

# Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program (MHNIP)

## Information for carers

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Since July 1, 2016 the funding for the Mental Health Nurse Incentive program (MHNIP) has been processed through Eastern Melbourne PHN (EMPHN), but the services will remain the same. The following information is provided based on frequently asked questions.

### FAQ about MHNIP

#### **Q: What is Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network?**

A: Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network (EMPHN) is an organisation established by the Commonwealth Government to ensure federally-funded services are delivered in a way that is appropriate to local areas. The PHNs were established to manage federally-funded programs and services at a local level, rather than from Canberra. The goals of EMPHN are to ensure services are delivered fairly and effectively across our area.

EMPHN is funded by the Commonwealth Government and covers an area of 3,956 km<sup>2</sup> of about twelve local government areas in Victoria, comprising a population of over 1.4 million people.

For more information about EMPHN, please go to [www.emphn.org.au](http://www.emphn.org.au)

#### **Q: How will the change of funding to EMPHN affect me?**

A: Your information (name, date of birth, suburb, postcode and program eligibility requirements) will be shared with EMPHN to facilitate payment for the services provided by your Mental Health Nurse. Your clinical information, such as what was discussed during your sessions, will not be included.

**Q: My partner/child/significant other has been seeing a Mental Health Nurse since before July 1, 2016, what will happen to his/her ongoing sessions with this Mental Health Nurse?**

Your partner/child/significant other's sessions with your Mental Health Nurse will not be disrupted. The main change was that the funding for the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program was transferred from Medicare to EMPHN.

**Q: Why does EMPHN require patient information?**

A: For patients referred to MHNIP, EMPHN will need data such as the name, date of birth, suburb, post code and information required to meet the program eligibility requirements.

These information are required to pay sessions delivered by the Mental Health Nurse.

EMPHN will collate the data and de-identify them (no names attached) to generate reports that the Commonwealth Government require such as age, gender, postcode. EMPHN will also use the data to map current service delivery in order to identify areas of needs.

**Q: Will my data be safe under EMPHN?**

A: Patient information will be handled according to Commonwealth and State privacy laws and will not be shared with anyone else without your consent.

**Q: I am new to MHNIP, how do I get my partner/child/significant other referred to this program?**

A: The GP or psychiatrist of your partner/child/significant other can assess whether he/she meets the eligibility requirements for MHNIP and then complete the EMPHN Mental Health Services Referral form. Patients cannot self-refer to MHNIP.

For more information about MHNIP, please see [General information about MHNIP \(hyperlink\)](#).

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