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Pensions Officers for HA's  
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All GP Practices

Our ref: TN 19/98

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Dear Colleague

## **NHS PENSIONS NEWSLETTER**

**NEW AGENCY INTERNET WEBSITE  
INFORMATION SERVICES UPDATE  
NEW PRACTITIONER UPDATING FACTORS FOR 1998-1999  
ASSISTANT PRACTITIONERS AIDE-MEMOIRE  
AGENCY SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR**

### **This Newsletter**

The festive season approaches and it is time to let you have details of the Agency's Services over the period. This letter also brings you an update from our Information Services Team, including first details of the Agency's new Internet Website, data processing and a proposal stemming from the recent Agency/Employer Forum in Birmingham. The Annexes to the letter include the latest factors for the uprating of practitioner pay, and an aide-memoire for GP Practice colleagues regarding doctors who are treated as 'Assistant Practitioners' for benefit purposes.

### **Information Services Update**

#### **New Agency Website**

The Agency's Business Plan for the year 1998-1999 includes a commitment to improve links with Employers. As you know work is going ahead in a number of ways, and I am pleased to announce a significant step in this direction with the introduction of an Internet Website for the publication of NHS pensions material, including Agency News, Technical Newsletters, Scheme publicity booklets and details of your contacts for Agency services.

Colleagues at the first Agency/Employer Forum, which met in Birmingham on 8 December 1998 (Newsletter TN17/98), were shown our progress to date, and we expect that all Employers who have access to the Internet will be able to contact the Website by about 23 December 1998. This is very much early days of course but we are convinced that the content now available is worth publishing, and that the future potential will quickly become apparent. Of particular interest to hands-on Pensions Officers will be the inclusion of an updated version of the existing Employer Guide for NHS Trusts, Health Authorities and Direction Bodies. We hope those of you who can access the update will find it useful, and encourage you to comment on it using the 'Feedback Page' provided in the Website.

However, this interim version will be followed soon by an improved format Guide in both paper and Internet form, with full hypertext linking facilities.

Members with suitable PCs will also be able to use the site, and the best method of letting *them* know will be a topic for discussion at the next Forum. We will write to you again early in the New Year with a report from the first Forum and full details of the new Website, including proposals for extending access to the established NHS IT networks. In the meantime, happy surfing!

*The Agency's Website address will be - [www.nhs.gov.uk](http://www.nhs.gov.uk)*

#### Processing of magnetic tape/EDI year-end returns

In Pensions Newsletter TN18/98, I confirmed that year-end returns on paper forms SD55 had been completed, and that processing of magnetic returns had begun. I can now tell you that we expect to process ALL returns on magnetic tape by the middle of January, excepting only those which are dependent on the successful processing of tapes from previous years. We are currently in the process of upgrading software and hardware for EDI year-end returns, and are therefore temporarily unable to accept transmissions. It is hoped that the EDI facility will be available again at the end of January.

Full details of processing or expected processing dates for all year-end returns on tape are given in Annex 3 to this letter. If you need further help regarding returns on tape, please contact Chris Stead on 01253 774752. If you need further help regarding returns by EDI, please contact Andy Scott on 01253 774992.

#### Agency/Employer User Group/Payroll Supplier meeting

Discussions about data exchange and year-end updating at the Agency/Employer Forum in Birmingham led to a common view that there would be much to gain from a meeting of representatives of the Agency, Employer User Groups and Payroll Suppliers. The meeting would address current issues and future developments regarding data transmission and exchange, and give an opportunity to get to grips with the detail. The Agency hopes that all Employers and Suppliers will see this meeting as a step forward, and we will issue invitations early in the New Year.

#### **Practitioner Uprating Factors for the year 1998/1999**

Pensions Newsletter 12/97 gave the 1997/1998 factors for uprating the pay of Medical and Dental Practitioners. Normally each year's new factors are available in August or September, but agreement between the Department and the Professions representatives has been delayed, and the Agency has only just received the relevant figures. I apologise to Pensions Officers who have been waiting patiently (or otherwise!) for this information. Full details of this year's increases, and the associated tables are given in Annex 1 to this letter.

#### New Limit on Maximum Allowable Pensionable Pay for Dental Practitioners

Included in the annual agreement described above is a new maximum limit on pensionable pay for contributions and pension benefit purposes *for self employed dental practitioner members only*. The new limit, effective from 1 April 1998, is £85,000.

#### Inland Revenue limit

Please note that the limit on *self employed dental practitioner* pensionable pay is quite separate from the Inland Revenue limit on pensionable pay (£87,600 from 6 April 1998) which applies to other Scheme members. The limit can only affect members who joined the Scheme on or after 1 June 1989 and whose pay exceeds the limit. Details of the operation of the Inland Revenue limit can be found in Part 3 of both the EA Guide and the Guide for GP Practices.

## **Assistant Practitioners aide-memoire**

GP Practice colleagues will find the aide-memoire at Annex 2 to this letter. I hope it proves useful. If you remain in any doubt, Client Centre 1 Manager, Ross Mathieson, on 01253 774502, will be happy to assist.

