

What pension contributions will I pay in 2009/10?

A fact sheet for all Practitioner and non-GP Provider NHS Pension Scheme members

All Practitioner and non-GP Providers NHS Pension Scheme members will have their employee contribution rates reassessed for the Scheme year 1 April 2009 to the 31 March 2010. The table below shows the tiered rates taking account of the 2009/10 AfC pay award.

Tier	Annual Pensionable Pay (*full time equivalent) – 2009/10	Contribution Rate 2009/10
1	Up to £20,709	5%
2	£20,710 to £68,392	6.5%
3	£68,393 to £107,846	7.5%
4	£107,847 plus	8.5%

Key Points For Practitioner and non-GP Provider Scheme Members

- The basic rule is that if you are a Practitioner or non-GP Provider your 2009/10 tiered contribution rate is based upon your actual 2009/10 certified NHS pensionable pay.
- When referring to 'year 2009/10' it is the pension year not the calendar year. That is, it is from the 1 April 2009 to the 31 March 2010.
- Pennies are ignored for the purposes of setting a tier.
- A Practitioner is a GP Provider (i.e. GP partner (including a fixed salary partner), GP shareholder, single-handed GP), Salaried GP, freelance GP Locum, Ophthalmic Medical Practitioner, GDS or PDS General Dental Practitioner, or a General Dental Practitioner employed by a PCT or LHB to perform GDS/PDS. A non-GP Provider is a partner (including a fixed salary partner), shareholder, or single-hander who is not a GP.
- As a GP Registrar is classed as an Officer Scheme member these rules do not apply to them.
- Before the start of the pensions year every GMS or PMS Practice (and every APMS contractor that qualifies an Employing Authority) must complete a form declaring a best estimate of projected pensionable in respect of the GP Providers, non-GP Providers, and Salaried GPs. This form (or a similar version) should be sent to every Practice by the PCT/LHB and can be downloaded at '<http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/MemberForms.aspx>' under the heading of 'GP Forms'. It must be returned to the relevant PCT/LHB before the pension year starts; i.e. before April. If a Practice fails to complete the declaration the PCT/LHB may set a standard 8.5% rate. The tiered rate shall be revised (if they had been set at the wrong level) when the pensionable earnings are finalised on the end of year Certificate.
- The DSD (Dental Services Division) will arrange for the appropriate tiered contributions to be applied to General Dental Practitioners (GDPs).
- If you are a GP all your Practitioner income (i.e. GP Partner + GP Locum + OOHs + PEC + Bed Fund) is pensionable and must be added together in respect of allocating a tier. You cannot 'pick and mix' to avoid going into another tier band.
- Once a tier has been set it is applied to all of your aggregated Practitioner pensionable pay. For example a GP's total pensionable income is £130,000.00 comprising of Practice based income of £120,000.00, PEC income of £5,000.00, and

OOHs income of also £5,000.00. The GP would pay 8.5% on their Practice income, their OOHs income, and their PEC income.

- If you are a GP and hold a concurrent salaried Officer post (i.e. Clinical Assistant) that Officer income is kept separate and will be afforded it's own unique tier; i.e. it is ring fenced.
- If you are a GP Provider, Salaried GP, or non-GP Provider and change jobs in 2009/10 your tiered contributions are still based on your aggregated pensionable earnings.
- If you are a non-GP Provider you are regarded as a whole time Officer Scheme member therefore the tiered rate can only apply one post.
- If you are a freelance GP Locum your pensions Locum forms A and B will provide guidance in respect of tiered contributions.
- Salaried GPs and GP Locums (as well as GP Providers and non-GP Providers) shall be required to certify their 2009/10 pensionable pay at the end of the year.
- If you are a salaried GP or GDP and receive a normal annual pay award it should not change your tier.
- If you are a fixed salary Partner and receive a pay increase your tiered rate may be subject to change when your pensionable earnings are finalised.
- The rules in respect of tiered contributions apply to members of both the 1995 and the 2008 sections of the NHS Pension Scheme.
- If you are a GP or non-GP Providers who starts after 1 April 2009 your aggregated pay is not annualised (i.e. it is not scaled to a full year) for the purposes of setting a tier.
- If you are a GDP your aggregated pensionable earnings are scaled to a full year (i.e. annualised) for the purposes of setting a tier if you started after 1 April 2009.
- If you are a part time GP or GDP your actual pensionable pay is not converted to a whole time equivalent value for the purposes of setting a tier.
- If you are a GP Provider or Salaried GP and sit on the PEC the tiered rate in respect of your PEC income is based on your total Practitioner pensionable income. There is more information about PECs in Technical Newsletter 13/2007.
- If you are an APMS (Alternative Provider Of Medical Services) Provider the same tiered rate contribution rules apply as if you were GMS or PMS.
- If you are GP With Special Interests (i.e. a GPsWSI) and have no other Practitioner posts you are classed as a type 2 medical Practitioner and must complete the relevant Certificate at the end of pensions year 2009/10.
- If you are a GP who is solely an OOHs GP (i.e. has no other Practitioner posts) you are also classed as a type 2 medical Practitioner and must complete the relevant Certificate at year-end.
- Bed Fund Posts are regarded as Practitioner posts so your Bed Fund tiered rate must be based on your total GP aggregated earnings, not solely on your Bed Fund income.
- If you are a salaried GP or GDP and in receipt of maternity/paternity pay in 2009/10 the full deemed pensionable pay (i.e. the unreduced pay) must be used to set the tiered rate.
- If you are a salaried GP or GDP and in receipt of sick pay in 2009/10 the full deemed pensionable pay (i.e. the unreduced pay) must be used to set the tiered rate.

- If you are buying added years or the additional pension the extra contributions are not affected by your tiered contribution rate. Please refer to Technical Newsletter 17/2008 if you were subject to the pensionable earnings cap and are buying added years. The added years pensionable pay cap, if relevant, is £123,600.00 in 2009/10.