



Changes to Asthma Service Incentive Payment

From 1 November 2006 the Asthma Cycle of Care replaced the Asthma 3+ Visit Plan MBS items. The changes have been introduced in response to feedback provided by respiratory physicians, GPs and consumers on how the Asthma 3+ Visit Plan could be improved in the general practice setting.

The Asthma Cycle of Care involves at least 2 visits to a GP over a period of 12 months. These visits will include:

- Diagnosis of asthma severity and level of control
- Development of a written asthma action plan
- Provision of information and patient self-management education
- Review of asthma management and asthma action plan.

What has changed?

Compared to the Asthma 3+ Visit Plan:

- The Asthma Cycle of Care can be delivered over 12 months instead of 4 months
- The Asthma Cycle of Care can be delivered in 2 visits instead of 3
- The Service Incentive Payment (SIP) can be claimed on the second visit provided the requirements of the Asthma Cycle of Care have been completed.

The same asthma-specific MBS items (2546 – 2559, 2664 – 2667) are used to trigger the asthma SIP. The Asthma Cycle of Care is for patients with moderate to severe asthma whose asthma management could be improved in the opinion of the doctor. The Asthma Cycle of Care will only be payable once per year for eligible patients unless clinically indicated by exceptional circumstances.

An Asthma Cycle of Care resource kit which includes resources for GPs and consumers will be mailed out to all GPs by the Department of Health and Ageing, but is not yet available. More detailed information on this incentive is available from the PIP enquiry line on 1800 222 032 or and in the Medicare Benefits Schedule Book, 1 November 2006 Edition (pages 68-69). Or contact Mary Saunders at the Division for assistance.