

NHS Superannuation Scheme (Scotland)
Superannuation (Health Service) Circular No 2009/10

GP Practices

GP Practice Section (NHS Group
1)
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www.sppa.gov.uk

Your ref:

Dear Sir/Madam

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE SUPERANNUATION SCHEME (SCOTLAND)
ANNUAL RETURNS FOR 2008/2009

1. Background

In order that the superannuation records of individual members of the scheme can be updated, GP Practices and Direction Bodies are asked to provide information about all staff in pensionable employment for the year ending 31 March 2009. Annual Returns (NSR03) and Summaries of Contributions Received must be submitted and marked for the attention of: - NHS Group 1 (GP Practices Section), 7 Tweedside Park, Tweedbank, Galashiels, Selkirkshire, TD1 3TE, no later than 31 May 2009. Please note that the Annual Returns and Summaries of Contributions received are dealt with by two separate business areas of SPPA, namely Operations branch and Finance branch. Therefore it is imperative that both sets of forms are completed for your Practice staff and sent in to us jointly to complete this exercise.

2. Completion of Annual Return Forms (NSR03)

When submitting information to the Agency, Practices must ensure they use their Practice identifier number. Direction Bodies should use their individual identifier number which is prefixed by the letters KD. The Employer's Pay Reference Number field on NSR forms must be completed with the identifier number, followed by a 5 digit reference. E.g.:

GP Practices - CP00012 The remaining 8 boxes must be entered as zeros.
Direction Bodies - KD00013

It is imperative that the NSR03 Forms are completed fully. An in-depth guide to completion of NSR forms can be accessed at: http://www.sppa.gov.uk/nhs/staff_gmdp.htm

Failure to submit correct information will result in forms being returned for re-completion.

Any enquiries about the provision of Annual Return information should be made by telephoning 01896 893000 or emailing nhspen2@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

3. Summary of Contributions Received

The 'Summary of Contributions Received' form is available on our website at <http://www.sppa.gov.uk/nhs/forms.htm#forms1>, approximately halfway down the page under the heading "Employer Forms" which has been designed for use by Practice Managers. Please complete this form for employees of the Practice in scheme membership at 31st March 2009 and also for those who left between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009. The totals in each of the contributions columns should reconcile with the total contributions sent to the Agency during the year. If not, you should investigate why and amend as necessary before returning the Summary and the Annual Return information to the Agency at the above address. If you have any enquiries regarding the completion of this Summary, please contact the Finance Team on 01896 893257.

4. NSR 03 and Summary of Contributions Received for Ferguson Payroll Users

For Practices that use Ferguson Payroll, a new option has been created; details of this can be found in "A Guide to Payroll Year End 2008/2009"

If the Practice is submitting data to the Agency by e-mail:

Subject: - "Identifier Number (AP00031)" Returns 2008/2009
E-mail Content: - Practice name and address
Contact name and number
Practice e-mail address

All forms being submitted by e-mail **must** be sent to nhspen2@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

If the Practice is submitting data to the Agency on floppy disk, it must be marked with your Practice Reference Number e.g. AP00031 and year 2008/2009

A covering letter should be sent detailing:

Practice Reference Number e.g. AP00031
Practices name and address
Contact name and number
Practice e-mail address

5. Sending forms by E-mail (non Ferguson Payroll Users)

Please save each form in the following format before sending it to nhspen2@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

[Your GP ID] [Member's name] [08] for Annual Return e.g. AP00031 FRASER 09

The e-mail subject line should be: - "Identifier Number" (e.g. AP00031)
Annual Returns 2008/2009

The e-mail content should include: - Practice name and address
Contact name and number
Practice e-mail address

6. General points relating to Annual Returns

The employee's pensionable pay reported on the Annual Return is used in the production of annual benefit statements and estimates of benefit entitlement. The benefits quoted will be overstated if the pensionable pay reported includes arrears for an earlier financial year. To prevent this, written confirmation of the amount of arrears of pay for the appropriate financial year should be made at the time the arrears are paid. If this has not been done for an employee during the year, the information must be provided with the Annual Return (NSR03).

