

Practice Incentives Program Cervical Screening Incentive Guidelines

Introduction

The Practice Incentives Program (PIP) is aimed at supporting general practice activities that encourage continuing improvements and quality care, enhance capacity and improve access and health outcomes for patients.

To be eligible to participate in the PIP, a practice must be accredited, or registered for accreditation, against the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) *Standards for general practices*. Practices must obtain full accreditation within 12 months of joining the PIP. Practices must maintain full accreditation to continue to be eligible for the PIP.

For more information on the incentives that the PIP offers and PIP overall eligibility, go to the PIP guidelines at humanservices.gov.au/pip

Definition of a GP

For the purposes of the PIP, GPs include general practitioners and/or non-specialist medical practitioners, known as other medical practitioners, who provide non-referred services but are not GPs. GPs include Fellows of the RACGP and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), vocationally registered general practitioners and medical practitioners undertaking approved training.

PIP Cervical Screening Incentive

The PIP Cervical Screening Incentive aims to encourage GPs to screen under-screened women for cervical cancer, and to increase overall screening rates.

An under-screened woman is someone who's overdue for cervical screening by two years or more. This is equivalent to four years since their last cervical smear.

To be eligible for the Cervical Screening Incentive, practices must be registered in the PIP.

Payments and requirements

The PIP Cervical Screening Incentive has three components—the sign-on payment, outcomes payment and service incentive payment.

Payments and requirements of the PIP Cervical Screening Incentive

Component	Payment	Activity required for payment
Sign-on payment	\$0.25 per SWPE*	One-off payment to practices that apply for the PIP Cervical Screening Incentive.
Outcomes payment	\$3.00 per eligible WPE**	Payment to practices where at least 70 per cent of eligible patients are screened in a 30 month reference period.
Service incentive payment	\$35.00 per patient	Payment to GPs for each Cervical Screening Test on an under-screened woman aged at least

Component	Payment	Activity required for payment
		24 years and 9 months but less than 75 years of age.

* Standardised Whole Patient Equivalent (SWPE) is used to measure practice size and includes a weighting factor for the age and gender of patients. The average full-time GP has a SWPE value of around 1000 SWPEs each year.

** Whole Patient Equivalent (WPE) is based on GP and other non-referred Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item numbers and uses the value of the MBS fee, rather than the number of consultations per patient. The total care for each patient equals one WPE.

Sign-on payment

A one-off sign-on payment of \$0.25 per SWPE is made to practices that apply for the PIP Cervical Screening Incentive. The payment is made in the next quarterly payment after signing on.

Outcomes payment

An outcomes payment of \$3.00 per year, per female WPE aged at least 24 years and 9 months but less than 75 years of age, is paid to practices that have signed on to the incentive and reached the practice screening target.

To meet the screening target, practices need to screen at least 70 per cent of the practice's female patients aged at least 24 years and 9 months but less than 75 years of age in a 30 month reference period.

Note: the cytology service item in the Pathology Services Section (Group P6) of the MBS is used to determine the number of women who have been screened. The patient's age is determined as at the last day of the reference period (refer to the PIP Guidelines for more information).

Service Incentive Payment

A Service Incentive Payment (SIP) of \$35.00 is paid quarterly to GPs for each Cervical Screening Test on an under-screened woman aged at least 24 years and 9 months but less than 75 years of age.

Note: GPs must work at a PIP practice that is signed on to the PIP Cervical Screening Incentive.

Applying

Practices can apply for the PIP Cervical Screening Incentive when they apply for the PIP:

- through Health Professional Online Service (HPOS), at humanservices.gov.au/hpos, or
- by completing the [Practice Incentives application form](#) at humanservices.gov.au/pip

Practices already participating in the PIP can apply for the Cervical Screening Incentive:

- through HPOS, or
- by completing the [Practice Incentives Program Diabetes, Cervical Screening and Asthma Incentives and Procedural General Practitioner Payment application form](#).

The practice's authorised contact person needs to complete and sign the application form.

Claiming a sign-on payment

If the practice's application to participate in the PIP Cervical Screening Incentive is successful, they don't need to do anything to receive the sign-on payment. It will be paid in the next quarterly payment to the bank account nominated by the practice.

Claiming an outcomes payment

Once a practice meets the requirements of the outcomes payment, it's automatically paid with the next PIP quarterly payment to the bank account nominated by the practice.

Practices can monitor the percentage of eligible patients they've screened by looking at their PIP quarterly statement.

Claiming a SIP

GPs must use one of the specific cervical screening MBS item numbers when a Cervical Screening Test is performed on an under-screened woman aged at least 24 years and 9 months but less than 75 years of age. This will indicate that the requirements have been met and trigger a payment.

The MBS item numbers are from Group A18 or A19 of the MBS: 2497, 2501, 2503, 2504, 2506, 2507, 2509, 2598, 2600, 2603, 2606, 2610, 2613 or 2616.

Note: GPs should use the usual MBS item numbers for cervical screens on ineligible patients.

For more information on MBS item numbers, call **132 150**.

If we don't have a GP's bank account details, the [Practice Incentives Program Service Incentive Payment banking details form](#) will be sent to the GP to complete. Once the bank account details have been registered, all future SIPs will be paid directly into the nominated bank account.

The patient benefit (also referred to as the direct bill payment) for these cervical screening items is the same as for the usual MBS attendance items.

Note: the SIP is paid on top of the consultation fee.

Obligations

The practice must:

- give information to us as part of the ongoing confirmation statement and audit process to verify the practice has met the eligibility requirements
- make sure information given to us is correct, and
- tell us about any changes to practice arrangements by the relevant 'point in time' date, or within 7 calendar days, whichever date is earlier. For more information, go to the PIP Guidelines at humanservices.gov.au/pip

The practice must nominate an authorised contact person(s), who will confirm, on the practice's behalf, any changes to information for PIP claims and payments.

Rights of review

The Practice Incentives Program (PIP) has a review of decision process. This is separate from reviews for program audits.

We base our decisions made under the program on the published guidelines as at the date of the event.

To request a review of a decision, the authorised contact person or the owners of the practice must write to us using the [Practice Incentives review of decision form](#).

You must do this within 28 days of receiving the decision you want reviewed.

We'll review our decision against the PIP eligibility criteria and Cervical Screening Incentive eligibility criteria. We'll write to your practice to let you know the outcome of the review.

If you aren't satisfied with the review decision, you can ask our Formal Review Committee to reconsider it. The Formal Review Committee is the last avenue of appeal and its decision is final.

For more information

Online: humanservices.gov.au/pip

Email: pip@humanservices.gov.au

Call: **1800 222 032** ** 8.30 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday

Disclaimer

These guidelines are for information purposes only. While it's intended that the Australian Government will make payments as set out in these guidelines, the making of payments is at its sole discretion. The Australian Government may alter arrangements for the Practice Incentives Program at any time and without notice.

The Australian Government does not accept any legal liability or responsibility for any injury, loss or damage incurred by the use of, reliance on, or interpretation of the information provided in these guidelines.