



Australian Government

Department of Health

Practice Incentives Program Quality Improvement Incentive Fact Sheet

Exemption Update - August 2020

This fact sheet provides information for practices who currently hold a PIP QI Exemption. If your practice does not hold a PIP QI Exemption and you are satisfied with the current data sharing arrangements you have in place with your PHN no further action is required.

PIP QI Incentive exemption

The Practice Incentives Program (PIP) Quality Improvement (QI) Incentive exemption provided an exemption period from the requirement for practices to submit the PIP Eligible Data Set to their PHN due to either:

1. The practice's clinical information system (CIS) being incompatible with their PHNs chosen data extraction tool; or
2. The practice choosing not to use their PHNs data extraction method.

General practices granted with an exemption were required to continue to comply with all other general PIP and PIP QI eligibility requirements.

As per the conditions of the exemption, general practices were to work with their CIS vendor to develop a solution to enable submission of data to your PHN.

When does the PIP QI exemption period end?

The PIP QI exemption period expired on 31 July 2020. Following the expiry of the exemption, to be eligible for a PIP QI Incentive payment participating practices must submit the first quarter dataset to their PHN by 15 October 2020.

Have solutions been developed that will allow our practice to submit data?

PEN Computer Systems, Polar and CIS vendors have been working collaboratively to develop solutions to enable practices to submit the PIP Eligible Dataset to their PHN. In some instances previously incompatible software is now compatible and practices can now share data with their PHN.

For practices using a CIS that remains incompatible or have chosen not to use their PHNs data extractor, a solution has been developed to assist CIS vendors to extract the PIP Eligible Dataset. The extracted file will then be submitted by the practice to their PHN.

Please note: only a file extracted by a CIS that conforms to the PIP QI Technical Specifications will be accepted by the PHN.

What about shared databases?

CIS vendors, PEN Computer Systems and Polar are continuing to work collaboratively with the Department of Health to explore solutions for practices using shared databases. Further information will be provided to these practices in due course.

What do practices need to do?

If not already done so please contact:

- Your CIS vendor to advise that you are currently on a PIP QI exemption and are seeking to implement a solution to enable your practice to submit the PIP Eligible Dataset to your PHN. Your CIS vendor will work with you to implement the required solution.
- Your PIP QI contact person at your PHN to ensure you have a valid data sharing agreement in place prior to submission of data.
- Advise the Department if your practice is using a shared database with other practices either within your local PHN area or across PHNs via PIPQIexemptions@health.gov.au

- Advise the Department by 30 September 2020 via PIPQIexemptions@health.gov.au if you anticipate not being able to provide data to your PHN prior to 15 October 2020. We will then work with you on an alternate solution.

What is the PIP Eligible Data Set?

The PIP Eligible Data Set is the data that general practices provide to their local PHN for the purposes of the PIP QI Incentive. The PIP Eligible Data Set is de-identified patient data that can be analysed by the demographic and clinical factors specified in the [PIP Eligible Data Set Data Governance Framework](#).

It is comprised of only those fields required to:

- Calculate the PIP QI ten improvement measures; and
- Conduct approved analysis (such as sex and age) in accordance with the PIP Eligible Data Set Data Governance Framework (see Principle 4).

[A PIP QI User Guide](#) has been published to provide more information on what kind of data is being collected and the purpose of the data.

Detailed specifications on data requirements will be provided to CIS vendors and made available on the Department's website.

Do I need to sign a data sharing agreement?

Yes. Your local PHN will ask you to enter into a data sharing agreement with the PHN. The data sharing agreement documents the method you are choosing to submit data.

You may want to obtain independent legal advice before signing this agreement. Your general practice principle or owner should ensure the most appropriate person signs the data sharing agreement.

Require more information?

If you have further questions or concerns regarding the PIP QI Incentive exemption please contact us via PIPQIExemptions@health.gov.au.

Your **local PHN** can also answer questions about PIP QI such as submitting data to your PHN.

If you have questions about extracting data from your CIS or about the solution being developed please contact your CIS vendor.