**The proposed coming together Harold Road Surgery and Beaconsfield Road Surgery**

We are pleased to announce that Harold Road Surgery and Beaconsfield Road Surgery have applied to merge together to form a new practice later this year.

We believe that the merger is in the best interests of all of our patients and that together we will be in a stronger position to meet the needs of our patients.

We want to ensure that the patients of both practices continue to receive high quality medical care. We are now looking after patients with complex medical problems; patients with more than one long term illness as well as increasing patient expectation. We want to continue to be able to offer a personal approach to those with long term health problems as well as be able to respond to those with more urgent health needs. We feel the best way to ensure this happens is to bring together both practices so that we can, ensure our clinical teams are as well staffed as possible, share our pool of knowledge and skills, and reduce our need to rely on locum Drs who are not familiar with our patients.

Being a larger practice, we will be in a better position to provide sufficient doctors and nurses to better meet demand. The workload of a current GP Practice has increased enormously in recent years and we want to make sure that time is used most effectively.

An application has been made to NHS Sussex which will need to be approved to enable the merger to take place.

Beaconsfield Road Surgery is continuing conversations with NHS Sussex regarding opening a new branch site at Ore Clinic, 407 Old London Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN35 5BH. This site is conveniently located close to the Beaconsfield Ore Satellite Site. There is a large car park which patients would be able to use and a bus stop is located close to the site.

Please find below some questions that are frequently asked by patients when Surgeries merge, and our answers given to reassure you of what this means for our patients.

Frequently Asked Questions for patients and local community

**1. When will the merger take place?**

The two practices are proposing to merge to form one single organisation later this year.

**2. What is the proposed change?**

Merging the two practices to create a larger, single partnership while keeping all existing premises and staff.

**3. Why are the GP Partners proposing this change?**

The proposed merger is viewed as the best way to ensure ongoing provision of sustainable general practice services in the area in the future.

This way, first rate, sustainable GP services can continue to be provided to the local community and the healthcare needs of the patient population will be met in an improved way.

**4. What do I need to do now?**

You do not need to do anything. If you are a patient at either practice, responsibility for your care (including your medical records and GP) will automatically be transferred if the proposal goes ahead, unless you choose to register with another practice within your local catchment area in the meantime.

**5. How can I give my input into the proposed changes?**

We understand patients from both surgeries may have suggestions or questions and we would like to hear from you.

Please complete the survey available at or get in touch at: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk /r/JLBZ2WV 

**Or our Surgery website:**

• Harold Road Surgery: [www.haroldroadsurgery.co.uk](http://www.haroldroadsurgery.co.uk)

• Beaconsfield Road Surgery: [www.beaconsfieldroadsurgery.co.uk](http://www.beaconsfieldroadsurgery.co.uk)

**6. What will the impact of the proposed changes be on patients?**

Patients will have access to a wider range of services and specialist clinics.

Patients will still be able to see their GP at their current GP Practice.

The proposal will improve the ability of practices to recruit and retain staff, with primary care in Sussex facing the same workforce challenges as GP practices across the country.

**7. Will my usual surgery opening times stay the same?**

Yes, opening hours for all surgeries will remain the same.

**8. What will happen to my medical records in the case of the merger?**

Your medical records are electronic and will securely be transferred automatically.

**9. Will the process for booking GP appointments change as part of the proposed merger?**

While there are no current plans to change the booking process for appointments at either practice, improvements may be made in future to help improve GP access for patients. Patients will be informed ahead of any changes taking place.

**10. Will I be able to make an appointment to see a doctor/clinician and/or nurse at another GP practice site?**

Yes, if the proposed merger goes ahead, our patients will have access to a wider range of services and a choice of which surgery to visit, including:

• Harold Road Surgery Site

• Beaconsfield Road Surgery Site

• Fairlight Road (BOSS) Site

**11. Will the intended merge affect any treatment or medication I am currently receiving either at my usual surgery or any hospital?**

Your care will not be interrupted as a result of the proposed merger. You will continue to receive care

**12. What type of appointments and services will be available to me?**

We offer a range of appointments, including:

• Pre-bookable face-to-face Clinician appointments

• Telephone appointments with a Clinician

• On the day face-to-face Clinician appointments

• Online booking for appointments

• Extended hours appointments with a Clinician during weekday evenings and some Saturdays

• Travel vaccinations

• Community Navigation Service

• Clinics for long-term conditions such as asthma and diabetes