GP Pensions – advice for retention of GP pension documentation

We are writing to give you an update on GP Pensions and the importance of retaining pension documentation and forms.

PCSE and NHS England acknowledge there are ongoing issues with lost historical data related to GP pensions, and un-submitted end-of-year forms. We would like to thank GPs and practices for their patience while we work through these issues and thank those who have submitted end-of-year forms under the amnesty.

PCSE are up to date with processing documentation for the August TRS release. They are now aiming for the remaining certificates to be updated and completed on the system for the October cut off for TRS release in December. This means that if you have submitted end-of-year pensions forms under the amnesty, your TRS record on NHS Pensions should be accurate in either the August or December update.

While work is ongoing to identify missing historical data, we recommend that GPs and practices retain any existing copies of previously submitted forms, regardless of age.

If PCSE are unable to locate documents after a thorough investigation you may be asked to re-send any copies in your possession. However, we would like to reassure you that if you do not have a copy on file you will not be asked to re-complete forms that have been previously submitted.

Once we are confident that a robust system is in place for submission and storage of forms, we will issue new document retention advice with the intention to bring it in line with HMRC guidance of 22 months.

In the meantime, please retain copies of all current and historical pension documents pending the outcome of the review, as this will help us get your pension updated and accurate as quickly as possible if historical data has gone missing.