



Health Identifiers – Getting the Facts

There are 3 types of Health Identifiers:

1. **Individual Healthcare Identifier (IHI)**—allocated to all individuals enrolled in the Medicare program or those who are issued with a Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) treatment card and others who seek healthcare in Australia.
2. **Healthcare Provider Identifier—Individual (HPI-I)** –allocated to healthcare providers involved in providing patient care.
3. **Healthcare Provider Identifier—Organisation (HPI-O)** –allocated to organisations (such as a hospital or medical clinic) where healthcare is provided.

So which ones affect our practice?

Individual Healthcare Identifier number will be allocated to your patients via Medicare as stated above.

Healthcare Provider Identifier—Individual (HPI-I) will be automatically allocated to the GP's via their registration process with Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA). If a GP working at your practice is unsure if they are registered with AHPRA, you can contact AHPRA on **1300 419 495** and they can confirm this for you.

If you are not registered, then you will need to contact Medicare Australia and register with them for a HPI-I. The Medicare HI hotline number is **1300 361 457**

Healthcare Provider Identifier—Organisation (HPI-O) is the number that you will need to apply via the Medicare website link below and fill in their application forms in order to apply for your practice to be granted a HPI-O.

Ok, so we have our HI numbers – now what?

Over the next 12 – 24 months your clinical software provider will build the capacity to record your practice's healthcare provider number (HPI-O), the health care provider number allocated to your GPs (HPI-I) and also the health care provider number allocated to your patients (IHI).

To find out when this will occur for you please contact your clinical software vendor to find out more and obtain training for your practice.

Helpful websites and hotline numbers

1. Medicare Australia – health identifier hotline: **1300 361 457**
<http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/health-identifier/index.jsp>
2. Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) - registration hotline: **1300 419 495**
<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/About-AHPRA/Contact-Us.aspx>
3. National eHealth Transition Authority (NeHTA) - <http://www.nehta.gov.au/connecting-australia/healthcare-identifiers>