

Aged Care Access Incentive (ACAI)

The Practice Incentives Program (PIP) General Practitioner (GP) Aged Care Access Incentive (ACAI) aims to encourage GPs to provide increased and continuing services in Commonwealth-funded Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs) and recognises some of the difficulties faced in providing care in these facilities.

The PIP GP ACAI payments are based on a GP providing the required number of eligible Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) services in RACFs in a financial year.

To be eligible for the PIP GP ACAI payments, the GP must:

- work from a PIP practice
- ensure that eligible MBS services are provided to residents in RACFs
- reach the Qualifying Service Levels (QSLs) by providing the required number of MBS services in RACFs in a financial year
- use a Medicare provider number that is linked to a PIP practice when claiming MBS services in RACFs.

From 1 July 2010, GPs can receive up to \$5000 in incentives per financial year, using a two tier model featuring QSLs. To receive the:

- Tier 1 payment of \$1500, GPs must reach the QSL 1 by providing at least 60 eligible MBS services in RACFs in a financial year.
- Tier 2 payment of \$3500, GPs must reach the QSL 2 by providing at least 140 eligible MBS services in RACFs in a financial year.

Service Incentive Payments (SIPs) are automatically paid by Medicare Australia to eligible GPs who reach the QSLs. GPs reach the QSLs by providing the required number of eligible MBS services in RACFs. Only MBS services provided using a provider number linked to a PIP practice will be counted towards the QSLs for the PIP GP ACAI.

Eligible MBS services are those provided in RACFs and Multipurpose Services. Multipurpose Services are integrated health and aged care services that provide flexible and sustainable service options for small rural and remote communities.

The MBS items that count towards the QSLs are listed below:

20, 35, 43, 51, 92, 93, 95, 96, 731, 903, 5010, 5028, 5049, 5067, 5260, 5263, 5265, or 5267 from groups A1, A2, A15, A17, A22 or A23.

The incentive payments are in addition to the normal Medicare rebates. Incentive payments are calculated by Medicare Australia based on the number of relevant MBS items claimed in one financial year.

For further information on the use and billing of MBS attendance items, telephone the Medicare Provider enquiry line on **132 150** or speak with your Practice Support Officer **9663 5958**.

