



Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program update

January 2010



Eligibility requirements for mental health nurses

Eligible organisations must engage the services of a mental health nurse credentialed with the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses.

Organisations are able to engage or attain the services of more than one mental health nurse and can enter into a shared employment arrangement with state or territory health organisations for the nurse's services.

Mental health nurses are asked to enter their credential details on the monthly Mental Health Nurses Incentive Program (MHNIP) claim form, especially where the nurse is engaged by more than one organisation.

Mental health nurses who lodged an application for credentialing with the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses by 31 December 2009 and are approved after this date will still be able to participate in the MHNIP.

Protocols for managing patients

Where organisations have patient shared care health plans in place, the participating private organisation must be documented as the primary care giver to be eligible for payments under the MHNIP.

The private organisation must also follow protocols described in the patient shared care health plan.

A GP mental health care plan must be established by a GP. If the treating health professional is a psychiatrist an equivalent plan must be established.

A care plan can include the following:

- provider's details

- patient's details
- family history
- presenting issues
- relevant history
- past mental health issues
- medicine
- examination status
- risk assessment
- diagnosis
- referrals.

Other information may be added to the plan by the health professional if necessary.

The health professional also needs to have dates for patient review in place within the care plan. It should be reviewed in collaboration with the mental health nurse on a regular basis.

If appropriate, the patient review plan should include input from a clinical psychologist, registered psychologist, psychiatrist or other allied health professional.

Patient ineligibility

A patient is not eligible for services under the MHNIP in the following situations:

- where a patient no longer requires the clinical services of a mental health nurse
- if a patient's mental health no longer causes disablement to their personal, social and occupational functioning
- where a practitioner is no longer responsible for the patient's clinical mental health care.

Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program update

January 2010

Auditing organisations

Medicare Australia conducts regular audits of organisations registered for the MHNIP.

If an organisation is selected for audit, the organisation must be able to substantiate each requirement through documented evidence, formal protocols and records in order to remain eligible for payments under the MHNIP.

Medicare Australia conducts 'random audits' on organisations registered for the MHNIP. This means that Medicare Australia can target any of the obligatory requirements that an organisation must have to receive establishment and/or incentive payments.

For more information about Medicare Australia's compliance activities, go to www.medicareaustralia.gov.au >

For health professionals >

Doing business with Medicare Australia >

Compliance > National Compliance Program

Submitting your claims on time

Submitting your claims regularly and on time will make sure they are assessed in a timely manner and with minimal impact to payment.

It is very important to submit your claims on a regular basis as you may be contacted to clarify information.

Our MHNIP claims fax number has changed

If faxing your claims, make sure you use the new fax number **08 8464 9886**.

Electronic claim forms

Session information can be entered directly onto the claim form which is available on the Medicare Australia website. This will guarantee your claim is legible and processing will be achieved quickly.

When handwriting claim forms make sure the writing is clear using a blue or black pen, particularly if the forms are faxed.

For more information about MHNIP update correspondence

Online www.medicareaustralia.gov.au >
For health professionals

Email mhnip.no@medicareaustralia.gov.au

Write **The Editor
MHNIP Update
Medicare Australia
PO Box 1001
Tuggeranong DC ACT 2901**

Call **1800 222 032****

TTY **1800 552 152**** (hearing and speech impaired)

TIS **131 450*** (Translating and Interpreting Service)

Access MHNIP forms

www.medicareaustralia.gov.au >
For health professionals > Incentives & allowances >
Mental health nurse incentive program

* Call charges apply.

** Call charges apply from mobile and pay phones only.