

## **PIP eHealth Incentive in (about) 10 fairly simple steps**

DoHA has recently announced the eHealth PIP Incentives which will replace the current IM/IT Tier 1 and 2 incentives. These will commence from the August 2009 PIP payment and practices must qualify and apply by 30 April. Practices that miss this will need to qualify and apply by 31 July to make the November payment and so on. The payment is \$6.50 per SWPE per year, thus a full time GP can expect to receive a payment of around \$6,500 per annum. Note that the payment is made to the practice and is capped at \$50,000 per year. As with most PIP payments, it will be paid quarterly.

There are 3 requirements:

1. Secure messaging capability (Step 1);
2. PKI certificates for the practice and each practitioner (Steps 2 & 3);
3. Access to key electronic clinical resources – there are 3 compulsory resources and 3 or more from a broader list (Steps 4 to 10)

This guide simply gives 10 steps to ensure that the practice complies with the requirements. There will be other resources which will comply, but the examples given are easily available and well-known. Listing of these resources does not imply endorsement by DCGPA.

### ***Step 1 – Secure Messaging Capability***

A full list of eligible suppliers is listed at [www.nehta.gov.au/pip-vendors](http://www.nehta.gov.au/pip-vendors). However, if the practice has installed and uses one or more of the following, it complies:

- 2Hippo (v3)
- ArgusConnect (v4+)
- eClinic (used by Gribbles and VCS for downloads)
- MDExchange (supplied with MD3)
- HealthLink Six (v6.5.5) (used by Southern Health Pathology and Radiology)
- Medical-Objects
- Promedius (MIA and Dandenong Gastroenterology/The Digestive Health Centre)

### ***Step 2 – PKI Certificate for Practice***

A practice needs to have, or have applied for, a PKI Location or Site Certificate. If you use Medicare Australia Online electronic claiming to Medicare, you will already have this. Forms and information can be found on the DCGPA website at

[http://www.dcgpa.com.au/resources/General\\_Practice\\_Support/Informatics\\_\(IM\\_%7c\\_IT\)\\_and\\_PKI/](http://www.dcgpa.com.au/resources/General_Practice_Support/Informatics_(IM_%7c_IT)_and_PKI/).

Where a practice has two or more branches, a PKI site certificate is needed for each.

### ***Step 3 – PKI Certificate for each Practitioner***

Each GP, other than locums, needs to have, or have applied for, an individual PKI Certificate. This is the most difficult step (but is much simpler than it was) and the information and application form is located on the DCGPA website as in Step 2.

You can check for existing certificates at [http://www.certificates-australia.com.au/general/cert\\_search\\_health.shtml](http://www.certificates-australia.com.au/general/cert_search_health.shtml)

Steps 4, 5 and 6 comprise the compulsory resources.

#### **Step 4 – Concise, evidence-based guide to management recommendations**

A suitable resource is **e-Therapeutic Guidelines Complete**. This is available from [www.tg.org.au/index.php](http://www.tg.org.au/index.php) as a CD to install or a web-based link. It is one of two resources which costs money – around \$300 for a single user, then \$180 per year renewal. There are discounts for multiple users. eTG has three updates per year which must be installed on each computer and must be kept up to date. Note that users of MD3 have access to suitable resources such as Murtagh's General Practice via MD Reference.

#### **Step 5 – Independent formulary of medicines**

The **Australian Medicines Handbook** is available as an on-line resource at [www.amh.net.au](http://www.amh.net.au). Cost is \$130 per GP per year. Once a licence is purchased, simply save as a desktop link and add to your browser's Favourites.

#### **Step 6 – Evidence-based guide to preventive activities**

The **RACGP Red Book** is probably the best known resource in this category. Browse to [www.racgp.org.au/redbook/static/index.htm](http://www.racgp.org.au/redbook/static/index.htm), save as a desktop link and add to your browser's Favourites. Soon, an interactive version will be available.

Steps 7 to 10 comprise the "optional" resources – at least three of these must be available. There are other complying resources available but, to the author, these are perhaps the most useful and are the ones used as examples in the application form.

#### **Step 7 – Australian Immunisation Handbook**

Available at [www.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook-home](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook-home), save as a desktop link and add to your browser's Favourites.

#### **Step 8 – Assessing Fitness to Drive**

Available at [www.austroads.com.au/aftd/](http://www.austroads.com.au/aftd/), save as a desktop link and add to your browser's Favourites. This is only available as a non-interactive PDF document which doesn't really offer any advantages over the printed book.

#### **Step 9 – MBS On-line**

Available at [www.health.gov.au/mbsonline](http://www.health.gov.au/mbsonline), save as a desktop link and add to your browser's Favourites.

#### **Step 10 – PBS On-line**

Available at [www.pbs.gov.au/html/healthpro/home](http://www.pbs.gov.au/html/healthpro/home), save as a desktop link and add to your browser's Favourites.

#### **Step 11 – Linking instructions (and because you only need three of the previous four)**

These instructions need to be followed on every GP's computer in your practice. The eHealth Incentive guidelines state that the "resources must be available on the computer desktop in the

consulting room either on the hard drive, as a CD-ROM, or as a direct link to a website.” The resources must always be kept up to date – a web link will do this for you.

To create a desktop link (in Windows):

- Right-click on a vacant area of desktop;
- Click New;
- Click Folder;
- Name the folder **eHealth Resources** and press Enter;
- Double click the folder to open it.

Then for each resource

- Right click within the open folder;
- Click New
- Click Shortcut
- Type the web address (or better still copy and paste) or for installed software browse to the software’s location;
- Click Next;
- Type a name for your shortcut;
- Click Finish.

To add your resources to your browser’s Favorites (these instructions are for Internet Explorer 7 – should be similar in other browsers):

- Open each of the resources in a separate tab in IE7;
- Ensure you have no other tabs open;
- Click Favorites on the top menu;
- Click **Add tab group to Favorites...**;
- Name the tab **eHealth Resources**;
- Click Add;
- The tab will probably be at the bottom of the favorites list – you may want to drag it to the top;
- You will find each of the open tabs has an entry in eHealth Resources.

## ***Step 12 – The Paperwork***

Just remember that you still have to apply for the PIP eHealth Incentive. The form can be found at at [http://www.dcgpa.com.au/resources/General\\_Practice\\_Support/Informatics\\_\(IM\\_%7c\\_IT\)\\_and\\_PKI/](http://www.dcgpa.com.au/resources/General_Practice_Support/Informatics_(IM_%7c_IT)_and_PKI/).