

Primary Care Workforce: Role of Practice Nurses & Related Incentives

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Growth & Development of the Role

- Changing healthcare needs of consumers
- Shortage of GPs, increasing GP workloads
- Policy changes
- Div 1, Div 2 and specialist nurses



Health Assessment Items: Practice Nurse Role

- Explaining the item or components of the item and any fees, obtaining patient consent
- Information collection, including taking or reviewing medical history
- •Investigations for which the PN/AHW is qualified

GPMPs, TCAs, Case Conferences, GP MH Plans Practice Nurse role

- Gathering and documenting relevant information for the GP, contacting other providers, making arrangements for services, managing appointments system
- Provision of monitoring and support for people with a chronic disease, on behalf of a GP #10997

Practice Nurse MBS Item Numbers

- **10993 – Immunisation**
- **10994 – Pap Smear & Health Check**
- **10996 – Wound treatment**
- **10997 – CDM by PN or AHW**
- **10998 – Pap Rural**
- **10998 – Pap Smear**

Prevention items

- 45-49 Health Check #717
- Diabetes risk review #713

- Identification of suitable patients, gathering data etc
- Patient education, LifeScripts etc

Future

- Somewhere between one to five practice nurses to each GP
- Range of roles – career structure
- Key player in systematic structured care for better chronic disease management
- Practices with team structures and systems

Resources

- Medicare Information

<http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/pubs/program/medicare.jsp>

<http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs>

- DHS resources

http://www.health.vic.gov.au/communityhealth/gps/mbs_gp/index.htm

AGPN

<http://www.generalpracticenursing.com.au/site/index.cfm>

GPV

<http://www.gpv.org.au/content.asp?cid=12,25&t=Nursing%20in%20General%20Practice>

- Your local division of general practice

http://www.agpn.com.au/site/index.cfm?module=DIVISION&state_code=VIC