

NPS case studies

- NPS case studies are included in *NPS News**, distributed every two months to GPs along with *Australian Prescriber*.*
- When completed case studies are returned to the NPS, participants receive an aggregate of responses plus expert commentary.
- Some divisions of general practice may facilitate discussions of NPS case scenarios in small groups.

* If you or your practice do not receive these NPS publications, please provide your name, title and postal address to the NPS via fax on 02 9211 7578 or email info@nps.org.au



Other clinical audits recognised by NPS

- Clinical audits conducted by other providers may be recognised by the NPS as QPI activities, and therefore count towards PIP requirements. These clinical audits must meet specific criteria.
- If you intend to undertake a clinical audit focusing on drug therapy from another provider, please contact the NPS to check if the clinical audit is recognised for the QPI.
- These activities may or may not incur a cost. Please contact the clinical audit provider to enquire about associated costs.

Where do I go for more information on QPI and PIP?

Contact the Medicare Australia PIP Enquiry Line on **1800 222 032** or visit www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/pip for information on:

- registering your practice for the PIP
- number of activities required by your practice
- PIP payment queries.

Contact the NPS by phone **02 8217 8700** or email info@nps.org.au to:

- register for the NPS publications mailing list
- enquire about QPI activities.

Go to the NPS website www.nps.org.au for information on:

- NPS publications
- upcoming QPI activities and events
- Frequently Asked Questions about the QPI and the PIP.

Privacy Statement

In accordance with privacy legislation, all information relating to GPs' participation in QPI activities is kept confidential. Annually, NPS will provide Medicare Australia with the provider number, prescriber number, surname and completed activity type relating to the GP participant. With consent from the participating GP, NPS may use demographic data for evaluation purposes. The NPS does not provide data on individual GPs to any organisation or individual without consent.



National Prescribing Service Limited

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for Quality Use of Medicines funded by the
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National Prescribing Service Limited

What is the National Prescribing Service?

The National Prescribing Service Limited (NPS) provides independent, evidence-based information and services to health professionals and the community on Quality Use of Medicines (QUM). To achieve this we work in partnership with general practitioners (GPs), specialists, pharmacists, other health professionals, Government, pharmaceutical industry, consumer organisations and the community. We are a non-profit organisation funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Many of our educational activities for GPs are eligible for inclusion in the Practice Incentives Program (PIP) via its Quality Prescribing Initiative (QPI).

What is the Practice Incentives Program (PIP)?

- The PIP aims to recognise general practices that provide comprehensive, quality care, and which are either accredited or working towards accreditation against the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' (RACGP) *Standards for General Practices*.
- The PIP incentive payments relate to activities completed by the practice that contribute to quality care, including better prescribing.
- Payments are dependent on practice size, according to number of patients seen, rather than consultations performed.
- To participate in the PIP, practices must register with Medicare Australia.
- Information on the PIP, including the registration process, eligibility criteria, practice requirements and payments, is available via the Medicare Australia PIP enquiry line on 1800 222 032 or at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/pip.

What is the Quality Prescribing Initiative (QPI)?

- The QPI is one of the incentive programs of the PIP and aims to assist practices keep up to date with information on QUM.
- The QPI provides financial rewards to practices for GP participation in a range of voluntary educational activities recognised or provided by the NPS.
- Each activity is undertaken by individual GPs but payments are made based on practices meeting a minimum participation level in QPI activities.

What is the payment for QPI?

- Payments are based on \$1 per Standardised Whole Patient Equivalent (SWPE). [The average full-time equivalent (FTE) GP sees 1000 SWPEs annually.]
- SWPEs and the total number of activities required by each practice are calculated by Medicare Australia and are indicated on a 3-monthly PIP Payment Statement, sent to registered practices.
- All relevant activities must be completed by 30 April each year; payments are made in the May quarter.



What are the QPI activity requirements?

- On average, a practice is required to complete at least three activities per FTE GP in the QPI calculation period 1 May–30 April. One of every three activities completed must be a clinical audit coordinated or recognised by NPS.
- Individual GPs within the practice may undertake more or less activities, as long as the **practice** completes the total number of activities required.
- GPs are required to provide their name, contact details, provider and prescriber numbers on all activity forms. This information is kept confidential by the NPS.
- Practices receive PIP Payment Statements quarterly from Medicare Australia, which provide an estimate of the number of activities that will be required. In the November statement, the confirmed number of activities is shown.
- **A practice can establish their activity requirements by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 222 032.**

QPI activities are:

NPS educational visits

- Most divisions of general practice employ an NPS Facilitator to visit GPs in their practices and discuss how current evidence on specific therapeutic topics translates into quality prescribing for their patients.
- Educational visits by NPS Facilitators qualify as an activity for the QPI of the PIP.
- GPs or practice managers can contact their division of general practice to arrange educational visits. Find your local division via the Australian Divisions of General Practice website www.adgp.com.au or by calling the NPS on 02 8217 8700.

NPS clinical audits

The NPS provides at least two clinical audits each year that count towards the QPI of the PIP.

- To complete an NPS clinical audit, GPs must:
 - enrol via forms included in the *NPS Prescribing Practice Review*, which is sent directly to GPs throughout the year
 - collect information on their management of the condition described in the clinical audit for approximately 20 patients
 - receive expert feedback and/or an individual review on completion
 - review their feedback, further review their patients and respond to a set of review questions.

These audits may also be eligible for clinical audit points under the RACGP Quality Assurance and Continuing Professional Development Program and/or the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine Professional Development Program.

More details about these clinical audits are available on the NPS website www.nps.org.au/healthpro; click on 'Topics and resources'.

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