

# PIP News Update

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## February 2008

### The new PIP Domestic Violence Incentive Payment

In January 2008, Medicare Australia wrote to rural and remote practices about the new Practice Incentives Program (PIP) Domestic Violence Incentive. The incentive aims to support general practices in rural and remote areas to act as a referral point for domestic violence support services.

From May 2008, a payment of \$1 per Standardised Whole Patient Equivalent each year will be available to practices that meet the requirements of the PIP Domestic Violence Incentive (capped at \$4000 per annum).

To be eligible for the PIP Domestic Violence Incentive, practices will need to:

- participate in the PIP
- be classified under the Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas (RRMA) system as being in a rural or remote area (RRMA 3–7)
- ensure that an appropriately trained and qualified practice nurse or Aboriginal health worker is available for the minimum number of sessions per week, to act as a referral point to domestic violence support services for people experiencing domestic violence.

Practice nurses and Aboriginal health workers need to be certified as having completed recognised domestic violence training prior to a practice accessing this incentive. Lifeline Australia will be providing recognised domestic violence training from February 2008. There is no fee for eligible practices to undertake the training, available face-to-face or as an e-learning package. The training supports participants to feel confident about recognising domestic violence and acting as a point of referral to available assistance.

Further information about domestic violence training is available from Lifeline Australia, through Belinda Clark on **0413 655 191** or Kathryn White on **0411 821 031**. Support payments may be available to assist practices with associated travel and accommodation costs. Please call the Australian General Practice Network on **02 6228 0800** to determine eligibility.

In March 2008, Medicare Australia will write to practices in RRMA 3-7 again regarding the new PIP Domestic Violence Incentive.

### New look PIP Payment Statements

As part of an Australian Government initiative of continuous improvement to the presentation and readability of information, the PIP statements are undergoing changes. The February 2008 PIP Quarterly Statement, 3 Month and 6 Month Recalculation Statements, PIP Service Incentive Payment Statement and Banking Details letter and form, incorporate the first round of changes.

The amendments include font type and size, format of information and wording changes in line with Australian Government recommendations. For example, when you receive a 3 and/or 6 month Recalculation Statement you will notice a formatting change for the 'Table of Payments'. The table has been reduced to three columns of 'Payments', 'Method' and the 'Payment received by your practice this quarter'. As only one payment column is now displayed please note that any negative incentive recalculations are shown as a zero payment and are deducted from the current recalculation payment.

If you have any questions about the new statements please call the PIP enquiry line on **1800 222 032\*\*** or email [pip@medicareaustralia.gov.au](mailto:pip@medicareaustralia.gov.au)



Australian Government

Medicare Australia

## Eligible PIP Service Incentive Payment item numbers

The three PIP elements that attract a practitioner Service Incentive Payment (SIP) are:

- **Cervical Screening**—payment for screening women between 20 and 69 years who have not had a cervical smear in the last four years
- **Diabetes Cycle of Care**—payment for each cycle of care completed for a patient with diabetes mellitus, payable once per year per patient
- **Asthma Cycle of Care**—payment for the completion of an Asthma Cycle of Care for patients with moderate to severe asthma, payable once per year per patient.

To access SIPs, the General Practitioner must:

- work in a PIP practice that is signed on to the relevant incentive
- complete the necessary requirements for the incentive
- use the specific Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item numbers that trigger the incentive payment.

### The current item numbers are:

- **Cervical**—2497, 2501, 2503 – 2509, 2598, 2600, 2603, 2606, 2610, 2613, 2616, 10995,10999
- **Diabetes**—2517, 2518, 2521, 2522, 2525, 2526, 2620, 2622, 2624, 2631, 2633, 2635
- **Asthma**—2546, 2547, 2552, 2553, 2558, 2559, 2664, 2666, 2668, 2673, 2675, 2677

Full item number descriptions can be found in the current MBS under Groups A18, A19 and M2.

### More information on PIP:

call **1800 222 032\*\***

email **[pip@medicareaustralia.gov.au](mailto:pip@medicareaustralia.gov.au)**

online **[www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/pip](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/pip)**

write **Practice Incentives Program  
PO Box 2572  
Adelaide SA 5001**

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