

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's Practice Incentive Program (PIP) includes 7 incentives under 3 payment streams; PIP Quality Stream, PIP Capacity Stream, PIP Rural Support Stream. These incentives aim to support health professionals and practices to deliver quality care, enhance capacity, and improve access and outcomes.

### 1. Eligibility Criteria

To meet the [eligibility requirements](#) for the PIP practices must:

- Be accredited or registered for accreditation against the [RACGP Standards for general practices](#). Accreditation must:

- be current on the last day of the month before the next payment quarter
- be completed within 12 months of being approved for the PIP (Irrespective of any extensions given on the accreditation certificate) if registered for accreditation when applying

- Be an open practice, defined as a practice where one or more registered medical practitioners provide face to face medical or health services to patients at the main physical location. That location must be the practice location registered or used for the PIP

\*Practices can apply in writing for an exemption if exceptional circumstances, such as natural disasters, cause the practice to close for a period of time

- Maintain at least \$10 million in public liability insurance cover for each practice location

- Have professional indemnity insurance cover for all GPs and Nurse Practitioners

### 2. How to Register and Apply

If your practice meets the eligibility requirements, you can register for the PIP online through [Health Professional Online Services \(HPOS\)](#), via your [PRODA](#) account.

Practices will need to upload a signed:

- [Practice Incentives practice ownership and declaration form \(IP008\)](#)
- [Practice Incentives individual GP or nurse practitioner form \(IP003\)](#)

Practices must also provide:

- A current accreditation or registered for accreditation certificate
- Evidence to support your ownership structure (which must include the practice)

Once the practice is registered for the PIP, each individual incentive can be applied for online through PRODA.

### 3. PIP Quality Stream

#### Indigenous Health Incentive

The Indigenous Health Incentive (IHI) supports general practices and Indigenous health services to provide best practice management of chronic disease and mental disorders for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients

The IHI has 2 payment types:

1. Sign-on payment: \$1,000 per practice (one-off payment)

2. Outcome payments (dependent on service provided):

Tier 1 \$100 per eligible patient per 12-month assessment period

Tier 2 \$300 per eligible patient per 12-month assessment period

When claiming a payment practices must provide:

Proof that a system is in place to make sure your Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander patients with a chronic disease are followed up

Proof appropriate cultural awareness training has been completed

An annual ongoing confirmation statement

#### Quality Improvement Incentive

The Quality Improvement Incentive (PIPI QI) supports general practices to undertake continuous quality improvement through the collection and review of practice data

PIPI QI payments are calculated per Standardised Whole Patient Equivalent (SWPE), which represents the fraction of care provided to each patient, weighted for age and gender

Practices receive \$5.00 per SWPE, capped at \$12,500 per quarter (\$50,000 per annum)

To qualify for the PIP QI payment practices must:

Participate in continuous quality improvement (CQI) activities in partnership with their local PHN

Share their PIP Eligible Data Set to their local PHN

Practices must also:

Complete an annual ongoing confirmation statement

Maintain evidence of CQI activities for 6 years (subject to auditing)

### 4. PIP Capacity Stream

#### After Hours Incentive

The after hours incentive supports practices to provide their patients with appropriate access to after hours care

Payments are made in a tiered structure depending on the level of after hours service provided and based on the Standardised Whole Patient Equivalent (SWPE)

For the Practice Incentives Program (PIP) the complete after hours period is:

- Outside 8 am to 6 pm weekdays
- Outside 8 am to 12 noon on Saturdays, and
- All day on Sundays and public holidays.

The complete after hours period is further broken into:

- Sociable after hours period – 6 pm through to 11 pm weeknights, and
- Unsociable after hours period – 11 pm through to 8 am weekdays, hours outside of 8 am and 12 noon Saturdays, and all day Sundays and public holidays.

Some payment levels don't require the practice to provide care themselves if formal arrangements exist for patients to access care through a third party

Eligibility requirements depend on the level of payment (see the [after hours incentive guidelines](#) for full details)

In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements for the incentive, the practice must:

- Nominate an authorised contact person to confirm, on the practice's behalf, changes to information for PIP claims and payments
- Ensure the information in the National Health Services Directory is current at all times
- Keep documentary evidence, including evidence of after hours arrangements, to support claims for payment
- Give information to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA) as part of the ongoing audit process to prove that the practice has met eligibility requirements
- Make sure information provided to DHDA is correct, and
- Inform DHDA about any changes to practice arrangements at least 7 days before the relevant point-in-time date

### eHealth Incentive

The eHealth Incentive supports general practices to keep up to date with the latest developments in digital health and adopt new technology as it becomes available

To be eligible for payment, practices must:

- Have [Healthcare Identifiers](#) (HPI-O and HPI-I) integrated into their electronic medical records
- Have standards-compliant secure messaging capability
- Be working towards recording the majority of diagnoses electronically, using a nationally recognised disease classification or terminology system
- Ensure that the majority of their prescriptions are sent electronically to a Prescription Exchange Service
- Use compliant software for accessing the My Health Record system, and upload shared health summaries for a minimum of 0.5 per cent of the practice's SWPE count of patients per PIP payment quarter

Practices must also:

- Complete an annual ongoing confirmation statement
- Give information to DHDA as part of the ongoing audit process
- Advise DHDA of any changes to practice arrangements

### Teaching Payment

The Teaching Payment Incentive supports general practices to provide teaching sessions to undergraduate and post-graduate medical students

To be eligible for payment, practices must:

- Be approved for the Practice Incentives Program (PIP)
- Meet the general eligibility requirements for PIP
- Provide eligible teaching sessions

To be considered eligible, a teaching session must be:

- Provided to a student enrolled in a medical course accredited by the Australian Medical Council at an Australian university
- Provided to a student enrolled at an Australian-based campus, aimed at preparing the student for the Australian medical profession

- Part of the student's core curriculum
  - Given by a GP registered in PIP at the main or additional practice branch location when the teaching sessions took place
  - Given by a GP responsible for the session, including sessions outside the practice, e.g. home visits
  - A minimum of 3 hours in length
- Practices will be paid \$200 per 3hr session with a maximum of 2 sessions per GP a day
  - Before students attend the university must complete the university certification section of the [Teaching Payment claim form \(IP006\)](#)
  - After the teaching section, both students and the GP must complete the form and provide a copy to the university

## 5. Rural Support Stream

The Rural Support Stream payments aim to encourage quality patient care in rural and remote areas. Both of these incentives are only available to practices located in Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Area (RRMA) Classification areas 3-7

### Procedural GP Payment

A payment for GPs in rural and remote areas who provide eligible surgical, anaesthetic and obstetric procedural services

### Rural Loading Incentive Payment

Payment for a practice whose main location is outside a metropolitan area, based on the Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Area (RRMA) Classification

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