

Practice Nurse Incentive Program (PNIP)

Is your practice ready?

The Practice Nurse Incentive Program (PNIP) commences, 1 January 2012.

The PNIP provides incentive payments to general practices, Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS) and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) to support an expanded and enhanced role for nurses working in general practice.

The PNIP simplifies financing arrangements by consolidating funding arrangements under the Practice Incentive Program (PIP) Practice Nurse Incentive (PNI) and six of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) practice nurse item numbers and redirects them into a single payment to eligible general practices.

New arrangements

The new arrangements include:

- support for all accredited practices to employ an Aboriginal Health Worker instead of, or in addition to, a practice nurse (Registered Nurse or Enrolled Nurse).
- support for practices in urban areas of workforce shortage and AMS and ACCHS to employ an allied health professional.
- a rural loading of up to 50 per cent based on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification—Remoteness Areas (ASGC—RA).
- a loading for AMS and ACCHS.
- a one-off \$5000 incentive to support eligible non-accredited practices to become accredited.

MBS Item number removal

From 31 December 2011, MBS practice nurse item numbers covering immunisation (10993), cervical smears (10994, 10995, 10998 and 10999) and the treatment of a person's wound (10996) will no longer be available.



**Together
we can
build
a better
health
system**

Top-up and grandparenting arrangements

Top up and grandparenting arrangements are available for the first 3 years of the program to ensure practices are not financially disadvantaged by the restructuring of the program and the removal of the MBS practice nurse item numbers.

PNIP Incentive Payment Calculator - Ready Reckoner

This calculator provides an estimate of the incentive payment your practice may be eligible for under the PNIP and is provided for information only. The Ready Reckoner is available at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/pnip.

Apply for the PNIP today!

Applications for the PNIP are now being accepted. Application forms are available at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/pnip.

Practices wishing to apply for the PNIP, grandparenting, top-up or accreditation assistance will need to fill out the application form and provide the requested documentation to Medicare.

Practices already participating in the PIP PNI are required to apply for the PNIP. Medicare will advise practices in writing of receipt on their application form. All applications received will be assessed for eligibility from 1 January 2012.

For more information

- Email pnip@humanservices.gov.au or call 1800 222 032 (*call charges may apply*) between 8.30 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday, Australian Central Standard Time (ACST).
- Visit Medicare Australia website and view the PNIP Guidelines available at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/pnip
- Contact your local division of general practice or Medicare Local.

The PNIP is administered by Medicare Australia on behalf of the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).



Together
we can
build
a better
health
system