

Annual Leave Policy

Version:	Owner:	Created:
5.2	Sarah Aubertin (OD/Workforce Partner)	1 st August 2006
Published:	Approving Director:	Next Review
12/01/2026	Mike Duncan/ Sarah Aubertin (Director of People & OD)	20 th October 2026

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Annual Leave Policy

1. Introduction

BrisDoc is committed to:

Providing staff the opportunity to take the leave to which they are entitled and ensuring the organisation manages leave in a way that does not affect patient care or service delivery.

2. Scope

These guidelines apply to all co-owners employed on a BrisDoc contract (except for Bank / Casual Workers and self-employed staff, including sessional or locum GPs as their holiday is “rolled up” in their pay).

The areas covered in this policy include:

- How much annual leave co-owners are entitled to
- How annual leave should be requested
- What can happen if a co-owner falls sick during a period of annual leave?
- What happens if a contract is terminated
- The accrual of annual leave during maternity leave
- How length of service impacts annual leave

All requests for annual leave will be handled fairly and consistently and per BrisDoc’s Equality & Diversity policy. Both the co-owner and the manager have a responsibility under this policy to ensure that all annual leave is taken in the leave year. Good management of leave will ensure the health and well-being of the co-owner and the organisation.

3. Holiday Year

BrisDoc’s holiday year is based on a calendar year (1st January to 31st December).

It is a legal requirement that all staff use their **statutory minimum** annual leave every year. With line manager approval, BrisDoc allows a maximum of 1 week (or equivalent hours) above the statutory minimum allowance to be carried over to the next year, which must be used before 31st March of that year. Suppose a co-owner joins or leaves BrisDoc part way through the holiday year. In that case, their annual leave entitlement will be calculated on a pro-rata basis, equivalent to the proportion of the holiday year in which they have been employed.

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4. Annual Leave Entitlements

The following annual leave entitlements are calculated based on working a full-time week, i.e. 37.5 hours (pro rata for part-time and part year co-owners).

As the majority of BrisDoc's working patterns are split into shifts of various lengths, annual leave entitlement is defined as days based on a 7.5-hour working day and hours.

4.1 Statutory Leave Entitlements

Statutory holiday entitlement for all co-owners is 28 days (210 hours) for a full-time co-owner, including Bank Holidays. This is the statutory minimum that all co-owners must ensure they take each year (pro rata for part-time/part-year staff). This is the equivalent of 5.6 weeks of holiday.

4.2 Entitlements for Nursing and Non-Clinical Staff

- 25 days plus 8 Bank Holidays (total of 247.5 hours) during first and second year of employment (pro rata)
- 26 days plus 8 Bank Holidays (total of 255 hours) during the third and fourth year of employment (pro rata)
- 27 days plus 8 Bank Holidays (total of 262.5 hours) during your 5th to 9th year of employment (pro rata)
- 28 days plus 8 Bank Holidays (total of 270 hours) during your 10th to 14th Year of employment (pro rata)
- 29 days plus 8 Bank Holidays (total of 277.5 hours) 15th plus year of employment (pro rata)

4.3 Entitlements for Salaried GPs

- 30 days plus 8 Bank Holidays (total of 285 hours) and 3 days (22.5 hours) of Study Leave **inclusive of any study leave** you require to maintain yourself on the PCT performers List and achieve the standard required for your GP appraisal during the first and second year of employment (pro rata)
- 31 days plus 8 Bank Holidays (total of 292.5 hours) and 3 days (22.5 hours) of Study Leave **inclusive of any study leave** you require to maintain yourself on the PCT performers List and achieve the standard required for your GP appraisal during the third and fourth years of service

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- 32 days plus 8 Bank Holidays (total of 300 hours) and 3 days (22.5 hours) of Study Leave **inclusive of any study leave** you require to maintain yourself on the PCT performers List and achieve the standard required for your GP appraisal for staff with more than 4 years of service.

