20th December 2024

Dear Patients,

We are writing to inform you about important changes to the services at your GP practice, as part of necessary **Collective Action** by General Practice. This action involves all four local practices: **Dr Murray and Partners, Hoad Medical Practice, Market Street Medical Practice, and Duddon Valley Medical Practice**, and aims to address critical issues we face.

**What is Collective Action?**

Essentially Collective Action is:

* Referring work that we are not funded to do to other services
* Ensuring that the workload is at a safe level for both patients and staff

**Why Collective Action is Needed:**

We are concerned about:

* **Patient Safety:** We feel that it is essential that increasing workload does not affect the high quality of care we want to continue to provide our patients.
* **Workforce:** High workloads are causing burnout and making it hard to recruit and retain staff.
* **Funding:** General practice is underfunded, receiving just 6% of the NHS budget, which is not enough to meet ever growing demand.

This Collective Action is not about GPs striking or pay, but about advocating for more investment in primary care to ensure we can continue to provide safe, high-quality care for all our patients.

**What This Means for You:**

Starting **1st January 2025**, some tasks, which we are not funded to deliver, will be referred to other organisations. We will be unable to provide the following tasks:

**• Insulin initiation**

**• ECGs**

**• PSA monitoring for hospital consultants**

**• MGUS monitoring for hospital consultants**

**• Consultant-requested blood tests, spirometry, and other tests**

**• Vaginal ring pessaries**

Additionally, we will be unable to provide **wound dressings** and **prostate cancer injections** from **1st April 2025** unless a fair agreement is reached.

Our practice will remain open. We will continue to prioritise your health and wellbeing in everything we do. We remain committed to providing high quality, patient focussed care. However, we can no longer absorb unfunded work from other sectors, especially with rising costs. We have raised these issues with NHS England, Morecambe Bay Hospital Trust, and our local MP, but we have not yet reached an agreement.

**How You Can Help:**

* **Be kind to our staff** – they are doing their best to help you.
* **Spread the word** and explain why these changes are happening.
* **Support your GP** in challenging negative perceptions.
* **Contact the ICB and your MP** to raise your concerns about the underfunding of your General Practice.
* **Integrated Care Board (ICB):** **lscicb-bl.healthierlsc.scnlbprimary@nhs.net**
* **Michelle Scrogham MP:** **michelle.scrogham.mp@parliament.uk**

General practice is struggling. Together, we can make a change. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Murray and Partners
Hoad Medical Practice
Market Street Medical Practice
Duddon Valley Medical Practice**