Northern Deanery GP Retainer Scheme, & Induction & Refresher Scheme

Retainer Scheme

These schemes provide opportunities to retain doctors in the GP workforce through a part-time commitment. For many GPs these posts provide an important means to sustain their input to general practice whilst they have well founded reasons to limit their working hours. Posts are subject to approval by Health education North east, applications should be submitted to Dr Paula Wright, Adviser on Sessional GPs. Retainer posts include a maximum of 4 clinical sessions, and are subject to the model retainer contract which is issued for 5 years. Retainers can carry out a limited amount work outside of the post, in order to retain or broaden other skills, but cannot do GP locums except in the last 6 months of the scheme.

Funding: Practices receive £3000/clinical session/annum and retainers receive £310 for professional subscriptions per annum. For further detailed guidance please read the Handbook on the HENE website here and the relevant application forms.


Induction and refresher Scheme

The GP Induction and Refresher Scheme (previously the GP Returner Scheme) is for general practitioners who have been out of UK clinical general practice for a “significant period”. The Scheme allows for a period of reorientation of up to six months full-time (or the equivalent part-time), into current UK practice with an accredited GP trainer, funded by HENE. In 2003 permission was given for us to use the same scheme for EU doctors’ induction (on the basis that they had never been in clinical practice in the UK).

Through the scheme HENE has been able to support experienced UK general practitioners back into practice, and to provide induction for a number of EU general practitioners. The great advantage of the scheme is that it enables HENE to put experienced doctors and EU recruits “on the street” safely within six months – a very good return on investment, and good for patient care and patient safety.


I&R scheme