

Support for Practice Nursing and Use of MBS item Numbers



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Introduction

- ⌘ My purpose is to outline recent and current developments in Government support for practice nursing
- ⌘ My role in the Department is to manage the Practice Incentives Program.

Topics of Discussion

- ⌘ practice nurses are an important part of the primary care team.
- ⌘ Significant funding provided to facilitate this through:
 - ☐ Practice Incentives, Medicare Items, Nursing scholarships and support structures including Divisions of General Practice.
- ⌘ Red tape review of PIP and EPC.

Nursing in General Practice



- ⌘ 44% of the health workforce
- ⌘ vital part of the strategy to strengthen primary care
- ⌘ able to work in multidisciplinary teams
- ⌘ offer special skills in communication and education
- ⌘ widespread consumer acceptance of nursing in general practice

Nursing in General Practice



- ⌘ GPs and patients benefit from nurse role
- ⌘ Nurses support a wide range of services
 - ☑ coordination of patient services
 - ☑ managing the clinical environment
 - ☑ health promotion and education
 - ☑ immunization
- ⌘ key role in recall and chronic disease management

2001 Budget Initiative



⌘ Provided \$104.3m over four years

- ☑ incentives to rural practices to employ nurses (\$86m)

- ☑ training and professional support funding (\$12.5m)

 - ☑ Demonstration Divisions project

 - ☑ MDGP recruitment and induction kit

- ☑ re-entry scholarships

Strengthening Medicare

- ⌘ \$140m over four years in new PIP grants and Medicare items.

- ⌘ PIP grants targeted to urban areas of workforce shortage.

 - ☑ Will benefit 800 practices and support around 457 nurses.

- ⌘ MBS items for immunization and wound management.

 - ☑ The MBS items recognize practice nurses more directly

MBS items - Immunisation and wound management



- ⌘ Item 10993 - Immunisation
- ⌘ Item 10996 - Wound management
- ⌘ Claimed by a GP where service is provided by a PN on behalf of the GP
- ⌘ GP retains responsibility for outcomes
- ⌘ PN must be appropriately qualified and comply with state or territory legislation
- ⌘ commenced 1 February 2004

Item 10993 - Immunisation



- ⌘ GP to decide whether or not to see patient prior to immunisation being administered by PN
- ⌘ GP does not need to be present at time of immunisation
- ⌘ Where the patient sees the GP and then the PN - the GP may claim for both professional services
- ⌘ GP still receives GPII and ACIR payments

Item 10996 - Wound Management



- ⌘ May be claimed when wound management provided by PN on behalf of GP
 - ☑ provided in any location except where the patient admitted to a hospital or day-hospital facility
 - ☑ is for treatment of any wound except normal post-operative care
- ⌘ GP conducts initial assessment
- ⌘ GP does not need to be present at time of

Red Tape Review of PIP and EPC

- ⌘ Government response, 12 July 2004
- ⌘ simplification of PIP including:
 - ☐ easier process to join the PIP
 - ☐ update IM/IT and after hours incentives
- ⌘ changes to EPC to include new chronic disease management (CDM) items
- ⌘ further review to consider longer term changes to PIP and EPC
- ⌘ discussion paper available on the website

New Chronic Disease Management Items



⌘ two levels of CDM items

☒ GP-managed care planning for patients with chronic medical conditions

☒ multidisciplinary team-based care planning for patients with chronic medical conditions and complex needs

⌘ detailed content of CDM items being developed in consultation with the general practice profession and other stakeholders

New Chronic Disease Management Items



- ⌘ provision for nurses to assist doctors with some CDM components
 - ☐ aspects of patient assessment,
 - ☐ identification of patient needs,
 - ☐ making arrangements for care
- ⌘ to be introduced in November 2004

Summary

- ⌘ Provision of almost \$250m in funding to support nurses in general practice
- ⌘ Role of practice nurses still evolving
- ⌘ Vital to strengthening primary care
- ⌘ Key role in recall and chronic disease management