

# HOME CARE news

March 2010

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## TRAVEL TIME - WALKERS

“Under the new single status contract arrangements home helps will continue to be paid for travel time incurred between clients over and above their minimum contractual guarantee. The position in relation to travel from home to the first client and from last client home has changed, and **post 31st March 2010 home helps will be paid for any travel time in excess of 30 minutes to and from the last client.**”

## HOME HELPS EVALUATION / NURSING CARE

“It was recognised as part of the original evaluation exercise that home help jobs do vary from home help to home help and periodically through the turnover of clients. A range of home help bench mark jobs were therefore evaluated in an attempt to obtain as representative a sample as possible. Some of the bench mark jobs evaluated did involve working with the district nurse in the administration of drugs and medicines which has been the established practice for some home helps for some time. However, as far as I am aware this does not embrace an actual involvement in the provision of nursing care. Whilst a number of the evaluation points totals varied all current home help bench mark jobs fall within Band 5.

I would therefore anticipate that **if and when the department identifies a need to develop the home help job to take a more active role in the provision of nursing care it will engage in consultations with the home help workforce and the trade unions.**”

*This is clear and concise information. Should any member have problems show your manager this circular. If problems persist, contact us immediately!*

- \* **Home helps are NOT required to change their individual work pattern under Single Status**
- \* **If you haven't previously worked weekends, you cannot be forced to from April**
- \* **Any changes must be after negotiation with UNISON**

*The following are the words of Toni Compai, Director of Human Resources.*

## WORKING WEEK AND CHANGES TO INDIVIDUAL WORK PATTERNS

“Home helps are clearly not a Monday to Friday occupational group and hence they have been classified within the 5 in 7 contract status. Weekend work for Home Helps was not introduced under Contracts 96 it existed before and some of those who chose not to accept Contracts 96 continued to

work their old pattern which included weekends.

***The variation to contract offer that home helps have been asked to sign under Single Status, does not require the home help to change their individual work pattern and to start undertaking weekend work when they did not previously. Any changes to individual work patterns will need to be consulted upon and negotiated separately between operational management, the employees concerned and their representatives.*** The no change to individual work patterns is made clear in the original variation to contract offer issued in November 2009.”

**DON'T FORGET - UNISON IS STILL NEGOTIATING WITH THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON ALL OTHER SINGLE STATUS ISSUES**