



Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program update

September 2010



Appropriate insurance coverage

One of the eligibility requirements for the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program (MHNIP) is that organisations have appropriate insurance coverage.

Organisations need to have:

- workers' compensation in accordance with relevant state or territory legislation
- public liability insurance of no less than \$10 million
- professional indemnity insurance of no less than \$10 million for clinical and non-clinical work
- vicarious liability cover of no less than \$1 million when the mental health nurse is an employee of the organisation and carrying out medical procedures or providing medical advice.

Medicare Australia must be supplied with documentary evidence of appropriate insurance coverage on request, including when undertaking an audit of services provided under the program.

Organisations that have an arrangement in place with a mental health nurse who is not an employee of the organisation, must still be able to provide documentation to show the nurse has appropriate and sufficient professional indemnity insurance.

If a nurse is not an employee of your organisation, a contract of service must be in place and available on request if your organisation is audited.

If breaches are identified during the audit process, the registered organisation may have to repay the incentive payments.

Mental Health Nurse credentialing

To participate in the MHNIP, mental health nurses must be credentialed through the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (ACMHN).

All mental health nurses who participated in the program and submitted their application for credentialing to the ACMHN by 31 December 2009 will now have had their applications finalised.

Each mental health nurse registered for the MHNIP must now be credentialed. Although this arrangement may leave some practices without a mental health nurse, it is necessary for the integrity of the program and the safety of both the nurses and patients.

Credential number required on claim forms

All nurses must be credentialed to be able to participate in the MHNIP.

For Medicare Australia to successfully process and pay claims, organisations and mental health nurses need to enter their ACMHN credential number on the monthly *Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program Claim* form.

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Lodgement of claim forms

Incentive payments under the MHNIP are paid monthly.

Claim forms must be submitted to Medicare Australia within six months of the date the mental health session took place. Claims submitted after this period will not be processed for payment.

For more information

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

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MHNIP forms

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Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program

* Call charges apply.

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