



## Practice Incentives Program entry requirements and individual incentive key eligibility requirements

Below is a summary of the entry requirements of the Practice Incentives Program (PIP) and the key eligibility requirements for each PIP incentive.

### Practice Incentives Program entry requirements

The PIP encourages continuing improvements in general practice through financial incentives to support quality care and improve access and health outcomes for patients. To be eligible to participate in the PIP, a practice needs to:

- meet the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) definition of a general practice
- be accredited, or registered for accreditation, against the RACGP *Standards for general practices* and be fully accredited within 12 months of joining the PIP
- maintain practice accreditation
- have current public liability insurance
- make sure that all practice general practitioners (GPs) have current professional indemnity cover.

### Eligibility requirements for individual incentives

#### Quality stream

##### Diabetes Incentive

The PIP Diabetes Incentive encourages GPs to provide earlier diagnosis and effective management of people with established diabetes mellitus.

##### Eligibility sign-on requirements

The practice must use a patient register and a recall and reminder system for patients with diabetes mellitus and use the diabetes cycle of care to manage patients with diabetes mellitus.

For more information go to [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) > **For Health Professionals > Incentives and Allowances > Practice Incentives Program (PIP) > Forms and guidelines > Diabetes Incentive Guidelines**

##### Cervical Screening Incentive

The PIP Cervical Screening Incentive encourages GPs to screen under-screened women (that is, women who have not had a cervical smear in the last four years) and to increase overall screening rates.

##### Eligibility sign-on requirements

The practice must agree to have its details provided to the State/Territory cervical screening registers.

For more information go to [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) > **For Health Professionals > Incentives and Allowances > Practice Incentives Program (PIP) > Forms and guidelines > Cervical Screening Incentive Guidelines**

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## Asthma Incentive

The PIP Asthma Incentive encourages GPs to better manage the clinical care of people with moderate to severe asthma.

### Eligibility sign-on requirements

The practice must agree to have their details forwarded to the appropriate bodies, for example the National Asthma Council Australia and use the asthma cycle of care to manage their patients with moderate to severe asthma.

For more information go to [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) > **For Health Professionals > Incentives and Allowances > Practice Incentives Program (PIP) > Forms and guidelines > Asthma Incentive Guidelines**

## Indigenous Health Incentive

The PIP Indigenous Health Incentive aims to support general practices and Indigenous health services to provide better health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients, including best practice management of chronic disease. This incentive is a key part of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) *National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap: Tackling Indigenous Chronic Disease*.

### Eligibility requirements

Practices participating in the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive are required to:

- agree to seek consent to register their eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients for the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive and/or the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Co-payment Measure with Medicare Australia
- establish and use a mechanism to ensure their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients aged 15 years and over with a chronic disease are followed up
- undertake cultural awareness training within 12 months of joining the incentive, unless appropriate training has already been undertaken in the previous 12 months
- annotate PBS prescriptions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients participating in the PBS Co-payment Measure.

For more information go to [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) > **For Health Professionals > Incentives and Allowances > Practice Incentives Program (PIP) > Forms and guidelines > Indigenous Health Incentive Guidelines**

## Capacity stream

### eHealth Incentive

The PIP eHealth Incentive encourages practices to keep up-to-date with the latest developments in eHealth.

### Eligibility requirements

The practice must have a secure messaging capability, which is provided by an eligible supplier listed on the National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) website. The practice must have (or have applied for) a location/site Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) certificate for the practice and each practice branch. Each practice GP must have (or have applied for) an individual PKI certificate (excluding locums). The practice must provide all GPs at the practice with access to the current editions of a range of key electronic clinical resources as detailed in the PIP *eHealth Incentive Guidelines*.

For more information go to [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) > **For Health Professionals > Incentives and Allowances > Practice Incentives Program (PIP) > Forms and guidelines > eHealth Incentive Guidelines**

### Practice Nurse Incentive

The PIP Practice Nurse Incentive encourages general practices to employ practice nurses and/or Aboriginal health workers. Practices in urban areas of workforce shortage are also supported through the PIP to employ allied health professionals such as physiotherapists, dieticians and occupational therapists instead of, or in addition to, practice nurses and/or Aboriginal health workers.

### Eligibility requirements

Practices located in Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas (RRMA) 1 or 2:

- the practice is located in an urban area of workforce shortage and employs a practice nurse, and/or Aboriginal health worker and/or allied health professional for the required number of sessions per week.

Practices located in RRMA 3-7:

- the practice is located in a rural or remote area and employs a practice nurse and/or Aboriginal health worker for the required number of sessions per week.

For more information go to [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) > **For Health Professionals > Incentives and Allowances > Practice Incentives Program (PIP) > Forms and guidelines > Practice Nurse Incentive Guidelines**

# Practice Incentives Program entry requirements and individual incentive key eligibility requirements

## After Hours Incentive

The PIP After Hours Incentive encourages general practices to provide patients with access to quality after hours care. For the purposes of the PIP, after hours refers to any time outside 8.00 am to 6.00 pm on weekdays and 8.00 am to 12.00 noon on Saturday. After Hours also includes all day on Sundays and all day on public holidays.