5. Holiday Buy-Back

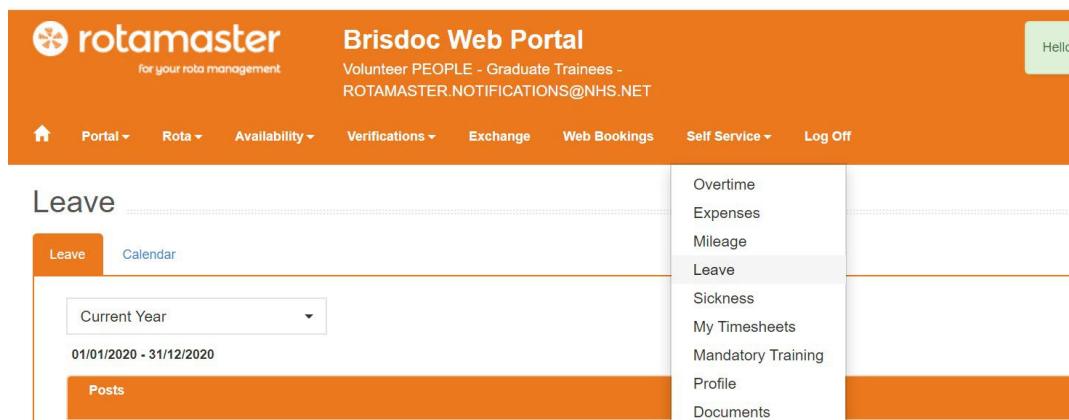
BrisDoc operates a flexible holiday arrangement (called 'Buy Back') to enable all staff to 'sell' holiday back to BrisDoc at their normal pay rate. This only applies to holidays above the statutory minimum that has not been used and must be agreed in advance with your Line Manager at least 4 weeks before 31st December. Holiday entitlement not used by the correct date or agreed to be bought back by BrisDoc will usually be lost.

Annual leave must be spread across the year rather than leaving it until the end as requests are subject to current staffing levels – managers will notify their team members at six monthly reviews.

6. Requesting Annual Leave

6.1 Notice for Annual Leave Requests

All requests for annual leave must be submitted and approved through Rotamaster in advance by the co-owner and line manager. Staff must complete an Annual Leave Request Form:



The above form is located at <https://brisdoc.rotamasterweb.co.uk/SelfService/Leave>.

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Co-owners should only book holidays once their request has been formally authorised.

Co-owners should endeavour to give as much notice as possible of proposed annual leave dates (see table below).

No more than two weeks paid annual leave may be taken at any one time without the line manager's prior written agreement, particularly at peak times, e.g., school holidays.

BrisDoc is a 24/7 service with services open on Public Holidays – we, therefore, need the cooperation of all staff during these busy times.

Request for...	Notification by co-owner
1-3 days of annual leave	4-week notice although discretion by manager can be used.
More than 3 days annual leave but less than 2 weeks	8-week notice
2 weeks or more	26-week notice

BrisDoc will try to co-operate with the co-owners holiday plans where possible, but this is always subject to the requirements of the Company's business and to adequate staffing levels being maintained at all times. This requires flexibility from all staff to work as one team, providing, cover for vacant shifts to maximize holiday choice for everyone.

6.2 Guidelines for Booking Annual Leave

Providing continuity and quality of service is paramount, and therefore, when booking your holiday, please bear in mind the following guidelines:

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6.2.1 Out of Hours Team

OOH Operational Shift Managers	No more than 2 away at one time during weekdays. No more than 3 away at one time during weekdays (dependent on Shift Manager rota).
WACC	No more than 2 away at one time during weekdays. No more than 3 away at one time during weekdays
Call Handlers	No more than 2 away at one time during weekends.
Drivers / Hosts	No more than 2 away at one time during weekdays. No more than 4 away at one time during weekdays (dependent on Shift Manager rota).
Nurses	No more than one nurse away based on the shifts allocated in the rota during weekends (and bank holidays).

6.2.2 Broadmead Medical Centre Staff

Management Team	Both the Practice Manager and the Assistant Practice Manager should not be away at any one time
Receptionists	No more than two away at any one time.
GPs	No more than one away at any one time.
Nursing team	No more than one away at any one time.

