

Expression of Interest

Embedding eye health preventative care into primary care

Did you know that many eye conditions are preventable if detected or treated early? Regular eye examinations are an effective measure for identifying common eye problems.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused people to defer their eye health checks due to optometry closures, leading to an increase in preventable eye problems. The pandemic impact has also disproportionately impacted vulnerable and under screened populations, specifically in the LGA's of Knox, Whittlesea and Yarra Ranges in Eastern Melbourne PHN.

EMPHN is seeking to recruit ten general practices located in the LGAs of Knox, Whittlesea or Yarra Ranges to participate in a quality improvement (QI) program to assist general practices to improve the eye health of their practice populations. Using a whole of practice approach, practices will focus on increasing engagement with local optometrists and ophthalmologists.

Required Activities

General practices will:

- Ensure their General Practitioner, Practice Nurse and Practice Manager are able to complete the online training sessions and education modules.
- Provide weekly protected time for activities to be undertaken
- Educate the broader clinical team regarding their new skills/knowledge
- Collect baseline data
- Provide feedback and evaluation throughout to further improve the model of care and referral pathways

Benefits for the practice and their community

- This activity will assist in general practices meeting Practice Incentive Program (PIP) Quality Improvement (QI) activity requirements
- Incentive payment upon meeting objectives, up to \$7,000
- Greater understanding of the importance of eye health referral pathways and feedback for patients
- Cost effectiveness on patient health outcomes (feedback loop on outcome of consultation)
- CPD points available for completing relevant GP and Practice nurse eye health online training
- Improve eye health outcomes for patients

Who should apply?

Do you have high numbers of at-risk patients who:

- Are aged over 40 years?
- Have Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes?
- Are smokers?
- Have hypertension?
- Identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?
- Have CALD (culturally & linguistically diverse) backgrounds?

Eligibility Criteria

General practices must meet the following criteria:

- Be located within the LGA areas of Knox, Whittlesea or Yarra Ranges
- Be accredited against the RACGP Standards for general practice
- Have POLAR installed or agree to have it installed before commencement of the program
- Have and nominate a GP, Practice Nurse and Practice Manager to complete online training sessions and education modules (2 hours for GPs and 1 hour for Practice Nurses)

Practice support

EMPHN facilitators will provide at least three general practice support visits throughout the duration of the program and will be available as required to support the practice in data collection and program implementation.

Incentive payments

Participating general practices will receive payments up to a total value of \$7,000 (per practice) subject (but not limited to) the below deliverables:

- 2-hour induction meeting with attendance by the Principal General Practitioner, Practice Manager and Primary Care Nurse
- Complete pre pilot survey
- Complete online eye health training sessions and education modules 2 hours for General Practitioners and 1 hour for Primary Care Nurses
- Participate in eye health webinars
- Develop and test ideas via the PDSA quality improvement cycle, to embed practices and systems to ensure at risk patients are identified, screened and referred for eye health assessment
- Collect and submit monthly program data
- Complete post pilot survey and evaluation activities

How do I apply for participation in this program?

Expression of Interest closes 13 January 2023

For any enquiries or to submit your Expression of Interest, please contact:

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