

24 May 2023

Drybrook Surgery update: contract agreement and dispensing changes

Dear Patient

I am delighted to inform you that a Caretaker contract for Drybrook Surgery has been signed, meaning that GP services at Drybrook Surgery are secured and will continue from 1 June 2023, when the Mitcheldean Partnership contract will come to an end.

The Caretaker is a local GP, Dr Anna Raymond, along with Nurse Practitioner Katie Dyer (nee Cook) and Practice Nurse Nichola Winstanley. This contract will run until 1 December 2023.

I believe that this is a great outcome for you as a patient at Drybrook Surgery, and many of you have existing relationships with Anna, Katie and Nichola as they already provide much of the clinical cover at the Surgery.

I am confident that as a team, they will be able to continue to offer high quality care to patients.

We are now focusing our efforts on the procurement for a longer-term solution as a matter of urgency.

Dispensing changes

As a result of these developments, there will be no changes to medicine ordering. However, legal NHS Pharmacy Regulations mean that from 1 June 2023, patients will no longer be able to collect medicines dispensed at the Surgery. The Surgery team are contacting patients with medicines awaiting collection. If you are contacted, please collect your medication as soon as possible, before Tuesday 30 May 2023.

Patients who have previously used Drybrook Dispensary for medication supplies will need to 'nominate' a pharmacy of their choice. The team at Drybrook Surgery have already been working diligently to support patients with selecting a convenient pharmacy. If you have not 'nominated' a pharmacy, there are a number of options now open to you.

Options to nominate a pharmacy:

1. Via the NHS App, from home screen go to 'order a repeat prescription' and click on 'your nominated pharmacy', then 'change your nominated pharmacy' and then

proceed to make your selection. If you don't have the NHS App then now may be a good time to download it from your phone's App Store as it provides several benefits (visit <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/nhs-app-help-and-support/> for more information)

2. Call or visit your preferred pharmacy, let them know that you would like them to supply you future prescription medicines and they will be happy to 'nominate' you. They will explain their services and support you with ongoing access to your medicines.
3. Contact Drybrook Surgery in person, by replying to a text message if received, or by emailing drybrook.surgery@nhs.net and informing them of your selected pharmacy for nomination.

Please note that prescriptions for stoma and continence appliances will continue as usual and will not be affected by these changes.

We are confident that local pharmacies will be able to deliver high quality services and advice with convenient locations and opening hours so that you should not be concerned about access to medicines.

Further information, including a form on which patients can record their nominations, is available on the Drybrook Surgery website:

<https://www.drybrooksurgery.nhs.uk/digitalpractice/medicines-and-prescriptions/>

If you have any queries or concerns about nominating a pharmacy, please contact Debbie Pritchard at drybrook.surgery@nhs.net.

Thank you for your support for the Surgery and I do hope this update is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely



Helen Goodey

Director of Primary Care and Place
NHS Gloucestershire