6.2.3 Walk-in Centre (WIC)

Nurses	No more than one away at any one time.
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6.2.4 IUC PL

GPs	No more than one away at any one time.
Call handlers	No more than one away at any one time.

6.2.5 Osprey

HR Department	No more than 2 of the HR team away at any one time, ensuring that all daily tasks are covered appropriately.
Rota Team	No more than 2 away at any one time.
Digital Team	No more than one away at any one time.
Patient Safety Team	No more than two managers away and/or one other at any one time.
Practice Services	No more than one away at any one time.
Executive Board	No more than 2 Directors away at any one time.

7. Bank Holidays

Due to the particular demands placed on BrisDoc by patients on public holidays, some staff members will be expected to work on public holidays if it falls on their normal working day and is part of their contractual terms and conditions. All staff on a BrisDoc contract may request annual leave for a public holiday, but the requirements set out in this paragraph will apply.

7.1 General Public Holidays

The General Public Holidays that fall within the annual leave year consist of:

- Good Friday
- Easter Monday
- May Day
- Spring Bank Holiday
- August Bank Holiday
- Christmas Day

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- Boxing Day
- New Years Day

If a Public Holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the following Monday or Tuesday is usually designated as a general public holiday. Please refer to gov.uk for the confirmed list in a calendar year (<https://www.gov.uk/bank-holidays>).

All co-owners will be entitled to a holiday with a normal day's pay on the additional bank holiday (pro-rate for part-time co-owners) if there are additional bank holidays.

8. Sickness and Annual Leave

8.1 Sickness Absence During a Period of Pre-booked Annual Leave

Where a co-owner becomes unfit for work due to sickness or injury during a period of pre-booked annual leave, the period during which they are unfit for work will be treated as sickness absence rather than annual leave. The affected days of annual leave will be re-credited and may be taken at a later date.

This applies to all annual leave, including statutory holiday and any additional contractual or bank holiday entitlement.

To have annual leave re-credited, the co-owner must:

- notify their manager of the sickness in line with the Sickness & Wellbeing Policy
- provide sickness evidence in line with normal requirements, including self-certification for up to 7 calendar days and a fit note from day 8 onwards

The same sickness reporting and evidence standards apply whether the sickness occurs at home or while on annual leave, including where the co-owner is outside the UK.

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Suppose you are absent from work due to sickness immediately before or immediately after a period of booked annual leave. In that case, you may be required to provide your line manager with a medical certificate. Failure to do so will result in an unauthorized absence, which will be investigated in line with BrisDoc's Disciplinary Procedure. For more information about sickness before, during or after annual leave, see BrisDoc's Sickness Absence Policy.

8.2 Annual Leave Accrual During Long-Term Sickness Absence

During periods of long-term¹ sickness, annual leave is accrued based on the contractual entitlement.

8.3 Taking Annual Leave During Sickness Absence

While no staff member would be asked to take annual leave while entitled to sick leave, if you are on long-term sick and wish to take any annual leave during this time, you are expected to notify your line manager. This is because sick leave/pay will stop during your holiday, and normal pay resume during this period. If a staff member may be in financial detriment due to sick pay entitlement but has unused annual leave entitlement that they wish to use, please discuss this with the workforce team.

9. Annual Leave During Maternity / Paternity / Adoption Leave

Annual leave will continue to accrue during maternity / paternity / adoption leave against the annual leave terms and conditions as stated in the co-owner's contract of employment.

A co-owner may not take annual leave during the entitlement to maternity / paternity / adoption leave.

