



PIP Indigenous Health Incentive

The Australian Government's **CLOSING THE GAP** program and what it means for general practice

How will my patients and my practice benefit?

A new Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) Indigenous Health Incentive will be introduced from 1 May 2010. It aims to support general practices and Aboriginal Medical Services to provide best practice chronic disease management to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients. The PIP is based around three key components:

SIGN-ON PAYMENT A one-off payment of \$1000 to general practices and Aboriginal health services that agree to undertake certain activities to improve care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients

PATIENT REGISTRATION PAYMENT An annual payment to general practices and Aboriginal health services of \$250 for each eligible patient registered with the practice for chronic disease management

OUTCOMES PAYMENT Annual payments to general practices and Aboriginal health services of up to \$250 for each eligible patient for whom a target level of care is provided by the practice

Is my practice eligible?

To take part in the incentive your practice will need to be participating in the PIP – or eligible to join the PIP – and meet the specific sign-on requirements. To receive the sign-on payment practices must agree to:

- Seek consent to register their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients who have, or are at risk of chronic disease with Medicare Australia in order to access support through Indigenous Chronic Disease package measures
- Establish a mechanism to make sure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients aged 15 years and over with a chronic disease are followed up
- Undertake cultural awareness training within 12 months of joining the incentive
- Annotate PBS prescriptions of eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients for the purposes of the Indigenous Chronic Disease package PBS co-payment Measure from 1 July 2010

How will SGPN help?

Our Indigenous Health Project Officer, Robin Vote, will assist and support general practice to participate in improving access of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to mainstream primary health under the Australian Government's CLOSING THE GAP program. By July 2010, SGPN will:

- Assess eligible cultural awareness training packages and circulate details of recommended packages to practices
- Develop and circulate resources to assist practices to identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients. As the resources may include material to encourage patients to self-identify these will be developed in consultation with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

More information?

Please telephone Robin at the SGPN Goulburn office on **02 4821 0436** if you require additional information.

The guidelines for the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive are available, alongside other relevant documents, from the

Medicare Australia website at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/pip.



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The Australian Government's **CLOSING THE GAP** program and what it means for general practice

Introducing the new Practice Incentive Program (PIP) Indigenous Health Incentive

General practices will have an increasingly important role in closing the gap in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through a range of measures which target their high incidence of chronic disease.

The new Practice Incentive Program (PIP) Indigenous Health Incentive is a key part of the Indigenous Chronic Disease Package, the Commonwealth Government's contribution to the Indigenous Health National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in November 2008.

There are 14 different measures in the Indigenous Chronic Disease Package under the following 3 broad strategies: tackling the risk associated with the development of chronic disease; improving chronic disease management and follow up care; workforce expansion and support.

About SGPN's role

Under the *Closing the Gap – Improving Indigenous Access to Mainstream Primary Care* program funded by the Department of Health and Ageing, SGPN is one of 80 Divisions funded to provide a focus on indigenous health issues at a local level.

SGPN has employed an Indigenous Health Project Officer, Robin Vote, who is based at our Goulburn office (ph 02 4821 0436).

A crucial aspect of Robin's role will be to support, resource and assist general practices to identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients so they can benefit from the measures offered through the chronic disease package.

Aboriginal health: the statistics

The poor health status of Aboriginal people is well known:

- 12% of Aboriginal babies are born prematurely and similar proportions are born with low birth weights, with strong evidence linking low birth weight with chronic illness¹
- Aboriginal people have higher rates of risk factors for chronic conditions such as smoking, obesity, physical inactivity and poor nutrition¹
- Aboriginal people have higher rates of hospitalisation than non-Aboriginal people of NSW¹
- Rates of diabetes which are 2 to 4 times higher²
- Rates of heart, stroke and vascular disease which are two times higher³
- Rates of renal disease which are 10 to 15 times higher⁴
- Deaths from heart disease at twice the rate and within the 25-64 age groups this rises to 7-10 times higher⁵

1 NSW Health Officer Report, NSW Dept of Health 2009

2 Diabetes as a cause of death in Australia 1997-98, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

3 Cardiovascular disease and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

4 Australian Indigenous Health *InfoNet*

5 Heart Failure: what of the future? Australian Institute of Health and Welfare