Strengthening Medicare General Practice Grants Program – investment activity examples

Investment activity	Outcome	Reference	Department's advice on eligibility
Accreditation stream			
Accreditation fees for new accreditation or re-accreditation	Achieve accreditation.	RACGP Standards for general practice 5th Edition	Yes
Reimbursement of staff time	Protected time to complete work involved in readiness for accreditation visit		Yes
Defibrillator or defibrillator pads if expiring	All clinics must have defib by Feb 2024	RACGP indicator GP5.2>E	Yes
ECG Machine	All clinics must have ECG by Feb 2024	RACGP indicator GP5.2>A	Yes
CPR training	From appropriately qualified trainer which must include CPR and defibrillator training inclusive	RACGP indicator GP3.1>A	Yes
Consultant for full accreditation preparation	For clinics who have no practice manager, are inexperienced or time poor.		Yes
Practice Hub membership - New	Practice management software to help with consolidation of HR and training log documentation	Avant	Yes - Using the grant to pay for Practice Hub membership is within the scope of the Program, provided the practice doesn't already have the subscription and it is paid for within the timeframe of the Program. However; please note that this advice should not be read as the Department's endorsement of any particular products or a preference for practices to use the funding for these products.

RACGP Emergency Response Planning Tool (annual subscription)	Membership to RACGP online portal for storage of documents accessible in the event of a disaster	RACGP indicator C3.3>A Business operation systems	Yes - Using the grant to pay for RACGP Emergency Response Planning Tool is within the scope of the Program, provided the ==practice doesn't already have the subscription== and it is paid for within the timeframe of the Program.
Immunisation fridge	To store vaccines at a temperature between 2-8 Degrees	RACGP indicator GP 6.1>C National Vaccine Storage Guidelines Strive for 5 - 3rd edition Maintaining Vaccine Potency	Yes
Electronic data logger	To assist with recording of fridge temps	RACGP indicator GP 6.1>C National Vaccine Storage Guidelines Strive for 5 - 3rd edition Maintaining Vaccine Potency	Yes
Practice upgrades such as painting with washable paint, changing flooring from carpet to vinyl, changing cloth chairs to vinyl.	To meet accreditation standards and improve infection control.	RACGP indicator GP 5.1>F Practice Facilities	Yes
Adjustable bed	At least one required within a practice	RACGP indicator GP 5.2>C Practice Equipment	Yes
Consulting rooms	Disposable privacy screen rather than cloth screen		Yes - Using the grant to pay for a stockpile of disposable privacy screens in preparation for a pandemic is within scope of the Program.
Consulting rooms	Wipeable pillows rather than linen		Yes

Treatment rooms	Change cotton linen to paper roll		Yes - Using the grant to pay for a stockpile of paper roll in preparation for a pandemic is within scope of the Program. Purchasing a paper roll dispenser is within scope of the Program.
Practice equipment required for accreditation	Upgrade of equipment	RACGP indicator GP5.2>A	Yes
Servicing electronic equipment	Generally annually or as per manufacturers recommendations	As per manufacturers guidelines and accreditation	Yes – Using the grant to pay for servicing clinical equipment is within the scope of the Program.
Purchase of new equipment required for accreditation eg for doctors' bags		RACGP indicator GP 5.3>A Practice Equipment	Yes
Calibration of surgical equipment (autoclave/ BP/ scales) (Annual)	To ensure safety of all equipment used	RACGP indicator GP 5.2>B Practice Equipment	Yes
Electronic blood pressure machine	One required in each consultation room	RACGP indicator GP 5.2>A Practice Equipment	Yes
X-ray viewing equipment	Ability to view x-rays if not available online	RACGP indicator GP 5.2>A Practice Equipment	Yes
Payment for company to undertake patient feedback surveys	Feedback for QI	RACGP Criterion C3.1 Business operation systems	Yes
HR Consultancy for staff contracts			No - Staff contracting is part of the business-as-usual cost of running a practice. Therefore, would not be eligible for coverage under the grant.
Changes to waiting room for better privacy	TV and/or screens so reception discussions are less audible in the waiting room		Yes - Using the grant to pay for a TV and/or screens would be in scope of the Program, provided that it serves the purpose of enhancing patient privacy in the waiting room or offers health-related programs for viewing.

Changes to waiting room for better privacy	Background noise so reception discussions are less audible in the waiting room		Yes - Using the grant to pay for stereo systems, and/or speakers would be in scope of the Program, provided that it serves the purpose of enhancing patient privacy in the waiting room or offers health-related audio content.
OHS Safety security of staff – duress alarms at reception and in consulting rooms, room set up to allow for escape routes			Yes
Solar panels and battery which could be used to power UPS and vaccine fridge during prolonged power outage			Yes - Using the grant to pay for solar panels and batteries to be used to power UPS and vaccine fridge for continued cold storage is within the scope of the Program.
Automatic door locks and internal duress alarm to support the health and safety of staff and patients			Yes
Ultrasound machine			Yes - We do recognise that some practices may need additional equipment if they are in areas where certain services are not easily accessible. Please see below guidance from the Decision Workflow that will be available on the PHN SharePoint soon. *Will it improve access to general practice services for priority groups* and those in areas of greatest need (e.g. underserviced areas)? * At-risk and disadvantaged groups, including older Australians, veterans, at-risk young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with mental illness, people in socio economically disadvantaged circumstances, people with disability, people from CALD backgrounds, LGBTIQ+ people, people experiencing homelessness, people at risk of harm from substance misuse and people leaving criminal justice setting. (per Australia's Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan 2022–2032).*

