

Expression of Interest

Maximising cancer screening in primary care

Eastern Melbourne PHN invites general practices to participate in a quality improvement program *Maximising cancer screening in primary care settings in response to COVID-19.*

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented challenges for the early detection of cancer and participation in cancer screening programs. The pandemic impact has disproportionately impacted vulnerable and underscreened populations, and this may result in more late stage cancer diagnoses and poorer outcomes for treatment.

Eastern Melbourne PHN is providing funding grants for 10 general practices to participate in a quality improvement (QI) program to improve patient engagement with cancer screening. Using a whole of practice approach, practices will focus on increasing engagement with either the National Bowel, Breast or Cervical screening programs, or liver cancer screening, and will embed use of the National Cancer Screening Register (NCSR).

Practices located in Whittlesea LGA are encouraged to apply.

Required Activities

General practices will:

- provide baseline minimum data set for nominated screening stream(s) as per data template provided
- complete the Australian Centre for the Prevention of Cervical Cancer (ACPCC, formerly VCS Foundation) *Breast, Bowel and Cervical Screening Clinical Education Module* by the core project team
- complete a QI program for selected cancer screening program including a minimum of four PDSA cycles
- provide monthly minimum data set for nominated screening stream(s) as per data template provided until and including 12/08/2023

Who should apply?

Do you have high numbers of patients who:

- Are aged 50 to 74 years?
- Have never been screened for cervical cancer?
- Are at risk of contracting Hepatitis B or C, or who may be Hepatitis B or C positive and never been diagnosed?
- Identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?
- Have CALD (culturally & linguistically diverse) backgrounds?
- Experience another identifiable barrier to screening?

Eligibility Criteria

General practices must meet the following criteria:

- Be located within the Eastern Melbourne PHN catchment.
- Be accredited against the RACGP Standards for general practice.
- Be currently using PRODA and willing to sign up all GPs to the NCSR via PRODA?
- Have POLAR installed, or agree to have it installed before commencement of the program on 1 February 2023.

- Practices must nominate a core project team consisting of a GP, Practice Manager and Practice Nurse (if employed) to lead the program.

Benefits for the practice and their community?

- Funding of \$10,000 will be available to general practices who complete the QI and reporting requirements.
- Increase in clinician (or their PRODA delegate) utilisation of the NCSR to improve identification of never screened or under screened people and record accuracy.
- Development of practice teams QI skills and knowledge.
- Undertake a QI program that will contribute to PIPQI activity requirements.
- Improve cancer screening rates for your community.

Practice support

The EMPHN program facilitator 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 \$10,000 (per practice) subject (but not limited to) the below deliverables:

- Practice to provide baseline minimum data set for nominated screening stream(s) as per data template provided.
- Core project team to complete the ACPC Breast, Bowel and Cervical Screening Clinical Education Module including “Asking the question” module.
- Completion of QI program for selected cancer screening program including a minimum of four PDSA cycles.
- Practice to provide monthly minimum data set for nominated screening stream(s) as per data template provided monthly until and including 12/08/2023

How do I apply for participation in this program?

EMPHN will be releasing this expression of interest via an online system ([eProcure](#)). This system enables EMPHN to provide a transparent and accountable process in line with Commonwealth guidelines.

Registering is free, and easy to do, just follow these steps:

1. follow this [link](#)
2. complete the registration form
3. select register

You will then be able to complete the Expression of Interest.

A helpdesk is available to assist with questions related to eProcure. Please call 1800 377 628 or use the online chat service.

Applications open: 2pm Thursday 3 November 2022

Applications close: 2pm Wednesday 23 November 2022

Enquiries:

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