



National Prescribing Service Limited

**Quality Prescribing Initiative (QPI) Activities  
1 May 2005 – 30 April 2006**

The Quality Prescribing Initiative (QPI) as part of the Practice Incentives Program (PIP) rewards general practices that participate in a range of quality use of medicines activities provided by the NPS. The recognised activities for the new QPI-PIP period 1 May 2005–30 April 2006 are listed below.

**How many NPS activities does the practice need to complete to qualify for the annual QPI-PIP payment?**

- At least 3 activities per full time equivalent (FTE) GP per PIP year.
- At least one of the 3 activities must be a clinical audit.
- Other activities can be one-to-one educational visit and/or completion of an NPS case study (individual) and/or participation in small group (3-8 GPs) NPS case study meeting.

The number of activities your practice needs to complete for the new QPI-PIP period will be shown on the PIP payment statement from the HIC (enquiry line 1 800 222 032).

**What this means for the practice:**

An annual payment of \$1 per Standardised Whole Patient Equivalent will be made to registered practices (i.e. annual payment of approximately \$1000 per FTE GP) that complete the required number of QPI activities recognised by the NPS – see overleaf for an example.

Other benefits of the NPS activities include eligibility for RACGP QA&CPD points, therapeutic support and access to popular summary resources. *Please note that the activities are available to GPs independently of the QPI-PIP incentive.*

**NPS Activities and availability:** Our trained NPS Facilitator, Dr Alicja Najbar-Kaszkiel will be able to provide one-to-one educational visits and/or small group case study discussions on NPS therapeutic topics. For further information about the NPS program please contact Alicja on tel 9570 3727 or email [alicjan@monashdivision.com.au](mailto:alicjan@monashdivision.com.au)

NPS Activity	Availability
<b>Case studies</b>	Distributed in most editions of NPS News with Australian Prescriber– published quarterly
<b>Educational visits and small group case study meetings</b>	Topics: Antithrombotics - March – July 2005  Reducing risk in type 2 diabetes – Sept 2005-April 2006
<b>Clinical audits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drug use in type 2 diabetes</li> <li>• Antibiotic use in urinary tract infections</li> <li>• Optimising Drug use in ischaemic heart disease'</li> </ul>	May 2005 (due 8 July 2005)  July 2005 (due 9 September)  September 2005 ( <b>due 4 Nov 2005</b> )
<b>Other clinical audits (non-NPS)</b>	Check with the audit provider whether the audit qualifies for the QPI of the PIP, or contact Alicja. Note, some of the non-NPS audits may incur a cost.

## Example of activities & potential payment

Each practice needs to complete at least 3 activities per full time equivalent (FTE) GP per PIP year, and at least one of the 3 activities must be a clinical audit.

### Eg. For a practice with 2 FTE GPs:

Number of activities to be completed = 6, including 2 clinical audits

2 clinical audits: 3-4 hr/audit = 8 hr

2 visits: 30 min/visit = 1 hr

2 case studies: 30 min each = 60 min

Total = 10 hr

Potential PIP (QPI) = \$2000 ie.  $\$200 / \text{hr} = \$333 / \text{activity}$

**It is up to the practice to decide which doctor(s) complete the activities, so long as the practice as a whole completes the required number of activities.**

## Tips to ensure your practice qualifies for the annual QPI-PIP payment

1. For the activities your practice must complete, check the PIP Payment Statement or, phone the HIC on 1800 222 032.
  - o **HIC uses the November** PIP statement in each cycle to determine the practice's final number of activities required, so practices should use previous statement as a guide to the number of activities required, and must recheck the final numbers upon receipt of the November 2005 statement. Occasionally, the final number of activities required by the practice may differ from previous statements/years.
  - o If the practice has not completed the required number of clinical audits stated on the November 2005 statement, other NPS-approved clinical audits (provided by other organizations) may still be completed *before 30 April 2006*, but some of these may incur a cost.
2. For the activities completed by the practice, check the NPS Activity Statements received by participating GPs, or phone Nicole Edwards at the NPS Head Office on **02 8217 8700**.
3. **If further activities are required**, contact the Division's NPS Facilitator Dr Alicja Najbar-Kaszkiel on phone 9570 3727 or email [alician@monashdivision.com.au](mailto:alician@monashdivision.com.au)

### **Additional TIPS to assist the practice plan the NPS activities**

1. The non-clinical audit activities (ie educational visits and case studies) involve minimal completion time:
  - o 25-30 min individual practice visits or 60 min group (3-8 GPs) case study meetings
  - o NPS case studies from NPS News (distributed in Australian Prescriber) take ~30 min to complete
2. The completion time for a clinical audit is approximately 3-5 hours per audit (depending on the topic):

***Practices are advised to participate in the clinical audit as early in the PIP cycle as possible, and to monitor the progress of GPs completing the full audit cycle.***