



Fact Sheet for Practices: Health Care Homes is finishing on 30 June 2021

May 2021

The information in this fact sheet is provided to assist practices and patients to conclude participation in the Health Care Homes Program.

Program ending

The Health Care Homes (HCH) trial program will conclude on 30 June 2021.

What does this mean for practices and ACCHS?

From 1 July 2021, the support provided to practices under HCH will end, including the HCH bundled payments, support for Shared Care Planning software and dedicated support from your local PHN practice facilitators.

Continuity of care and access to services

The Government recognises the importance of continuity of care for all patients. From 1 July 2021, patients involved in the trial can continue to receive care for their chronic condition/s under the normal Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) arrangements through their current practice or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS). This includes access to MBS Chronic Disease Management and Telehealth items, as well as continuing access to allied health services through General Practitioner (GP) Management Plans and Team Care Arrangements (TCA).

What does my practice/ACCHS need to do?

Practices should advise their enrolled patients that the HCH trial program is ending and discuss what this will mean for the care of their chronic and complex conditions, including options for them to continue to access coordinated, team-based care through a Shared Care Plan. A Fact Sheet for patients has been developed that you may wish to provide to your patients to assist with communicating these important changes to them.

The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document also includes further detail on the administrative activities your practice will be required to complete following the cessation of the program.

Shared Care Plans

Many practices and patients have seen the benefit of a coordinated approach to providing chronic disease management, including through the use of Shared Care Plans. Participating practices and ACCHS that wish to continue using Shared Care Planning tools once the program has ceased should contact their software provider or local PHN for more information on how to do this.

Community Pharmacy in Health Care Homes

The Community Pharmacy in HCH trial program will also cease on 30 June 2021. Patients should talk to their preferred pharmacy about continuing to access services to help them manage their medication management services once the program ceases.

How will the HCH program contribute to future reforms?

The HCH program has provided valuable learnings that will inform the government's current ongoing primary care reform.

A key feature of the model is the team-based, patient-centred approach, which will continue to be at the forefront of the Government's primary health care system.

The Program also provided an important trial of an innovative funding approach for primary health care for patients with chronic or complex conditions.

The Government will draw on the lessons learnt from the Health Care Homes trial to inform and guide implementation of the Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan.

Where can I find further information?

- The FAQs provide further detail on what the cessation of the HCH program means for practices, ACCHS and patients. These resources will be available on the Department's Health Care Homes website at <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-care-homes-professional>.
- Your local PHN is available to support you with transition activities.
- The Department is also available to answer any questions you may have. Please email your enquiries to healthcarehomes@health.gov.au.