### Eligibility requirements

- Tier 1** The practice must make sure that regular practice patients have access to 24 hour care, seven days a week from a doctor. This includes access to after hours visits to patients at home, in residential aged care facilities and in hospitals, where safe and reasonable.
- Tier 2** Practice GPs provide at least 10 hours per week (on average) of the practice's after hours care, where the practice's Standardised Whole Patient Equivalent (SWPE) value is 2000 or less.
- OR**
- Practice GPs provide at least 15 hours per week (on average) of the practice's after hours care where the practice's SWPE value is more than 2000.
- Tier 3** Practice GPs provide 24 hour care, seven days a week, for practice patients.

For more information go to [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) > For Health Professionals > Incentives and Allowances > Practice Incentives Program (PIP) > Forms and guidelines > *After Hours Incentive Guidelines*

## Rural support stream

### Procedural GP Payment

The PIP Procedural GP Payment encourages GPs in rural and remote areas to maintain local access to surgical, anaesthetic and obstetric services.

### Eligibility requirements

To be eligible for this incentive, the practice must be located in RRMA 3-7 and meet the requirements set out in the *PIP Procedural GP Payment Guidelines*. The payment levels for this incentive relate to the tier classification of the individual GPs.

- Tier 1** A practice GP provides at least one procedural service in the six month reference period.

- Tier 2** A practice GP meets the Tier 1 requirement and provides after hours services on a regular or rostered basis throughout the six month reference period.

- Tier 3** A practice GP meets the Tier 2 requirements and provides 25 or more eligible surgical and/or anaesthetic and/or obstetric services in the six month reference period.

- Tier 4** A practice GP meets the Tier 2 requirements and delivers 10 or more babies in the six month reference period.

For more information go to [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) > For Health Professionals > Incentives and Allowances > Practice Incentives Program (PIP) > Forms and guidelines > *Procedural GP Payment Guidelines*

### Domestic Violence Incentive

The PIP Domestic Violence Incentive encourages general practices in rural and remote areas to act as a referral point for women experiencing domestic violence.

### Eligibility requirements

The practice must employ an appropriately trained and qualified practice nurse and/or Aboriginal health worker for the minimum number of sessions per week to act as a referral point for domestic violence support services for women experiencing domestic violence.

For more information go to [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) > For Health Professionals > Incentives and Allowances > Practice Incentives Program (PIP) > Forms and guidelines > *Domestic Violence Incentive Guidelines*

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## Additional PIP incentives

Practices registered for the PIP do not need to apply for the following incentives. Medicare Australia will automatically calculate payments to eligible practices and providers.

### Quality stream

#### Quality Prescribing Incentive (QPI)

The PIP QPI encourages practices to keep up-to-date with information on the quality use of medicines, by rewarding participation in a range of educational activities recognised or provided by the National Prescribing Service (NPS). Medicare Australia calculates payments for this incentive using information supplied by the NPS on the number of activities undertaken by GPs.

For more information go to [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) > For Health Professionals > Incentives and Allowances > Practice Incentives Program (PIP) > Forms and guidelines > *Quality Prescribing Incentive Guidelines*

### Capacity stream

#### Teaching Incentive

The PIP Teaching Incentive encourages general practices to provide teaching sessions to university medical students, to make sure the practitioners of tomorrow are appropriately trained and have actual experience in general practice. Once a teaching session has been provided, the university will generate a claim form and forward it to the practice for confirmation. The practice must check the claim form for accuracy and forward it to Medicare Australia for processing.

For more information go to [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) > For Health Professionals > Incentives and Allowances > Practice Incentives Program (PIP) > Forms and guidelines > *Teaching Incentive Guidelines*

#### GP Aged Care Access Incentive (ACAI)

The PIP GP ACAI encourages GPs to provide increased and continuing services in Commonwealth-funded Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs). GPs must use the provider number linked to a PIP practice when claiming Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) services in RACFs. Medicare Australia will collect bank account details from GPs who are eligible for payments through this incentive.

For more information go to [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) > For Health Professionals > Incentives and Allowances > Practice Incentives Program (PIP) > Forms and guidelines > *GP Aged Care Access Incentive Guidelines*

### Rural support stream

#### Rural Loading

The PIP Rural Loading recognises the difficulties of providing care, often with little professional support, in rural and remote areas. If your main practice is located in RRMA 3-7, Medicare Australia will automatically calculate the loading and add it to your practice payment.

For more information go to [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) > For Health Professionals > Incentives and Allowances > Practice Incentives Program (PIP) > Forms and guidelines > *Rural Loading Guidelines*

### More information

For more information on the PIP and individual incentives, refer to the guidelines available from [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) > For Health Professionals > Incentives and Allowances > Practice Incentives Program (PIP) > Forms and guidelines

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