

Frequently Asked Questions - Proposed merger between Matlock Road Surgery and Beaconsfield Medical Practice

What is the proposed change?

As you may be aware, the lease for Matlock Road Surgery comes to an end in March 2020 and will not be extended. The Partners at both practices have been working hard to find the best outcome for all of their patients, staff and the wider community. It is believed that this can be achieved by merging the 2 practices in March 2020 to create a larger, single practice at Beaconsfield Medical Practice – an approach that is supported wholeheartedly by and the Clinical Commissioning Group (who commission Primary Care services). This way, first rate, sustainable GP services can continue to be provided to the local community and the healthcare needs of the patient population will be met in an improved way.

What do I need to do now?

You do not need to do anything. Responsibility for your care (including your records and GP) will automatically be transferred to the merged practice if the merger goes ahead, unless you choose to register with another practice in the meantime.

Why is this change being proposed?

The lease for Matlock Road Surgery comes to an end in March 2020 and will not be extended. Therefore, the Matlock Road Surgery building will not be available for GP services after this time. The proposed merger is viewed as the most sensible and viable way to ensure ongoing provision of sustainable general practice services in the area in the future.

What will the impact of the proposed changes be on patients?

- Patients will have access to a wider range of services and specialist clinics
- Patients will be seen in a modern, fit for purpose medical centre
- Patients will still be able to see their GP from Matlock Road Surgery
- Staff will be able to share skills and experience with a larger pool of colleagues.

Will the Beaconsfield Medical Practice have enough capacity to take on the Matlock Road Surgery patients?

It is proposed that the majority of staff from Matlock Road Surgery will move to the merged practice; including Dr Paul Allan. Additional phone lines are being added to the site, to help with speed of telephone answering

How can I give my input into the proposed changes?

- Patients currently registered with the practice (and their carers) are invited to attend one of the following events:
 - Monday 17th June at 17:45 – 18:45, Exeter Street Hall, 16-17 Exeter Street, Brighton, BN1 5PG.
 - Monday 24th June at 10:45 – 11:45, Church of the Good Shepherd, 272 Dyke Road, Brighton, BN1 5AE.
- By post marked 'Merger', to one of the following addresses:
Matlock Road Surgery, 10 Matlock Road, Brighton, BN1 5BF or
Primary Care Team, Brighton and Hove CCG, Hove Town Hall, BN3 4AH
- By email to bhccg.primarycare@nhs.net with 'Merger' written in the subject heading
- By leaving a message on 01273 238733.

Please note that we will not be able to provide individual responses to all queries. Your input will be taken and summarised and used as the basis for our future decision making.

Please do not include personal medical information/clinical requests in any correspondence on the proposed merger, as the information will be shared with the Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group, who will make the final decision on the merger proposal.

When will these proposed changes take place?

- We would like to hear from you on these proposed changes prior to the 5th July 2019.
- Once we have your feedback, the options will be presented to the Primary Care Commissioning Committee of the Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), where a final decision will be made on the proposed merger and site closure on 3rd September 2019 and patients will be informed of the final decision within 4 weeks.
- If agreed, the merger will take place in March 2020. Patient will have the official date communicated to them when they are informed of the final decision in Autumn 2019.

What will happen to my medical records in the case of the merger?

Your medical records are electronic and will securely be transferred automatically.

Will I still be able to see my usual GP, if the merger goes ahead?

Dr Allan will move over to the Beaconsfield Medical Practice and will continue to see any patients who wish to see him.

I have a number of health conditions and am worried about my continuity of care if the merger does go ahead. What should I do?

If you have a complex condition, or are a vulnerable patient, we will ensure that, where possible, you will continue to receive care from your current GP.

If you have particular needs, for example if you are hearing impaired and require receptionists to behave in a way that makes it easier for you to lip-read, please mention it to your doctor at your next appointment at Matlock Road Surgery and a note can be added to your records, if this has not already been done.

I find the electronic booking and prescription system useful, as well as the prescription delivery service. Will I still be able to use this at Beaconsfield Medical Practice?

Yes, Beaconsfield Medical Practice also offers these services, in addition to having a pharmacy on-site. If you currently have your medication delivered, local pharmacies will be informed who will be able to provide this service.

I like being able to see the same GP each time I have an appointment as I feel my care is more personal; if the merger and site closure go ahead, will I still receive personal care?

You will still be able to receive personalised care from Dr Allan at Beaconsfield Medical Practice.

However, you can see any GP within the practice regularly, if you wish.

Where is Beaconsfield Medical Practice?

The address is Beaconsfield Medical Practice, 175 Preston Road, Brighton, BN1 6AG. It is an 8 minute drive or 15 minutes' walk away from Matlock Road Surgery.

I would like more information about Beaconsfield Medical Practice? Please visit their website for more info: www.beaconsfieldmedicalpractice.co.uk

What type of appointments and services are available at Beaconsfield Medical Practice?

Beaconsfield Medical Practice offer a range of appointments (with male and female practitioners) including:

- Pre bookable (up to 4 weeks) face-to-face GP and practice nurse appointments
- Telephone appointments with a GP
- On the day face-to-face GP appointments
- Online booking for appointments via Patient Access
- Extended hours appointments with GPs & nurses during weekday evenings (until 20.30) and weekends (08.00-14.00)

Beaconsfield Medical Practice also offer the following services:

- Travel vaccinations
- On-site midwifery clinics
- Community Navigation Service
- On-site counselling (via GP referral)
- Sexual health education for young people
- Clinics for long-term conditions such as asthma and diabetes.

Is Beaconsfield Medical Practice wheelchair accessible?

There is limited Blue Badge holder parking in the car park that is shared between Beaconsfield Medical Practice and Stanford Medical Centre (who occupy the same building). Beaconsfield is fully wheelchair accessible and has a lift for patient use if necessary.