10. Termination of Employment

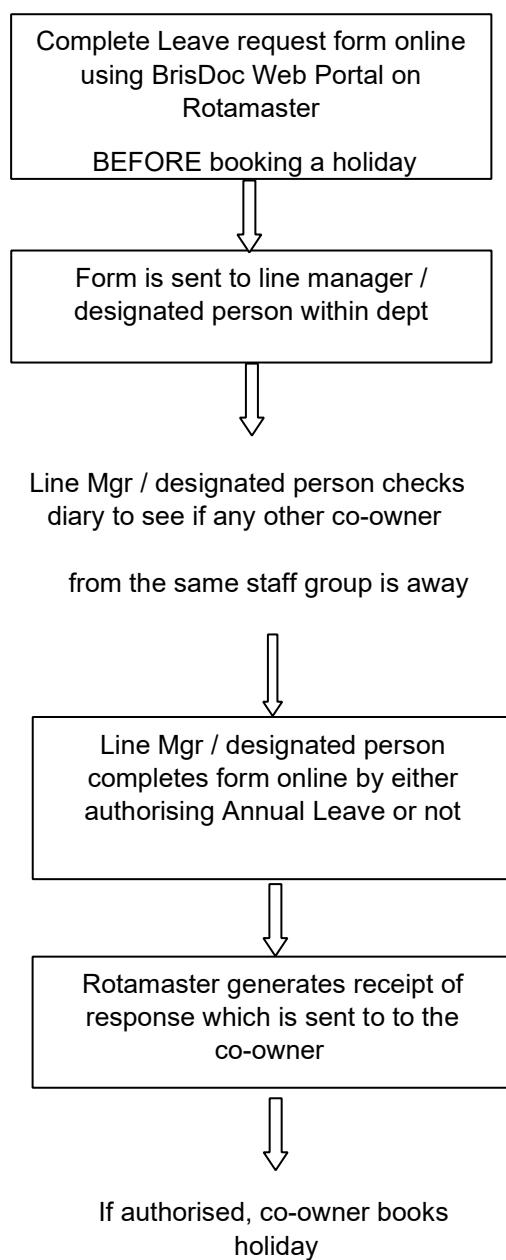
On the termination of your employment, you are entitled to be paid for any accrued annual leave for that holiday year that has not been taken by the date of termination – this also applies if you are summarily dismissed (i.e., dismissed without notice).

¹ Long Term Sickness = long period(s) of sickness absence normally with a high number of days of absence but over few periods, normally lasting more than 4 weeks

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If, on the date of termination of your employment, you have taken more annual leave than you have accrued in that holiday year, you will be required to reimburse BrisDoc for such unearned annual leave. BrisDoc shall be entitled, as a result of your agreement to the terms of your contract of employment, to deduct the value of the unearned annual leave from any final payment of salary to be made to you.

Appendix 1: Process for requesting Annual Leave



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Change register

Date of amendment: July 2011

Amendment(s):

1. **Added Section 1:** Policy Statement in line with BrisDoc's 4 Focus Areas.
2. **Amended Section 4:**
 - Section 4.1: Changes to statutory leave entitlements – now 28 days inclusive of bank holidays.
 - Added sections 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 in light of employing staff on different terms and conditions of employment since 1st January 2009.
3. **Section 5:**
 - Holiday Buy Back applies to all staff, not just non-clinical and nursing staff.
 - Deleted the sentence "*and under no circumstances will payment in lieu be made for holiday entitlement that is lost through not being exercised by the correct date*" – payment will be made at the discretion of the manager.

Added the words: "*annual leave is sold back to BrisDoc at normal rate of pay*".

4. **Section 6.1:** Added "Staff must complete an Annual Leave Request Form (see Appendix 2)"

Added length of notice to requesting A/L that lasts 2 weeks or more – now 26 weeks

5. **Amended Section 6.2:** Updated guidance on booking annual leave for each service
6. **Amended Section 8.1:** Changed the sentence "*If you are absent from work, due to sickness, immediately prior to or immediately after a period of booked annual leave, you are required to provide your line manager with a medical certificate*" To "*If you are absent from work, due to sickness, immediately prior to*

7. **Section 8.2:** Changed the sentence "*During periods of long term² sickness, annual leave is not accrued although BrisDoc may grant this with absolute discretion*" to "*During periods of long-term³ sickness, annual leave is accrued based on the contractual entitlement.*"
8. **Section 8.3:** This has been added to the policy

² Long Term Sickness = long period(s) of sickness absence normally with a high number of days of absence but over few periods, normally lasting more than 4 weeks

³ Long Term Sickness = long period(s) of sickness absence normally with a high number of days of absence but over few periods, normally lasting more than 4 weeks

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9. **Section 9:** Changed title to include “Paternity and Adoption” Leave.

