



Pharmaceutical Scheme Co-payment Measure

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

What is the Pharmaceutical Scheme Co-payment Measure?

This measure aims to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients access PBS medicines by reducing cost barriers. The new Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Co-payment Measure will commence on 1 July 2010.

Who is eligible?

The measure is intended to benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of any age who present with a chronic disease or chronic disease risk factor; and, in the opinion of the doctor:

- would experience setbacks in the ongoing management of chronic disease if the person did not take the prescribed medicine; and
- are unlikely to adhere to their medicines regime without assistance through the measure

How do we register eligible patients?

Practices can register eligible patients for the PBS Co-payment Measure using the same process and patient consent and patient registration forms as for the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive. For more information about the PIP, visit the Medicare Australia website at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/pip.

The patient is not required to provide proof of Aboriginality to be registered for the PBS Co-payment Measure.

Important: Registration for the PIP Indigenous Incentive and the PBS Co-payment Measure are independent of each other. Patients can choose to participate in the PBS Co-payment Measure and choose not to participate in the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive or vice versa.

Once a patient is registered for the PBS Co-payment Measure they do not need to be re-registered.

How will SGPN help?

SGPN has appointed an Indigenous Health Project Officer, Robin Vote, to 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.

Please telephone Robin at the SGPN Goulburn office on 02 4821 0436 if you require additional information about the PBS Co-payment Measure.

More information?

For more information on this measure visit the Tackling Indigenous Chronic Disease website at www.health.gov.au/tackling-chronic-disease. You can also call PIP on 1800 222 032 or contact Robin at SGPN's Goulburn office on 02 4821 0436.