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PRACTICE AREA POLICY

We are having increasing numbers of queries about who can apply to join our List and who can remain on the List when they move house. This policy is clarified as follows:

We have a well-documented Practice Area with a boundary shown in red on the Practice web site. It follows roads, rivers and footpaths. Anyone inside that line is deemed in our Area. That Area has reduced in recent years so that many existing patients are still registered although living outside the current boundary.

Anyone **moving** to a new address, including existing patients, that is OUTSIDE the boundary unfortunately will be asked to register with a new doctor and will have one month's notice to do so. The only exception is a spouse, parent or child of an existing patient moving into the same household. Having the same postal address is not sufficient grounds.

This policy also applies to those moving to Nursing Homes out of our Area. However, if the stay is temporary then we may still prescribe medication or give advice on the telephone for up to two weeks but we shall not be in a position to visit. That would fall to the local GP. These requests need to be discussed with the patient's usual doctor.

Despite numerous pleas we have made no other exceptions to this rule in the last year due to the spiralling pressures on our service. We have a larger Practice Area than most local surgeries and we have a rapidly accelerating List size which threatens to affect the quality of the service we provide.

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Shared drive: Practice Policies and forms