GP Locum sessions

GP Retainers have the option, during the final 6 month period of their 5 years on the Retainer scheme, to use their non GMS sessions to undertake up to 2 sessions per week of GP locum work instead of other non GMS sessions.

The purpose of permitting these sessions is to allow those Retainers who have not identified a permanent post for themselves after completion of the scheme to develop networks and experience to enhance their employment prospects. It is therefore expected that these sessions will be undertaken out with their Retainer practice.

Those wishing to undertake these sessions will need to seek permission from their Associate Adviser in advance by using the approved “non GMS sessions” application form which can be found on the NES website. They should also advise both their medical indemnity society of locum work as they will be expected to pay an increased indemnity fee. The local Primary Care Unit also need to be advised of GP locum work as this may affect which part of the Performer’s List a retainer should be on.

Retainers undertaking locum work are classed as self employed for locum work and should seek appropriate advice about tax/ NI/ superannuation contributions.

***\*\*\*\*\*UPDATE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC\*\*\*\*\****

***There has been a relaxation in the rules regarding locum sessions in general practice for retainers during the current pandemic. Retainers with the capacity to help out by doing extra locum sessions when needed in their own practice or other practices are currently allowed to do this until the end of March 2022. It is suggested that they do no more than 2 extra sessions and it would be as a locum with no retainer reimbursement for the practice. They should let the Advisor for their region know if they are doing extra sessions.***

October 2021