RACGP
Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

My Health Record
Practice Incentives Program eHealth Incentive (ePIP) fact sheet

What is the Practice Incentives Program eHealth Incentive (ePIP)?

The ePIP aims to encourage practices (and providers) to keep up to date with digital health and adopt new digital health technology as it becomes available.

The ePIP aims to encourage practices to:

- keep up to date with the latest developments in digital health
- adopt new digital health technology
- support providers to adopt new technologies
- improve administration processes and patient care.[1]

What are the eligibility requirements to receive the ePIP payments?

To participate in the ePIP, a practice must be accredited or registered for accreditation, against the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) *Standards for general practices*.

As of May 2016, there are five eligibility requirements:

1. Integrating Healthcare Identifiers into Electronic Practice Records
2. Secure Messaging Capability
3. Data records and clinical coding
4. Electronic transfer of prescriptions
5. My Health Record system

How much is the ePIP payment?

The size of the ePIP payment is dependent on the size of the practice and is a maximum payment of $12,500 per quarter. Practices must comply with all five eligibility criteria to continue to receive the ePIP payments.

Does eligibility for the ePIP require uploads of shared health summaries to My Health Record?

Yes.

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How do I know if my practice meets the ePIP requirements?

Use the checklist below to check that you and your practice are ready to meet the ePIP requirements.

Requirement 1: Integrating Healthcare Identifiers into Electronic Practice Records

The Health Care Identifiers Service (HI Service) enables the accurate identification of patients, healthcare providers and healthcare organisations when communication healthcare information electronically.

- has your practice applied to Australian Government Department of Human Services to obtain a Healthcare Provider Identifier–Organisation (HPI–O)?
- does your practice store the HPI–O in a compliant clinical software system?
- does each GP in the practice have their Healthcare Provider Identifier–Individual (HPI–I) stored in a compliant clinical software system?
- does your practice use a compliant clinical software system to access, retrieve and store verified Individual Healthcare Identifiers (IHI) for presenting patients?

Requirement 2: Secure Messaging Capability

Secure messaging is a core foundational capability required to enable safe, seamless, secure, and confidential information sharing across all healthcare providers.

Does your practice:

- have a standards-compliant secure messaging capability to electronically transmit and receive clinical messages to and from other healthcare providers?
- use secure messaging where feasible?
- have a written policy to encourage secure messaging use?

Requirement 3: Data Records and Clinical Coding

Clinical coding supports data collection for research, funding and healthcare planning.

Does your practice:

- demonstrate it is working towards recording the majority of diagnoses for active patients electronically?
- use a medical vocabulary that can be mapped against a nationally recognised disease classification or terminology system?
- provide a written policy on data records and clinical coding to all GPs within the practice?

Requirement 4: Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions

The Prescription Exchange Service (PES) is a storage system for ePrescriptions that have been prescribed and are waiting to be dispensed by the pharmacy. There are currently two PES systems operating in Australia – eRx Script Exchange and MediSecure.

- does your practice ensure the majority of prescriptions are sent electronically to a Prescription Exchange Service (PES)?

Requirement 5: My Health Record System

The My Health Record system is the Australian government's online collection of documents that contain information about an individual's healthcare. It allows consumers to view their own personal health information and choose what information they share with their healthcare providers. A My Health Record may contain data about medical diagnoses, medicines, immunisations, allergies, adverse reactions, diagnostic results, hospital discharge summaries and Medicare data.

Does your practice:

- use compliant software for accessing the My Health Record system?
- create and post shared health summaries?

Has your practice:

- applied to participate in the My Health Record system upon obtaining a HPI–O?
- uploaded a shared health summary for a minimum of 0.5% of the practice's standardised whole patient equivalent (SWPE) count of patients per PIP payment quarter? For a practice with five full-time equivalent GPs, this would equate to approximately 25 SHS uploads per quarter.
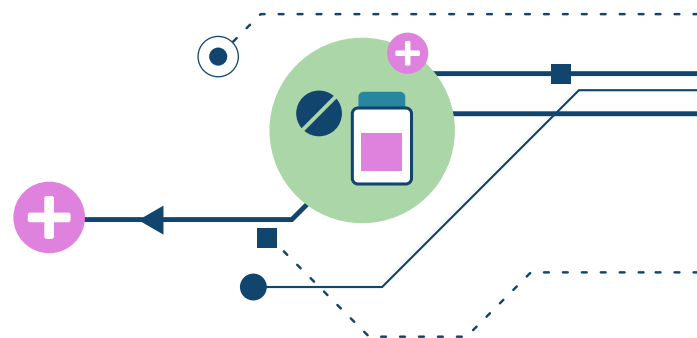
Are there any privacy concerns I should be aware of in relation to the use of the My Health Record?

General practice has a fundamental role in ensuring the privacy of patient health information. It is important general practices have up-to-date information on the current legislative framework for the management of health information.

It is important to be aware that there are significant fines for individual healthcare providers and healthcare provider organisations for inappropriate use of My Health Record:

1. Health practitioners who breach the My Health Record privacy provisions may be fined up to $108,000 for each offence.

2. Health practitioners could incur civil fines of up to $540,000 for a single breach.

3. Criminal penalties of up to two years jail may apply for privacy abuse of My Health Record.

4. Provisions in the Privacy Act 1988 may also have an impact on the use of My Health Record and include penalties of up to $360,000 for individuals or up to $1.8 million for corporations for serious or repeated breaches.

The Notifiable Data Breach (NDB) scheme requires organisations covered under the *Privacy Act 1988* to notify individuals whose personal information is involved in a data breach that is likely to result in serious harm.

This notification must include recommendations about the steps individuals should take in response to the breach. The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner must also be notified of eligible data breaches.

The *My Health Records Act 2012*, *My Health Records Rule 2016* and the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) are essential reading for practice owners and individuals responsible for the governance of their organisation.

What RACGP resources can support me?

The RACGP has developed a number of resources to support members to make an informed choice about participating in the ePIP and My Health Record at www.racgp.org.au/MyHealthRecord

References

1. Australian Government Department of Human Services. Practice Incentives Program. Canberra, ACT: DHS, 2018. Available at www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/services/medicare/practice-incentives-program