

NHS Superannuation Scheme (Scotland) Circular 13/2008

GP Practices

NHS National Services Scotland Practitioner Division and Dental Payments

NHS Trade Unions and Staff Associations

NHS and other participating employers

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Your ref:
Our ref: Circular 13/2008

13 August 2008

Dear Sirs

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE SUPERANNUATION SCHEME (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1995 PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES TO SPPA

The purpose of this circular is to advise employers that from 1 October 2008, Atos Healthcare will provide medical advisory services to SPPA.

Atos Healthcare has considerable experience in providing medical advice on ill-health retirements and injury benefits to schemes in the public sector and currently provides a service to NHS and Teachers' Pensions in England and Wales. As such they are already familiar with changes to the schemes including administering a two tier ill health system.

As greater emphasis will be placed on the member/employer to ensure that the evidence clearly justifies ill-health retirement, Atos Healthcare will administer these desk based assessments from their offices in Preston. However, there are offices in both Glasgow and Edinburgh should there be the need for face to face consultations or examinations – this will generally only apply to applications for NHS injury benefits.

Employers should notice little difference to existing procedures when referring ill-health applications to SPPA. However, as these will be evidence based assessments, another circular will be issued, after further discussions involving Atos and SPPA have taken place, providing guidance on what Occupational Health staff, general practitioners and consultants can do to support the application and provide quality medical evidence.

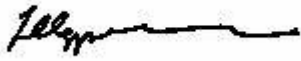
It should be noted that all ill-health retiral applications received before 30 September 2008 will be processed by Capita under the existing assessments. All applications received from 1 October 2008 will be processed by Atos Healthcare.

Christine Ross will implement the contract and manage the transition period. Fiona Kay will manage the day to day contract with Atos on behalf of SPPA and is available to discuss any aspect of the arrangements with employers. She can be contacted by telephone on 01896 893 169 or e-mail Fiona.Kay@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Employers should note that applications must be submitted to SPPA 4 months before the intended retiral date and any incomplete or out of date applications will be returned.

Please ensure this notice is circulated widely to your HR departments and Pension Administrators.

Yours sincerely



IAN CLAPPERTON
Director of Operations