

Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program (MHNIP)

Information for referrers

Since July 1, 2016 the funding for the Mental Health Nurse Incentive program (MHNIP) has been processed through Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network (EMPHN) but the services will remain the same. The following information is provided based on frequently asked questions.

FAQ about MHNIP

Q: What is Eastern Melbourne PHN?

A: Eastern Melbourne PHN (EMPHN) is an organisation established by the Commonwealth Government to ensure federally-funded services are delivered in a way that is appropriate to local areas. The PHNs were established to manage federally-funded programs and services at a local level, rather than from Canberra. The goals of EMPHN are to ensure services are delivered fairly and effectively across our area.

EMPHN is funded by the Commonwealth Government and covers an area of 3,956 km² of about twelve local government areas in Victoria, comprising a population of over 1.4 million people.

For more information about EMPHN, please go to: www.emphn.org.au

Q: What are the changes to MHNIP in the EMPHN catchment in 2016-2017?

A: Continuity of service provision for current MHNIP patients is a priority during this transition with EMPHN seeking to ensure that proposed changes do not result in service disruption. Data will be required in order for the EMPHN to: record the required minimum data-set report; map current service delivery; and identify the needs of clients currently engaged in the program. This will include patient data, program eligibility requirements and HONOS scores. All reports will be de-identified.

As per the Commonwealth Government's advice, current MHNIP eligible organisations (EOs) will be quarantined in order to minimise disruption to service delivery for the 2016/17 financial year.

Q: I have patients currently seen by a Mental Health Nurse in my practice, what will happen to them after 1 July 2016 under EMPHN?

A: GPs or psychiatrists where a Mental Health Nurse is attached to their practice and is part of the MHNIP can continue to collaborate with the Mental Health Nurse support their patients' recovery.

For new referrals, GPs or psychiatrists will need to complete the EMPHN Mental Health Services Referral form and they can indicate that they want this referral to go the Mental Health Nurse in your practice. The referral form is sent by secure fax (the GP or psychiatrist's practice support staff can assist) to the EMPHN Intake team via F: 8677 9510. The Mental Health Nurse in the practice will be informed about this new referral.

Referrals can be directly allocated to the mental health nurse specified in the referral.

Q: Can the Mental health nurse attached to my practice immediately start seeing the patient I referred even if I haven't yet completed the EMPHN Mental Health Services Referral Form?

A: EMPHN recognises the unique relationships between GPs and the Mental Health Nurses they work with. For this reason, a mental health nurse may commence to work with a patient in accordance with their current practice procedures and sending the completed referral form to EMPHN will simply confirm the GP's decision in retrospect.

Q: If don't have a Mental Health Nurse in my practice, how do I refer my patients who meet the eligibility criteria for the program?

A: GPs or psychiatrists wanting to refer MHNIP eligible patients to any of the available mental health nurses in the EMPHN catchment will need to complete the EMPHN Mental Health Services Referral Form and send this to a secure fax (Fax No. 8677 9510). The EMPHN Intake team may contact the referring GP or psychiatrist if more information is required to assist in finding a suitable Mental Health Nurse.

Q: What is in the EMPHN Mental Health Services Referral Form?

A: The referral form will include information to ensure the referral is within the MHNIP guidelines, and EMPHN Intake staff will have certain ‘flags’ for referrals which will trigger EMPHN triage review. For example, a person with mild anxiety who is referred to one of the mental health nurses will be deemed not eligible based on the MHNIP guidelines which specifies that this program is for patients with serious mental illness and at risk of hospitalisation. As an alternative, the EMPHN intake team may suggest referral to ATAPS.

It is important that the EMPHN Mental Health Referral Form is completed in full. Only critical information is requested and a form that is not complete will require intake staff to ring a GP or psychiatrist to confirm details before a patient can be logged onto the EMPHN system. Payment to the EOs employing or contracting the Mental Health Nurses will not be processed if patients are not logged onto the EMPHN system.

Q: Where can I find the EMPHN Mental Health Services Referral Form?

A: The EMPHN Mental Health Services Referral Form is available here (hyperlink).

Q: Where can I find the MHNIP Guidelines?

The latest version of the [MHNIP Guidelines \(April 2016\) is available here.](#)