

Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program (MHNIP)

Information for patients

From July 1, 2016 the funding for the Mental Health Nurse Incentive program (MHNIP) will be processed through Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network (EMPHN) but the services will remain the same. The following set of information is provided based on frequently asked questions.

FAQ about MHNIP

Q: What is Eastern Melbourne PHN?

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 km² 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

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: I have been seeing a Mental Health Nurse since before July 1, 2016, what will happen to my ongoing sessions with this Mental Health Nurse?

A: Your 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 my information?

A: EMPHN will need your information such as your 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 your 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: What if I refuse to have my Mental Health Nurse give out my information to EMPHN?

A: EMPHN requires this data in order to process funding for the mental health nurse program. The Mental Health Nurses that are part of this program under EMPHN are all aware that if the patient data is not available, the sessions they have and plan to deliver for the patient will not be paid.

Q: I am new to MHNIP, how do I get referred to this program?

A: Your GP or psychiatrist can assess if you meet the eligibility requirements for MHNIP and then complete the EMPHN Mental Health Services Referral form. Patients cannot self-refer to MHNIP.

EMPHN welcomes your feedback and will make all efforts to address your questions and concerns. EMPHN can be contacted by email via mhnip@emphn.org.au.