

COLLECTIVE ACTION – UPDATE – 20.09.2024

You may have seen media reports discussing GP “*industrial action*” and we want to update our patients on the reality of what this is.

There have been many discussions and ballots undertaken by the BMA (British Medical Association) regarding contracted GP services to patients. An overwhelming majority of practices (including Millview) have agreed to a “collective action” to address the underfunding given to primary care.

Collective Action is where all agreeing practices will join together to provide the services we are paid to do as part of our contract of delivery. This is the only action to be taken.

As we know the NHS has been struggling which has been shown in the long wait periods to access hospital specialists. For some time now to help with this GP’s have taken on extra responsibility to help alleviate this pressure and to ensure that there is a swifter process for our patients. Unfortunately, with the funding as it stands, we are no longer in a position to finance these areas.

Across the country, since 2015, we have seen 1,600 practices close or merge, there are 6 million more registered patients needing care and 2,000 fewer full time GP’s. Our current funding is lower than the levels in 2018.

We would like to assure our patients that our GP’s are NOT on strike and patients can still access our clinical team. In addition, this is not an issue in any way related to pay rises, this is solely related to funding the services we deliver.

What you will see happen is our GP’s restrict what activity we do in practice relating it to what we are funded to deliver.

As of **October 2nd** we will no longer be delivering certain services in our treatment room. This will include dressings suture/clip removals post operative care and post injury.

These services will be delivered by either outpatients (which your consultant/ward/department in hospital will have organised) or by urgent treatment services.

Urgent Treatment Unit at Grantham District Hospital

A&E at Lincoln County Hospital or Pilgrim Hospital

Urgent Treatment Centre and Minor Injury Unit at Sleaford Medical Group

Specific Outpatient departments as stated by your discharge details.

As we refer any patients into specialist services in hospital, we will be instructing them that we no longer have this facility and management services need to be organised on discharge.

Other items such as ECG's and shared care will (in certain circumstances) no longer be delivered in practice.

From Wednesday 25th September Primary Care ECG's will be bookable at Grantham.

This service is for Primary care to book into. Secondary care and private services such as ADHD 360 are required to complete these themselves or refer patients into cardiology services.

Referred back to GP Care. Where a patient is under the care of a consultant, quite often, they write to both the patient and the practice asking us to manager certain care aspects such as monitoring, regular blood tests and reviews. If a patient is still under the care of that consultant (and has not been discharged) these instances may be sent back to the consultant to manage.

This is as ongoing reviews are best placed with the specialist to which that patient was initially referred.

The difference in blood tests.

If a consultant/hospital provide a patient with a blood form (this is the completed form with attached clear bag) then these bloods can be done in the hospital the same day, or if they are future dated, they can be done in practice.

This is because that form you are given has the consultant/department details on and the results will be sent back to them to manage and monitor.

If a consultant/hospital write to us asking us to take bloods at periodic times this means they are asking us to process those blood tests and the results come back to our GP's to monitor and manage. In some cases, we may feel that this is not the most appropriate course of action, and these may not be completed in practice.

This is not so much to do with who conducts the blood test, rather, who the results to go to interpret and manage.

Rest assured if we receive such a letter we will asses this request and where appropriate contact the correct department requesting the activity to be completed by themselves

Thank you for your continued support.

We want to assure our patients that our team are still here to support you. Ask My GP continues to be an 'on the day' service and will be open 05:00 – 11:00 Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays).

GP's, ANP's, Practice Nurses, Nurse Associates, Phlebotomists, Health Care Support Workers, Clinical Pharmacists, MSK Practitioners, Mental Health Practitioners, Occupational Therapists, The Wellbeing Team, Community Paramedics and our wonderful administrative team are still here to support you – this has not changed.

Collective Action was not a light decision to make and we have been discussion this as a partnership as well as a Primary Care Network with our neighbouring practices. In addition our doctors are continually monitoring this.

We will hold a Q&A session in our Heckington Practice for any patients who would like to discuss this further – this will be advertised in practice, on our website and on social media shortly.

We thank you in advance for your understanding in this matter and would like to assure our patients that we are still here to provide the best primary care services we can to our population.

The Partnership of Millview Medical Centre

Dr R Shrouder

Dr P Kasinathan

Dr A Revu

Clare Shrouder

Interesting Reading:

[The Darzi Report](#)

[Pulse Today](#)

[BMA](#)

Useful Contacts:

Lincolnshire ICB – Bridge House, The Point Lions Way, Sleaford. NG34 8GG
LICB.office@nhs.net - 01522 573939

Blood Tests Locally:

Pilgrim Hospital. Monday – Friday 08:50 – 16:40
T: 01205 446333 – Lines open - Monday to Friday 14:00 – 15:00
Book Online at: [Boston Blood Test Bookings \(office365.com\)](#)

Lincoln County Hospital. Monday to Friday – 08:00 – 17:00
T: 01522 573754 – Lines open Monday – Friday 14:30 – 15:30
Book Online at: [Blood Tests LINCOLN \(age 12y and over only\) - CHECK ALL CUBICLES \(office365.com\)](#)

Grantham District Hospital. Monday – Friday 08:30 – 17:00
T: 01476 464706. Lines open Monday – Friday 14:30 – 15:30
Book Online at: [Blood Tests GRANTHAM \(age 16 years and over only\) \(office365.com\)](#)

For details of blood clinics in John Coupland Hospital, Gainsborough, Johnson Community Hospital, Spalding and Skegness and District General Hospital:
[Community Hospitals :: Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust](#)

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