

NHS Business Services Authority

Revised NHS Pension Scheme access requirements from 1 April 2023

Guidance for employers for direct hire Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) employees and Primary Care Network (PCN) direct hire employees working on the Network Contract Directed Enhanced Services (DES)

PCN time limited determination (TLD) access

This temporary access ended on 31 March 2023.

Existing employers, with PCN TLD access only, wanting to have continued access to the NHS Pension Scheme for their employees from 1 April 2023 have the choice of applying to become an independent provider employing authority (IPEA) or applying for open PCN determination access.

It is recommended that employers fully consider the benefits of both access types, and take independent advice if needed, when making their choice.

Independent provider employing authority (IPEA) access

The NHS England 'Sub-contract for the provision of services related to the Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service (DES)' is a qualifying contract for IPEA access from 1 April 2023.

Other qualifying contracts for IPEA access are NHS standard contract, NHS standard sub-contract, APMS contract, and local authority contract.

All existing IPEAs that hold a DES sub-contract must complete an independent provider application form, including all qualifying contracts in the application, and submit the form and a copy of the DES sub-contract to the scheme access team. If approved, all eligible employees working on these contracts must be offered access to the NHS Pension Scheme. As each approved contract has a separate IPEA code, a new EA code will be issued which must be used for employees working wholly or mainly on the DES sub-contract.

APMS GP practices. An IPEA that holds an APMS contract for a practice, which has been varied to include the network DES, does not need to hold a sub-contract for PCN work and can absorb the ARRS and DES employees under the practice EA code.

An IPEA that holds an APMS contract for any services other than a GP practice can no longer absorb ARRS and DES employees under the existing IPEA code from 01/04/2023. IPEAs that also had access for ARRS and DES employees via a PCN TLD cannot use the TLD EA code after 31 March 2023.

The application form for IPEA access is on our website [Access to the NHS Pension Scheme | NHSBSA](#)

Open PCN determination access

This new access is available from 1 April 2023 for employers of ARRS and PCN staff that do not have any other access to the NHS Pension Scheme.

An open PCN determination will only provide access for ARRS employees and employees working wholly or mainly on the PCN DES sub-contract.

Applicants will have a choice of:

- applying for access for all eligible employees
- restricting the access to those employees who have been eligible to have access to the NHS Pension Scheme in the twelve months prior to them starting their employment with the applicant

An application form for open PCN access can be requested from the scheme access team.

When applying, send a copy of the sub-contract, even if it is not fully signed off by all parties, as this is needed for your application to be approved.

When completing the application form, you should list the practice where the PCN clinical director is based first, followed by all other practices in the network.

Existing employers, with PCN TLD access which expired on 31 March 2023, should complete an application if continued access is needed. When approved for open PCN determination access the existing EA code will be retained.

Application timescales

Applications are processed in strict date order. We will issue an application receipt email within two weeks of you submitting your application.

Contacting the scheme access team

All applications and enquiries should be sent by email to nhsbsa.schemeaccess@nhs.net. Please note that the above email address is due to migrate shortly to schemeaccess@nhsbsa.nhs.uk

Closed determination

There is no change to the process for the transfer of existing staff by compulsory transfer. A closed determination application is needed. This application form is on our website [Access to the NHS Pension Scheme | NHSBSA](#)

Update to website information

The PCN scenarios currently on [Information for practitioners and non-GP providers | NHSBSA](#) are being reviewed and will be updated as soon as possible.

Please note that time limited access is not available after 31 March 2023. PCNs who meet the criteria for scenarios 3 or 6 can apply for open determination or IPEA access as set out above.

Access remains unchanged for existing PCNs who meet the criteria for one of the other eight scenarios (except scenarios 3 and 6).