### **Agency Services for Christmas and the New Year**

Agency services during the Christmas and New Year period will be available as shown below:

24 December	-	Agency closed from 1200 hrs
25 December	-	Agency closed
29 December	-	Agency closed
30 December	-	Limited service available from 0930 hrs to 1500 hrs *
31 December	-	Limited service available from 0930 hrs to 1500 hrs *
1 January	-	Agency closed
4 January	-	Agency open for normal service

\* During the days when limited service will be available, please direct all your enquiries to the Switchboard on 01253 774774. The Switchboard will connect you with an Administrator.

If you have any questions about services over this period, please contact Miss Gail Rogerson on 01253 774711.

Whilst appreciating that not everyone celebrates Christmas, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of everyone at the Agency, to wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely

P S ROBINSON  
Business Development Manager

## INDEX OF ANNEXES TO NHS PENSIONS NEWSLETTER TN19/98

- Annex 1 TN19/98** - **New practitioner uprating factors for 1998-1999**
- Annex 2 TN19/98** - **Assistant Practitioners Aide-memoire**
- Annex 3 TN19/98** - **Processing dates for year-end returns on magnetic tape**

### TN19/98 - Annex 1 New practitioner uprating factors for 1998-1999

1.1 The increases for the year ending 31 March 1999 have been agreed as follows:-

Medical Practitioners	01.04.98 to 30.11.98	3.28%
	01.12.98 to 31.03.99	6.52%
Dental Practitioners	01.04.98 to 30.11.98	2.15%
	01.12.98 to 31.03.99	4.35%

1.2 The higher rate applies to the period 01.12.98 to 31.03.99 only. For example, a doctor retiring in January 1999 will have their pay increased by a composite percentage of 8/12ths of 3.28% and 2/12ths of 6.52% - **not** 10/12ths of 6.52%.

### Uprating pay to dates between 01.04.98 to 28.02.99 inclusive

1.3 To uprate a practitioner's pay to any date from 01.04.98 to 28.02.99, the following action should be taken:-

- a) the pay for each year up to and including 31.03.98 should first be multiplied by the factor given in Pensions Newsletter TN12/97 Appendix 2.
- b) the total of these uprated amounts should then be further increased by the appropriate percentage shown in Appendix B to this Annex.
- c) Any pay which is paid on or after 01.04.98 should then be added to the uprated pay from b) to provide the practitioner's full pensionable pay for benefit purposes.

### Uprating pay to dates between 01.03.99 and 31.03.99

1.4 To uprate a practitioner's pay to any date between 01.03.99 and 31.03.99, the pay for each year should be increased by the relevant factor for that year shown in Appendix A to this Annex.

### Inland Revenue limit affecting members who joined the Scheme on or after 1 June 1989

1.5 Please note that the limit on *self employed dental practitioner* pensionable pay is quite separate from the Inland Revenue limit on pensionable pay (£87'600 from 6 April 1998) which applies to other Scheme members. The limit can only affect members who joined the Scheme on or after 1 June 1989 and whose pay exceeds the limit. Details of the operation of the Inland Revenue limit can be found in Part 3 of both the EA Guide and the Guide for GP Practices.

### More help

1.6 If you need help with practitioner uprating factors, or the Inland Revenue limit for members who joined the Scheme on or after 1 June 1989, please contact Gail Rogerson on 01253 774711.

**TN19/98 Annex 1 Appendix A - Annual Uprating Factors 1998-1999**

Year ending 31 March	Medical Practitioner	Dental Practitioner
1949	28.816	21.869
1950	28.816	21.869
1951	26.657	21.869
1952	26.657	21.869
1953	26.657	21.869
1954	26.657	21.869
1955	26.657	21.869
1956	26.657	21.068
1957	26.525	20.995
1958	24.078	20.071
1959	23.745	19.797
1960	22.701	18.762
1961	21.706	17.495
1962	21.706	17.495
1963	21.706	17.495
1964	19.039	15.324
1965	19.039	15.324
1966	17.310	14.234
1967	16.087	13.122
1968	12.983	12.628
1969	12.725	12.382
1970	12.009	11.696
1971	10.008	09.747
1972	09.264	09.024
1973	08.616	08.315
1974	08.354	07.922
1975	07.642	07.253
1976	05.499	05.494
1977	05.359	05.385
1978	05.158	05.241
1979	03.955	03.995
1980	03.363	03.395
1981	02.833	02.861
1982	02.673	02.699
1983	02.530	02.555
1984	02.368	02.392
1985	02.222	02.245
1986	02.069	02.091
1987	01.947	01.967
1988	01.790	01.808
1989	01.668	01.685
1990	01.544	01.560
1991	01.428	01.433
1992	01.281	01.299
1993	01.201	01.172
1994	01.183	01.155
1995	01.147	01.121
1996	01.113	01.094
1997	01.080	01.056
1998	01.044	01.029
1999	01.000	01.000

