



Message to Practice Managers
Changes to HIC and Broadband for Health:
How to meet your security conformance requirements

HIC has changed its frequency of payment of all existing claims by deciding to pay one lump sum instead of quarterly payments. This means that existing 04/05 claims should be paid out over the next month. New claims will be paid as lump sums directly to your practice's bank account within 6 weeks of lodging a claim. Renewals of existing 04/05 claims can be done now or before your existing claim expires. We recommend you do this now or at least 2 months before this date. The renewals are also going to be paid within 6 weeks of lodging the claim.

The Federal Broadband for Health Initiative has provided over 35% of GPs in Australia with a subsidised Broadband Internet connection. **This figure in South Australia is higher at 49%.** We are aiming to increase this figure over the second year to deliver the real benefits to more GPs. The new subsidy is based on RRMA classification and starts at \$2065 worth of services provided by your QSP (Approved Internet Service Provider). Discuss this with your QSP to see how to maximise your subsidy. The subsidy level reduces each quarter by approximately 5%.

Broadband for Health claims or renewals lodged in the 05/06 financial year now need a **security conformance report** in which you need to identify the current status of your practice IT security and show that you are aware of what can be done to improve your security. We recommend you seek advice from an Information Communication Technology (ICT) professional to do this.

Security conformance options on the claim form:

- A. **Standard Option** \$1000 paid to your practice bank account. By signing the security conformance report, you agree to commit the \$1000 towards improving practice IT security.
- B. **SA State Option (HealthConnect Additional Service Package)** If practices tick this box they will get a Security Package worth \$1500 (\$1000 Federal funded and an additional \$500 from SA HealthConnect). This is the equivalent of what has been provided to more than 110 GPs in South Australia over the last year. It consists of a high end Cisco Router, protective software and Divisional ICT support and has been very well received by the GPs so far. The work has been performed by qualified ICT Officers employed by the Divisions. Where Divisions do not have ICT support, for example in some parts of rural SA, the HealthConnect Office will provide training to rural Divisions and the local IT providers currently supporting general practices, to ensure this security work is done to a high standard.

SADI recommends you select the SA State Option on the claim form.

This will help build a more secure network enabling GPs to communicate in a more secure environment assisting in the delivery of quality medical care. By choosing to participate in the HealthConnect/SADI initiative, you will have access to Internet support and advice within your Division area; appropriate tools to improve Internet security and access to secure broadband equipment purchased at volume rate.

SADI and the new State HealthConnect team will be sending you, via your local Division, an information pack, containing information and claim forms in the next 4-6 weeks to help you with this initiative. For more information contact either your Division or Mark Evans at SADI on 08 82718988 or email mark.evans@sadi.org.au