA

PRODA is an online authentication system used to securely access government online services. Using a two-step verification process, you only need a username and password to use our online services.

PRODA is digital and portable. You don't need any specific hardware or software to use it. Your PRODA account doesn't expire and you can use it to access HPOS from anywhere.

To access services using PRODA, you need to create an account.

How to create a PRODA account

If you don't have a PRODA account, you can create one online at **humanservices.gov.au/proda**

Step 1. Set up your account profile

Set up a username and password. Enter your personal and contact information. Make sure your details are the same as your verification documents.

Step 2. Verify your identity

Verify your identity online using three government-issued identity documents, such as your:

- Australian passport
- Medicare card
- Australian driver licence
- Australian birth certificate.

Your identity is verified online in real-time using the government's Document Verification Service.

Step 3. Link your services

Select the services you want to access. For PIP and PNIP, select **HPOS**.

Once your PRODA account is created, link your RA number from your PRODA account to your practice.

When you log on to HPOS, remember to set your account preferences to get notifications and messages from us.

Step 4. Link RA numbers to your practice

- Select **PIP** or **PNIP** in HPOS.
- Select **Practice Staff System** from the main menu.
- Select the staff member whose RA number you're updating.
- Enter the staff member's RA number in the RA Number column.
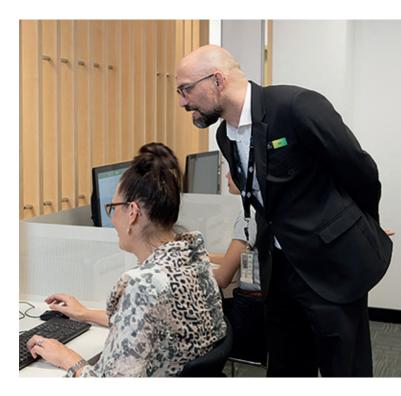- Select **Grant Access**.

If you're a new practice or haven't previously had access to PIP or PNIP Online, call **1800 222 032** to have your PRODA RA number linked to the practice.

Reminders

- The PIP Teaching Payment claiming process changed on **1 November 2018**. We are no longer accepting old Teaching Payment claim forms (IP006). Please make sure your practice is using the new IP006 form. The new form is available at **humanservices.gov.au/pip**
- If a GP has completed more than one teaching session on a claim form, you can sign each session individually or as a group of sessions. You must clearly indicate which sessions the signature applies to on the form. We can't process your teaching claim if this information isn't clear.
- To be eligible for the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive (IHI), at least two staff members must have completed Cultural Awareness Training. One of these staff members must be a GP. Exemptions apply for:
  - appropriate training completed up to 12 months before the practice signs on for the incentive
  - practices under the management of an Aboriginal Board of Directors or a committee made up of mainly Aboriginal community representatives.

For further information on the eligibility requirements for the PIP IHI, go to the guidelines at **humanservices.gov.au/pip**

- Make sure that you complete all required fields in PIP and PNIP forms, including the Practice ID. Your Practice ID is the number located next to **Our reference**, in your quarterly payment advice. We can't accept incomplete forms.
- If you fax your forms to us, you must use the correct fax number. Only PIP and PNIP forms should be faxed to **1300 587 696**. Forms for other programs will have a different fax number.
- When you respond to your confirmation statement, you declare the details you provided are true and correct. This includes information for GPs. We won't accept subsequent requests to recalculate a practice's SWPE value, once you've submitted your confirmation statement.

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.

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