

Why are the Beacon Health Group and Moulsham Lodge Surgery merging?

The Beacon Health Group currently holds the contract to provide General Medical Services (GMS) for patients registered at Moulsham Lodge Surgery so therefore holders of the contract are already the same partnership group. The benefit of a formal merge allows the practice to operate under one practice code.

The partnership believes that the merger provides an opportunity to provide a strong and sustainable GP Practice organisation for circa 26,000 patients in Chelmsford.

The larger practice also provides an opportunity to expand the number of GPs, practice nurses, nurse practitioners and other specialist health professionals in our team and increase the range of services we can offer.

When will the merger officially take place?

The Beacon Health Group partnership has been signatories of the Moulsham Lodge Surgery contract since January 2018. The formal merge of the practices into one organisation was scheduled to take place on 1st July 2018. The merge of the clinical system is scheduled to take place on 16th July 2018.

Will the combined medical practice have a new telephone number?

No. The phone numbers remain the same.

Will patients need to re-register?

No. All existing Moulsham Lodge Surgery patients will automatically become patients of the Beacon Health Group.

Will all staff – including GPs – be retained?

All doctors from the three medical practices will be retained, as well as all clinical and administrative staff. In addition, additional doctors have been successfully recruited to further expand appointment availability and service.

Will there be any changes in patient service provision?

Patients will benefit from a larger, more stable and committed clinical team who will provide a wider range of services for patients. We intend to share access across all three sites, offering a greater degree of enhanced clinical services. The increased size of the team will allow greater flexibility to working patterns and we believe that these factors will aid GP recruitment and retention. Shared GP resources can enable all three sites a greater degree of primary care services to patients at scale, including paramedic and duty triage, clinical pharmacist appointments, medicines management, minor surgery and gynae services. Larger practices can attract high calibre staff because of the diversity of work offered.

Will patients have to wait longer to get an appointment?

No, there should be no difference in the service levels currently provided for Moulsham Lodge patients. Importantly, those who require seeing a GP continue to do so, but for some, their needs may be best met by seeing another health professional.

Will the name of the Practice change? If so, what will it be?

Moulsham Lodge Surgery will remain the name of the practice and it will remain under the leadership of the current Beacon Health Group Partnership of Drs McAllister, Plate, Hunt, Frankel, Brock, Brasse & Mrs L Hunt.

Will Moulsham Lodge Surgery patients continue to see their own GP at the same location as they are currently, or will that facility close?

Moulsham Lodge Surgery will remain in its current location. Dr Forbes and Dr Murphy have now retired but have been directly replaced by Dr McAllister and Dr Plate. Dr Bradford remains at Moulsham Lodge. There is no plan to close this location. There will be a degree of flexibility available to patients who may wish to book a more convenient appointment at another site.

What about repeat prescriptions? How will I get my repeat prescription?

All patients registered across all three sites will continue to use the same system as previously in place.