

Incentives News Update

Renew your accreditation before it expires to be eligible for payments

Practice Incentives Program (PIP) and Workforce Incentive Program (WIP) – Practice Stream approved practices must maintain accreditation to keep receiving incentive payments. Practices registered for accreditation have 12 months from their approval date for the PIP and WIP – Practice Stream to achieve accreditation.

To make sure these timeframes are met, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare recommends you schedule your on-site assessment at least 4–6 months before your accreditation or registration expires. This will ensure there's no gap in your accreditation start and end dates.

Practices will not receive incentive payments for any quarter where they haven't maintained their accreditation for the entire payment reference period. This means if your accreditation expires, or you don't achieve accreditation within 12 months of approval, your practice won't be eligible to receive incentive payments. Your payments will restart when your practice has been accredited for an entire payment quarter.

You may have given consent to use your PIP practice information for the WIP – Practice Stream. If so, the 12 months will start from the date your practice is approved for the PIP.

General Practitioner Aged Care Access Incentive boosted

As part of the 2021–22 Federal Budget, there are changes to the PIP General Practitioner (GP) Aged Care Access Incentive (ACAI).

The GP ACAI will be boosted to increase face-to-face servicing by GPs in residential aged care facilities. The maximum yearly payment for GPs will double to \$10,000 with the addition of 2 new service level payment tiers. This will make 4 tiers in total.

The first GP ACAI payments under this measure will be for services provided from 1 July 2021. There are no changes to the eligible Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items under the GP ACAI. There are also no changes to the PIP eligibility requirements.

The updated GP ACAI Guidelines are now available online. To download a copy of the guidelines, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/pip



COVID-19 Vaccine General Practice Incentive commencing

COVID-19 Vaccine General Practice Incentive payments will commence from the August 2021 payment quarter. Payments will be made to eligible PIP practices participating in the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

The PIP COVID-19 Vaccine General Practice Incentive Guidelines are now available online. To download a copy of the guidelines, go to health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccination-pip-general-practice-incentive-guidelines

Review of General Practice Accreditation Arrangements

The Department of Health has commissioned an independent review of general practice accreditation arrangements. The review will explore:

- existing accreditation models
- motivators and barriers to accreditation for general practices
- issues for accrediting agencies providing services to general practices
- overlaps between general practice and educational accreditation
- alternate accreditation models.

The Department of Health engaged mpconsulting to undertake the review. They're developing a consultation paper and online survey for release in August 2021. Further instructions will be available to assist in completing the online survey and responding to the consultation paper.

For further information about the review email ngpas@mpconsulting.com.au

Changes to the Indigenous Health Incentive

The PIP Indigenous Health Incentive (IHI) is changing from 1 January 2023. From this date, the PIP IHI will expand to include children under 15 years. There will also be a new payment structure. This will improve continuity of care and health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a chronic disease.

GP Mental Health Care Plans will be included as eligible MBS items for outcomes payments. The requirement to deliver MBS services in a calendar year will be replaced with a 12-month rolling window. The 12 months will be triggered from the date the first eligible service is delivered. This will make IHI outcomes payments easier to achieve.

The new payment structure will increase the value of Tier 2 outcomes payments and, from 2025, remove patient registration payments. Practices will have time to adjust to the new payment structure during a transition period in 2023 and 2024.

During the transition period:

- the IHI patient registration payment will reduce from \$250 to \$150 from 1 January 2023
- the IHI patient registration payment will reduce to \$100 and the Tier 2 outcome payment will increase to \$200, from 1 January 2024
- the Tier 2 outcome payment will increase to \$300 and the patient registration payment removed from 1 January 2025.

From 1 November 2024, patient registration for the PIP IHI will be easier. A streamlined one-off patient registration process will make IHI patient registration ongoing from that date. There'll be no need to re-register patients every year.



The Indigenous Health Incentive patient registration form has changed

On 1 July 2021, the Closing the Gap (CTG) Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Co-payment changed.

Now all PBS prescribers can register patients for the CTG PBS Co-payment online through Health Professionals Online Services (HPOS). To use HPOS, you need a Provider Digital Access (PRODA) account. You can read more about the CTG PBS Co-payment at servicesaustralia.gov.au/pbsctg

The new version of the PIP IHI patient registration and consent (IP017) form is now available at servicesaustralia.gov.au/hpforms. You need to use the latest version of the form to register patients for the PIP IHI.

We'll no longer process IHI or PBS Co-payment patient registrations submitted on older versions of the IP017 form.

What's new?

We have updated the following forms:

- *Practice Incentives Additional practice branch* (IP025.2107)
- *Practice Incentives Application* (IP001.2107)
- *Practice Incentives Change of practice ownership* (IP010.2107)
- *Practice Incentives individual general practitioner, nurse practitioner or health professional details* (IP003.2107)
- *Practice Incentives Practice closure or withdrawal* (IP007.2107)
- *Practice Incentives Practice ownership details and declaration* (IP008.2107)
- *Practice Incentives Program After Hours Incentive application* (IP030.2107)
- *Practice Incentives Program Indigenous Health Incentive patient registration and consent* (IP017.2107)
- *Practice Incentives Program Indigenous Health Incentive Practice application* (IP026.2107)
- *Practice Incentives Program Indigenous Health Incentive practice register authority* (IP009.2107)
- *Practice Incentives Program Indigenous Health Incentive patient withdrawal of consent* (IP029.2107)
- *Practice Incentives Program Procedural General Practitioner Payment application* (IP004.2107)
- *Practice Incentives Review of decision* (IP027.2107)
- *General Practitioner Aged Care Access Incentive Payment banking details* (IP011.2107)

If you can't do your business with us online make sure you're using the latest version of our forms. We won't process old forms. Go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/hpforms to download current forms.

Find out more



Go online to servicesaustralia.gov.au/pip and servicesaustralia.gov.au/practicestream



Email pip@servicesaustralia.gov.au or wippractice@servicesaustralia.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.



Australian Government



Services
Australia