

# After Hours Incentive

After-hours payments through the PIP are intended to help resource quality general practice after-hours services, which include having formal arrangements in place for after-hours care, and ensuring that information on after hours patient care is provided to the patient's practice. For the purposes of the PIP, *after hours* refers to any time outside 8 am to 6 pm weekdays and 8 am to 12 noon on Saturday. There are three tiers to this payment which are summarised in the following table.

**Note:** To receive any after hours payments a practice must ensure its patients have access to out of hours visits (at home, in a residential aged care facility or in a hospital), where necessary and appropriate, through the arrangements outlined in the PIP application form.

Practices can qualify for any or all of these tiers:

Tiers	Activity required for payment	Annual payment per SWPE †
<b>Tier 1 -</b> Ensure coverage	<p>The practice must ensure all practice patients have access to 24-hour care including access to out of hours visits at home, in a residential or aged care facility, and in hospital, where necessary and appropriate.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Where a deputising service is used to meet this requirement, the deputising service must be accredited against the relevant Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Standards for General Practices (RACGP) and the practice must have a formal arrangement with the deputising service.</p>	\$2.00
<b>Tier 2 -</b> The practice qualifies for Tier 1 and practice GPs provide after-hours cover as specified.	<p>The practice must meet the Tier 1 requirements and provide practice patients with after hours coverage as follows:</p> <p><b>Practices with 2,000 Standardised Whole Patient Equivalents (SWPEs) or less</b> The practice general practitioners (GPs) must provide at least 10 hours per week (10hrs per practice) of after hours cover (on average) to practice patients.</p> <p><b>Practices with more than 2,000 SWPEs</b> The practice GPs must provide at least 15 hours per week (15 hrs per practice) of the after hours cover (on average) to practice patients.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> The participation in a roster system with other GPs can count towards the requirement of Tier 2 providing the practice's patients have access to the after-hours services. This includes the hours the GPs are available to provide after-hours cover as well as hours actually worked e.g. through cooperative arrangements.</p>	\$2.00
<b>Tier 3 -</b> Provide all coverage	<p>The practice GPs provide after hours cover to practice patients 24 hours, seven days a week.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> For Tier 3 all after hours cover must be provided by practice GPs. The use of deputising services or any other cooperative arrangement utilising doctors not registered with the practice will not count towards this Tier.</p>	\$2.00

†The average FTE (Full Time Equivalent) GP sees 1,000 Standardised Whole Patient Equivalents (SWPE) annually

Practices receiving a Tier 2 payment also receive a payment under Tier 1. Further, practices receiving a Tier 3 payment will also receive payments under Tier 1 and Tier 2.

Practices with 2,000 SWPEs or less that have not registered a claim for Tier 2 based on the 10 hour requirement with Medicare Australia must continue to provide the standard 15 hours of after hours cover to practice patients, to be eligible for the After Hours Tier 2 payment. Practices eligible for Tier 2 After Hours Incentive based on providing 10 hours of practice cover must register this claim with Medicare Australia through the practice's authorised PIP contact person via the PIP Enquiry Line **1800 222 032**.

For further information telephone the Medicare Provider enquiry line on **132 150** or speak with your Practice Support Officer **9663 5958**.