Infection prevention and control stream			
Ultrasonic cleaner	Best practice for reusable instruments	RACGP IPC 10. Reprocessing reusable medical devices	Yes
Water Disinfector	Best practice if reusable medical devices are not recommended by manufacturer to be hand cleaned	RACGP IPC 10. Reprocessing reusable medical devices	Yes
Autoclave		RACGP IPC 10. Reprocessing reusable medical devices	Yes
Single use instruments (Ongoing expense)	If moving from reprocessing reusable medical devices to single use instruments		Yes – Using the grant to pay for a stockpile of single use instruments in preparation for a pandemic is within scope of the Program.
Education / Team training Reimbursement of staff time	Must be undertaken with a qualified trainer for sterilisation	RACGP Criterion C8.1 Education of non clinical staff & Criterion GP3.1 Qualifications, education and training of healthcare practitioners	Yes
Area to don and doff PPE	To eliminate spread of diseases	New Infection prevention and control guidelines	Yes

Separate cleaning area for reusable medical devices Partitions/segregation	Such as sluice room or separate to treatment room to minimise the risk of cross infection	New guidelines	Yes
PPE (Ongoing expense)	Continue to purchase PPE according to climate	COVID safe plan and directions by department as current waves come and go	Yes – Using the grant to pay for a stockpile of disposable PPE in preparation for a pandemic is within scope of the Program.
Biohazard bins and collection services (Ongoing expense)	To have regular collection of waste to reduce spread of disease if extra is required during pandemic waves		Yes
Gazebos, heaters, laptops, chairs, injecting booths, portable couch	In the event of another large pandemic wave and segregation of potential infected people with non-infected people within a clinic	Directions as per department	Yes
Air Purifiers / Hepa filters	To eliminate the spread of disease and have clean air circulating	RACGP - Ventilation and air-circulating strategies in general practice	Yes
Costs for consultants for measurement of air changes (Occupational Hygienist)	Should have 6-8 airchanges per hour routinely and 12+ if performing high risk activity such as spirometry	Infection Control Guidelines	Yes
Sterilisation courses - See education/team training above Reimbursement of staff time	To maintain accurate sterilisation process	Required for those performing sterilisation in practice	Yes
Hands free taps / elbow taps	No touch technique		Yes
Hands free infectious waste bins	No touch technique		Yes
Reusable flat mop heads or purchasing and changing mop heads	To reduce spread of infection		Yes

Own vacuum cleaner	To stop spread of infection	This would be only for staff to use. Cannot purchase for cleaning contractor to use as this has serious implications from a liability point of view if there is a workplace injury by contractor	Yes
Automatic opening doors	To reduce spread of infection		Yes

Digital health stream			
Servers / Cloud technology		RACGP Criterion C6.4 Information Security	Yes - Using the grant to pay for new server/cloud technology is within the scope of the Program, however if it's a subscription - the ==practice should not already have an existing subscription==. As with all investment activities, costs incurred must be within the Activity period of the Program (between Grant Agreement execution and 30 June 2024).
Phone system	Effective communication (with software ie BP / MD)	RACGP Criterion C1.2 Communication	Yes
Cybersecurity	Maintain privacy and protection of medical records	RACGP Criterion C6.4 Information Security	Yes - Using the grant to pay for cybersecurity is within the scope of the Program, however if it's a subscription - the ==practice should not already have an existing subscription==. As with all investment activities, costs incurred must be within the Activity period of the Program (between Grant Agreement execution and 30 June 2024).
New Monitors with inbuilt cameras/ speakers	Video Telehealth is preferred	RACGP Criterion C1.2 Communication	Yes

Update/ change software	Maintaining current versions/ updates	RACGP Criterion C5.1 Diagnosis and management of health issues	**Yes** - Using the grant to pay for new software is within the scope of the Program. As with all investment activities, costs incurred must be within the Activity period of the Program (between Grant Agreement execution and 30 June 2024).
Education / Team training Reimbursement of staff time	Mandatory ongoing training	RACGP Criterion C8.1 Education and Training RACGP Criterion GP3.1	Yes
IT managers /company membership	To manage and monitor IT within the practice	RACGP Criterion C6.4 Information security	Yes
Upgrading security within/around the practice – security cameras, emergency buzzers/duress alarms	For staff safety		Yes
Subscription for electronic transfer of specialist letters eg. Argus	Encourage secure transfer of patient details. Allows for prompt correspondence		**Yes** - Using the grant to pay for new electronic transfer of specialist letters is within the scope of the Program, however if it's a subscription - the ==practice should not already have an existing subscription.== As with all investment activities, costs incurred must be within the Activity period of the Program (between Grant Agreement execution and 30 June 2024). *However; please note that this advice should not be read as the Department's endorsement of any particular products or a preference for practices to use the funding for these products.*
Therapeutic guidelines electronically	to assist GPs to maintain accurate medication list		**Yes** - Using the grant to pay for the Therapeutic Guidelines electronically is within the scope of the Program, however if it's a subscription - the ==practice should not already have an existing subscription.== As with all investment activities, costs incurred must be within the Activity period of the Program (between Grant Agreement execution and 30 June 2024).
Cancer registry training for GPs			Yes

Electronic devices to assist with transition from paper records to medical software including voice recognition system in lieu of keyboard entry. Reimbursement of staff training time			Yes
Consultant training in use of or more proficient use of medical software. Reimbursement of staff training time			Yes