Also amended the paragraph “*During the first 26 weeks of your maternity leave (i.e., the period of Ordinary Maternity Leave (OML)), you will accrue annual leave. If you intend on returning to work at the end of your maternity leave, you will accrue annual leave for the period of additional maternity leave (AML) (i.e. the last 26 weeks) upon your return to work. If you however, decide NOT to return to work at the end of your maternity leave, you will not receive the annual leave accrued during the period of AML*” TO “*Annual leave will continue to accrue during maternity / paternity / adoption leave against the annual leave terms and conditions as stated in the employee’s contract of employment.*

An employee may not take annual leave during the entitlement to maternity / paternity / adoption leave.”

10. **Section 10:** Changed the paragraph “*No payment in lieu of accrued contractual annual leave will be made to you in the event of the termination of your employment for gross misconduct or in the event that you give inadequate notice to terminate your employment or you leave before your contractual notice period has expired*”. Even if an employee is summarily dismissed, they must still receive payment in lieu of accrued contractual annual leave.

Date of amendment: July 2020

Amendment(s):

1. **Section 1:** BrisDoc’s commitment added
2. **Section 2:** Title changed to scope
3. **Section 4:** Updated leave allowances
4. **Section 6.1:** Updated to mention leave request to be made on Rotamaster
5. **Section 6.2:** Service managers asked to update leave guidelines, service names and roles
6. **Section 7:** Advice for Line managers on where to find Bank Holiday information
7. **Appendix 1:** Updated to include Rotamaster
8. **Appendix 2:** Deleted

Related Policies

- Sickness Absence Policy
- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Maternity, Paternity & Adoption Policy

Date of amendment: October 2023

Amendment(s):

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1. Title page: Change to job titles.
2. Section 1: Removal of BrisDoc business model.
3. Section 7.1: Additional bank holidays: All co-owners will be entitled to a holiday with a normal day's pay on the additional bank holiday (pro-rate for part-time co-owners) if there are additional bank holidays.
4. Last page: Added footnotes
5. Changed employee/worker to co-owner.
6. Rewording/some grammar changes

Date of amendment: Nov 2024

Amendment(s):

1. **Section 4.2:** Updated leave allowance entitlement - combined entitlement for staff employed on Terms & Conditions of Employment up to 31st December 2008 and from 1st January 2009:

Date of amendment: January 2026

Amendment(s):

1. **Section 6.1:** Removal of: Staff can support this process by swapping shifts or arranging holiday cover directly with colleagues. This was removed from the final paragraph in the section.

Tables

Date	Reviewed and amended by	Revision details	Issue number
01 st August 2006	C Browne		1
01 st February 2008	C Browne		2
01 st July 2011	C Browne		3
01 st July 2020	M Batten/S Aubertin		4
30 th January 2022	L Meekhums	Amended template	4
20 th October 2023	E. Veale	NHS Grad reviewed, only needed references updating for them and a few tweaks. No need for People Board <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Title page: Change to job titles.2. Section 1: Removal of BrisDoc business model.3. Section 7.1: Additional bank holidays: All co-owners will be entitled to a holiday with a normal day's pay on the additional bank holiday (pro-rate for part-time co-owners) if there are additional bank holidays.	5.1

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		<p>day's pay on the additional bank holiday (pro-rate for part-time co-owners) if there are additional bank holidays.</p> <p>4. Last page: Added footnotes</p> <p>5. Changed employee/worker to co-owner</p> <p>Re-worded/grammar changes</p>	
09/01/2026	M.Duncan	Change to Annual leave during sickness section 8.2 allowing recrediting of leave due to sickness.	5.2

[1] Short Term Sickness = short periods of sickness, normally less than 4 weeks

[2] Long Term Sickness = long period(s) of sickness absence normally with a high number of days of absence but over few periods, normally lasting more than 4 weeks

[3] Long Term Sickness = long period(s) of sickness absence normally with a high number of days of absence but over few periods, normally lasting more than 4 weeks

[4] Long Term Sickness = long period(s) of sickness absence normally with a high number of days of absence but over few periods, normally lasting more than 4 weeks