NHS Pensions - Children’s Pension – Employer FAQs

The information below only relates to death cases where the member died on or after 1 April 2008 and had membership on or after 1 April 2008.

Q Is the member required to contribute to the Scheme for more than two years before a children’s pension can be paid?

A No. A children’s pension can be paid for dependent children if the member has contributed to the Scheme.

Q Can only the member’s children receive a children’s pension?

A No, please see the website for more information about eligible children.

Q Do children over age 17 have to be in full time education to be eligible?

A No. If they are under age 23 and were dependent on the member at date of death we can authorise a children’s pension.

Q If the member was legally married and their spouse is claiming an adult dependant’s pension, when is the children’s pension payable from?

A For death in membership cases a children’s pension is paid from the day after the date of death, if the member died on or after 1 April 2008 and had membership on or after 1 April 2008.

Q Do we pay an initial children’s pension if a member was single and had children, but did not nominate a partner?

A NHS Pensions will check eligibility and authorise payment of any initial children’s pension that might become payable.

Q Who can claim a children’s pension if the member was married and has children to their current spouse, but also has children under age 23 who live with their previous spouse?

A Both sets of surviving parents can claim a children’s pension if the children were dependant on the member at the time of her death and, if the member dies after leaving
pensionable employment, were also dependant when the member left pensionable employment. Form claim for payment of children’s pension (AW158) should also be issued to the ex-spouse.

Q Can a children’s pension be paid for a member’s child who is currently on a gap year?

A As long as the child was dependent upon the member, and is under the age of 23, they no longer have to be in full time education to be eligible.

Q If a child for whom a children’s pension is paid leaves full time education, does the person receiving the pension have to inform NHS Pensions or Equiniti Paymaster?

A If the member contributed to the Scheme on or after 1 April 2008 and a children’s pension is authorised, then it is paid to age 23 irrespective of any changes.

Q Can a children’s pension be claimed for a child over age 23 who was incapable of earning a living because of a permanent physical or mental health condition?

A NHS Pensions will need to see a medical certificate or letter from the doctor explaining the child’s condition. The claim will be sent to our medical advisors to decide if they are eligible.

**Important note:** the ‘child’ must have been suffering from that condition at the time the member died for a children’s pension to be paid.

Q If the member had only three years full time membership and was over age 60, with no enhancement under Tier 2 ill health regulations, will the children’s pension be based on three years’ membership?

A No, we will enhance the membership to 10 years and base the children’s pension on this.

Q If the member worked part time prior to their death how will the children’s pension be calculated?

A The children’s pension will be calculated using the reckonable membership and the notional whole time pay, and increased in line with ill health retirement provisions.

Q What percentage of the Tier 2 ill health pension is payable when there are three children from the same family?
A If an adult dependant pension is paid to the person claiming the children’s pension for two or more children, the childrens’ pension will be half of the Tier 2 ill health pension. **But**, if an adult dependant pension is not being paid to the person claiming the children’s pension, then the children’s pension will be paid at two thirds of the ill health pension.