**TN19/98 Annex 1 Appendix B - Monthly Factors 1998-1999**

Date pay to be updated to	Percentage increase to be applied after updating to 31.03.98 level	
	<b>Medical</b>	<b>Dental</b>
01.04.98 - 30.04.98	0.273	0.179
01.05.98 - 31.05.98	0.547	0.358
01.06.98 - 30.06.98	0.820	0.538
01.07.98 - 31.07.98	1.093	0.717
01.08.98 - 31.08.98	1.367	0.896
01.09.98 - 30.09.98	1.640	1.075
01.10.98 - 31.10.98	1.913	1.254
01.11.98 - 30.11.98	2.187	1.433
01.12.98 - 31.12.98	2.730	1.796
01.01.99 - 31.01.99	3.274	2.158
01.02.99 - 28.02.99	3.817	2.521
01.03.99 - 31.03.99	See paragraph 1.4 of this Annex 1	

## TN19/98 - Annex 2 Aide-memoire

### Assistant Practitioners in GP Practice

2.1 The following doctors working in GP Practice are, or will be treated as, 'Assistant Practitioners' for NHS Scheme benefit purposes.

- ◆ Unapproved Assistant Practitioners (periods of employment of less than 3 months) - The Principal Practitioner (PP) is the 'responsible employer', no reimbursement will be made by the Health Authority (HA) in respect of salary paid or employer contributions. Membership of the NHS Scheme is available and GP Practice Managers should submit joiner form SS10(GP) to the NHS Pensions Agency (NHSPA), writing "Assistant Practitioner" in red, at the top of the form. Where an 'unapproved' assistant becomes an 'approved' assistant, form SD55 should be submitted to record the cessation of GP Practice responsibility on transfer to HA responsibility (see below).
- ◆ Approved Assistant Practitioners - The Principal Practitioner (PP) holds the contract of employment and may receive reimbursement from the HA in respect of employer contributions and salary paid to an Assistant, provided the Practice List size meets certain criteria. Membership of the Scheme is available and HA's should submit joiner form SS14 to the NHSPA. Where the HA approved employment follows an unapproved period, the SS14 start date should follow the GP Practice end date (see above).
- ◆ GP Retainer Scheme Assistant Practitioners - Membership of the Scheme is available and GP Practice Managers should submit joiner form SS10(GP) to the NHSPA, writing "Assistant Practitioner" in red, at the top of the form.
- ◆ Employed Locums - Generally engaged to assist with General Medical Service duties in the absence of the PP. No reimbursement is received from the HA. Membership of the Scheme is available and GP Practice Managers should submit joiner form SS10(GP) to the NHSPA, writing "Assistant Practitioner" in red, at the top of the form.
- ◆ Salaried Doctors - Employed under a contract of employment by the Practice and reimbursement received from the HA in accordance with paragraph 52 of the Statement of Fees and Allowances Booklet. Membership of the Scheme is available and GP Practice Managers should submit joiner form SS10(GP) to the NHSPA, writing "Assistant Practitioner" in red, at the top of the form.

### Self employed Locum Doctors

2.2 Under the current NHS Scheme Regulations, *self employed* Locum Doctors are not eligible to join the NHS Pension Scheme, however, this is currently under review.

**TN 19/98 – Annex 3 Processing Data for Year-end returns on magnetic tape.**

<b>EMPLOYER/REGION</b>	<b>SUPPLIER</b>	<b>DATE OF RUN</b>	<b>DATE OF PROPOSED RUN</b>
MERSEY	CFM / ICL	30.11.98	-
ST HELENS & KNOWSLEY	CFM / ICL	01.12.98	-
DPB	DPB	27.08.98	-
SOUTH WESTERN	EDS	-	06.01.99
NE THAMES	HBOC	01.09.98	-
WINCHESTER	HBOC	02.12.98	-
SW THAMES	HBOC	27.10.98	-
MID STAFFS	HBOC	07.09.98	-
TRENT	HBOC	10.09.98	-
W MIDLANDS	HBOC	06.11.98	-
W MIDLANDS	HBOC	03.12.98	-
WESSEX	HBOC	11.12.98	-
NORTHERN	HBOC	16.11.98	-
WALES	HYDER	30.10.98	-
OXFORD	HYDER	-	14.01.99
KINGSTON	KINGSTON	07.09.98	-
LEEDS	LEEDS	27.08.98	-
LEEDS	LEEDS	-	22.12.98
LEEDS	LEEDS	-	22.12.98
LEEDS	LEEDS	-	22.12.98
MERSEY	SMS	-	17.12.98
NORTHUMBERLAND	SMS	10.12.98	-
W MIDLANDS	SMS	-	04.01.99
E ANGLIA	SMS	09.12.98	-
YORKSHIRE	SMS	19.10.98	-
SPECIAL HOSPITALS	SMS	08.12.98	-
NORTH WEST	SMS	-	18.01.99