The service reported must not exceed the calendar period between the start and stop dates of the employment. 365 days will be treated as one year including 29 February in a leap year.

The Annual Return for employees who have not received any pensionable pay during the year should have "zeros" inserted for both pay and service. Service cannot accrue if nil pay is reported.

State Scheme Earnings (the amount earned on which National Insurance Contributions were paid) should be reported for all scheme members (expressed in whole £s).

Tiered Employee Contribution Rates for 2008/09 Annual Return Exercise

The below table details the contribution rates for the 2008/09 Annual Returns. The tier a member falls into is based on their whole time equivalent pensionable pay from last year.

Tiered Contribution Rates (2007/08 pay rates)

Tier	Annual Pensionable Pay (Full time equivalent)	Current Contribution	New Contribution 2008/09
1	Up to £19,682	5% (manuals) 6%	5% 5%
2	£19,683 -£65,002	5% (manuals) 6%	5% (manuals) 6.5%
3	£65,003- £102,499	6%	7.5%
4	£102,500 plus	6%	8.5%

The link below details the contribution rates for the 2009/10.
<http://www.sppa.gov.uk/nhs/documents/200908NewTiers.pdf>

7. Reduced Rates of Pensionable Pay

It must be ensured that the correct information is held on member's records and the correct pensionable pay is used in the calculation of benefits. Therefore, Payrolls and GP Practice Managers are asked to review their current procedures when recording reduced rates of pensionable pay, as well as members ceasing to pay contributions after a period of Reduced Rate of Pay, as follows:

In most cases of maternity or sick leave, full pay is followed by a period of reduced pay, then possibly nil pay, before the member returns to work.

If the members Reduced Sick Rate of pay ends, and they continue to be employed on nil pay, then NSR 02 (leaver) should be sent to the Agency with Code 20 as reason for leaving and Item 23 showing the last day of superannuable employment.

An NSR 01 (starter) form should be completed and sent to the Agency for any period after the last day of employment for which the person receives pensionable pay (as should be recorded in the leaver form) - e.g., if annual leave takes place after the actual last day of working but before the actual date of termination of the contract, this is treated for superannuation purposes as part of reckonable service and contributions should be collected.

Where an employee contributes on reduced pensionable pay during sick leave, the employer's contributions should be paid as if there was no reduction. (It is the unreduced pensionable pay on which the employer's contributions are paid that requires to be taken into consideration when assessing the best pensionable pay during the past three years).

8. Practitioner Status

As Practitioners often have periods of Officer status it may be useful to provide additional information within this circular regarding Practitioner status

Membership of the NHS Superannuation Scheme (NHSSS) (Scotland) is open to NHS (Medical, Dental and Ophthalmic) Practitioners who are registered with their relevant Local Health Board. 'Practitioner' for this purpose means the following groups of people -

Principal Practitioners – GMS Principal GPs, Section 17C (PMS) GPs, Principal Dental Practitioners, Ophthalmic NHS Practitioners.

Assistant Practitioners – GMS salaried GPs, Section 17C (PMS) salaried GPs, GP retainers, GPs on Flexible Career Scheme, Associate GPs, GP's who are Out of Hours Providers (OOHP) and NHS Dental Trainees.

GP Locums – Freelance GP Locums and existing GP scheme members who undertake GP locum work.

GP Registrars (Previously Trainee Assistant Practitioners) are afforded Officer status in the NHS Superannuation Scheme (Scotland).

It is important to note that the responsibility for reporting details of the employment of Assistant Practitioners rests with the General Practice in which the Assistant is employed.

9. Group Codes

Group Codes on related Agency NSR forms and Annual Returns information require to be recorded correctly to differentiate between the various types of employment.


The following group codes should be used:-

Medical Assistant Practitioner/GP Locums	Group Code	16
Practice Staff / Officer/ Admin	Group Code	01
Practice Staff/ Manual	Group Code	02
Practice Staff / Nurse	Group Code	06

As all Practitioners are considered as 'whole time', Service Type **03** should be used.

For any enquiries about Practitioners please contact nhspen3@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 01896 893 130.

Yours faithfully



Ian Clapperton
Director of Operations