

## NHS Choice Exercise

### FACTSHEET

#### For members with special class status.

##### Introduction

This factsheet explains the implications of the Choice Exercise for members with special class status who are considering transferring to the 2008 Section

##### Who is eligible for special class status?

Special class status is applicable to members of the 1995 Section who work as a nurse, physiotherapist, midwife or health visitor.

To qualify you must have been awarded special class status on or before 6 March 1995 and at no time since have had a break in pensionable employment of 5 years or more. You must also have special class status when you are retiring and have had this status for the 5 years leading up to retirement.

##### What are the benefits of special class status?

If you are a female member of the 1995 Section with special class status you can retire from age 55 onwards without having your pension benefits reduced.

If you are a male member of the 1995 Section with special class status you can retire from age 55 onwards without having a proportion of your benefits reduced. The proportion of membership that is paid without any reduction at age 55 is any membership you earn on or after 17 May 1990. Any membership before that date will be reduced if paid before age 60.

##### Can I transfer my special class status to the 2008 Section?

No. special class status stopped in 1995 and now only applies to those members with reserved rights before that date.

##### What happens if I do have special class status and transfer to the 2008 Section?

In the 2008 Section special class status is not recognised. If you choose to transfer your 1995 Section membership to the 2008 Section you are giving up your reserved rights to special class status.

This will mean that you are subject to the same normal pension age of 65 as all other members of the 2008 Section. If you retire before age 65 you will have your pension benefits reduced in order to take account of them being in payment longer than expected.

