

Aged Care GP Incentives Component

Effective 1st July 2008

Eligible Providers and Key Points

- All GPs in practices participating in the Practice Incentives Program (PIP) will be eligible for an incentive payment once they have provided a predetermined number of Medicare-claimable services;
- Funding will be available on a two tiered model and payments will be made automatically by Medicare Australia once predetermined Qualifying Service levels (QSLs) have been reached;
- Payment will be made available to the GP who provided the service rather than to the practice; and
- The Program only applies to services provided to aged care residents in Commonwealth-funded RACFs.

Operation

The GP component of the *Aged Care Access Initiative* aims to encourage GPs to provide increased and continuing services in RACFs. Incentive payments will be based on a GP providing a predetermined number of Medicare services in RACFs over a financial year. The incentive payment will be available to GPs in practices participating in the PIP. These practices are required to be accredited or registered for accreditation against the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) *Standards for General Practices*. There are two payment levels under the GP component. Payments will be calculated by Medicare Australia based on the number of relevant MBS items claimed in one financial year.

- **Tier one** provides a payment of \$1,000 when the first qualifying service level (QSL1) of services is claimed in a financial year.
- **Tier two** provides a payment of \$1,500 when the second qualifying service level (QSL2) of services is claimed in a financial year.
- The maximum payment any one GP can receive in one financial year is \$2,500.

QSLs will be announced at the beginning of the financial year. Once the prescribed number of MBS items has been claimed, Medicare Australia will make a payment automatically to the account nominated by the GP. While GPs do not need to apply to participate in the incentive, Medicare Australia will seek nominated bank account details from GPs eligible to receive the incentive.

Eligible MBS items

Eligible services are those provided to aged care residents in Commonwealth-funded RACFs and Multipurpose Services. MBS items that count towards QSLs include attendances in RACFs, Comprehensive Medical Assessments, contributions to Care Plans, Case Conferences, and Residential Medication Management Reviews. Further enquiries about the GP Incentive can be directed to the PIP enquiry line on **1800 222 032**.

For more information click here

www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/aged_care_access