

Intrahealth Wingate GP Practice Patient Engagement

Frequently Asked Questions

June 2021

Q - What is the reason for needing to engage with patients?

The current contract (an Alternative Provider Medical Services contract - APMS) that exists with Intrahealth Wingate currently runs until the end of March 2022.

Contracts with your local NHS service providers routinely need to be reviewed as part of the requirements to ensure effective use of public money. Before any new contract or arrangements are made for the services to these patients, the local Clinical Commissioning Group (who is responsible for planning and paying for these services) wants to understand patient views.

Q – What is being considered in relation to the future GP service for these patients?

[NHS County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group](#) (CCG) is currently looking to understand from patients what is most important to them about this type of service.

This might be about how far they have to travel, if the GP practice is available on public transport routes, whether seeing the same doctor or nurse is their priority or something else that patients tell us is most important to them.

Q – Who is being asked for their opinions?

All of the patients that are registered at the Wingate Intrahealth practice have been written to directly. Each registered patient (or their parent/ guardian) will be able to provide their responses either through a paper or online version of the same survey questions.

Q – What will be done with the information patients provide?

The information you provide will help decision makers understand what the priorities are for patients in this area regarding their local GP practice / primary care services (such as with a doctor or nurse). This might be in terms of the distance travelled to their GP practice, whether this is accessible on public transport, the hours that appointments are available or the different types of appointments that people can use now (face to face, telephone or virtual).

All of these factors will need to be evaluated and considered before any decisions are taken by the local Primary Care Commissioning Committee in County Durham which oversees these services.

The report that is produced by the CCG Engagement team will present the information collected from patients to the members of the [Primary Care Commissioning Committee](#). This committee is responsible for decisions in relation to Primary care (GP practice) services in County Durham. The meetings of this committee are 'in public' and at the current time can be viewed live through facebook when they take place.

Q - Will patients still be able to access local primary care / GP practice services?

Yes. All of the patients registered at this practice will continue to be able to access local GP practice (Primary care) services in the future.

Q - What contract is in place with Intrahealth Wingate at the moment?

The existing contract with Intrahealth Wingate is what is known in England as an Alternative Provider Medical Contract (APMS). This is the only contract of this type in place across all the GP practices in County Durham.

These tend to be short term contracts (typically for around 5 years). These types of contracts are locally determined rather than nationally.

Alternative types of contracts include the General Medical Services (GMS) contract, which is the standard, nationally negotiated contract for what types of services should be provided to patients in GP practices.

Alongside the conversations with patients, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is also required to have conversations with potential future providers. This is part of nationally established processes to ensure fair and competitive processes are in place for the future awarding of contracts.

Q – Who can be contacted if I have any further queries?

If you have any further questions or wish to speak to someone about this you can contact the Intrahealth Wingate practice on 01429 838203 or by email using cdccg.a83610-eds@nhs.net. Alternatively, you can contact the Clinical Commissioning Group by telephone on 0191 371 3222 or by email to Lindsay.fox2@nhs.net.