



HIGHFIELD SURGERY

PROVIDERS OF OUTSTANDING LOCAL CARE

Complaint's procedure

Patient information leaflet – Highfield Surgery

We aim to always provide high quality services and patient care; however, we understand that there are times when our service may be less efficient, or a patient is unhappy with the service they have received. So we can work on these issues and improve our services we need feedback from our patients about these incidences so we can avoid reoccurrences in the future.

We hope that most problems can be resolved easily and quickly often at the time they arise and with the person concerned. If your problem cannot be resolved this way and you wish to make a complaint, we would like you to let us know as soon as possible, ideally within a matter of days or at most a few weeks. This will enable us to establish what happened more easily. If it is not possible to do that, please let us have the details of your complaint:

- Within 12 months of the incident that caused the problem; or
- Within 12 months of discovering that you have a problem, provided this is within 12 months of the incident.

Complaints should be addressed to Heather Wilson (Practice Manager). Miss Wilson will ensure that your concerns are dealt with by the correct person and promptly.

You can make your complaint via:

- **Telephone** – ask to speak to a member of the management team who will note down your complaint and pass this onto the Practice Manager
- **In writing** – some complaints may be easier to explain in writing – please give as much information as you can, then send your complaint to the practice for the attention of the Practice manager as soon as possible.
- **Email** – Alternatively you may submit your complaint by our email address in writing to blackpool.highfieldenquiries@nhs.net and in the subject line 'For the Attention of the Practice Manager'

What we shall do

We shall acknowledge your complaint within three working days and aim to have investigated your complaint within **30 working days** of the date when you raised it with us. We shall then be able to offer you an explanation, or a meeting with the people involved.

When we investigate your complaint, we shall aim to:

- Find out what happened and what went wrong

- Make it possible for you to discuss the problem with the Practice manager or those concerned, if you would like this
- Make sure you receive an apology, where this is appropriate
- Identify what we can do to make sure the problem doesn't happen again

If for some reason the complaint takes longer to respond to than the specified time we will keep in contact with you to notify you of any expected delay.

If the complaint is a general one about the service, it will be investigated by the practice manager. If it involved any clinical issues it will be passed to one of our GP Partners to investigate and they will subsequently respond.

Complaining on behalf of someone else

Please note that we keep strictly to rules of medical confidentiality. If you are complaining on behalf of someone else, we have to know that you have their permission to do so. A note signed by the person concerned will be needed unless they are incapable (because of illness) of providing this or you are the parent or guardian of the person on whose behalf you are complaining.

What you can do next

We hope that if you have a problem, you will use our practice complaints procedure. We believe that this will give us the best chance of putting right whatever has gone wrong and the opportunity to improve our practice. However this does not affect your right to approach Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB here

However if you do not wish to liaise with us you can contact Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB here:

Telephone: 0800 032 2424

E-mail: lsicib.patientexperience@nhs.net

Write to: NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB, Jubilee House, Lancashire Business Park, Leyland, PR26 6TR

Note: changes on 1 July 2023

- From 1 July 2023 the way members of the public make a complaint about primary care services to the commissioner is changing. Rather than contacting NHS England, complaints will be made to directly to the local integrated care board (ICB).
- Members of the public will still be able to make a complaint to the provider. This is NOT changing.
- Members of the public with ongoing complaints received on/after 1 July 2022 will receive a letter from NHS England informing them that the ICB is now handling their complaint with confirmation of their case handler.
- Members of the public with any ongoing complaints received before 1 July 2022 will receive a letter from NHS England informing them that their

complaint is being retained by NHS England with confirmation of their case handler.

If you remain dissatisfied with the responses to your complaint, you have the right to take your complaint to the Public Service Ombudsman (PSO). The Ombudsman is independent of the Government and NHS, and the service is confidential and free. If you have any questions about whether the Ombudsman will be able to help you, or about how to make a complaint, you can contact the telephone helpline on 0345 015 4033, email phso.enquiries@ombudsman.org.uk. You can write to the Ombudsman at The Public Service Ombudsman, Citygate, 47-51 Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3HQ.