

GP who goes through a full informed decision with a person who refuses immunisations for their child has done a good bit of work for the immunisation cause. An informed refusal has to be respected as a legitimate outcome. However, this child is not removed from the denominator used to calculate that GPs immunisation coverage and consequent PIP payments.

In the Northern Rivers Division of General Practice (NSW), we have about 5% conscientious objectors (not evenly distributed throughout the division). Some GPs will never get any PIP payment for immunisation even though they may be working quite hard for it and have 100% coverage of the non-objectors. This is iniquitous.

As a minimum, objectors should be removed from the denominator used to calculate a GPs coverage and PIP performance.

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