

THE FUTURE OF GP PRACTICES:

Primary Care Networks (PCNs)



NHS



From 2019, nearby GP practices will start to work together in PCNs, so they can share their expertise and resources over a wider geographical area. The [NHS's Long Term Plan](#), published in January 2019, aims to integrate a lot of services which have traditionally worked separately—like mental health services, physiotherapy and social care. By working together in a PCN, practices will be able to offer patients a wider range of services than they could deliver on their own and give patients much faster and more efficient access to the right care and support.

Each PCN will develop teams of healthcare professionals, including GPs, pharmacists, district nurses, community paramedics, physiotherapists and other health workers, to provide tailored care for patients in their community. A 'Social Prescriber' will be appointed in each PCN to help direct people to a whole range of nonmedical services, like social clubs, community support groups and exercise activities, that will help them take greater control of their own health and stay well.

PCNs are required to appoint a Clinical Director, whose role will be to provide leadership for the network's strategic plans, working to improve the quality, cost and effectiveness of the services it offers.

Our PCN – and what does it mean for you?



- ✓ Fortunately, we already have our PCN setup and it is called South Coast Medical Group, which consists of Providence, Marine, Oakridge, Grove, Crescent, Strouden, Village and Woodlea House Surgeries.
- ✓ We are already working as a PCN and have put in place many of the recommendations and objectives the NHS are requesting GP surgeries to do, so we shouldn't see a lot of change.
- ✓ The appointment of Dr Simon Rees as our Clinical Director and Dr Shelley Carter as our Deputy Clinical Director. Chris Alderson is our network lead, whose role will be to ensure compliance to the network agreement set out by NHS England.
- ✓ Building on our wide range of services for patients
- ✓ Continuing to increase the clinical skill mix in our network



THE PRIMARY CARE NETWORK TIMELINE



April 2019

GP practices start the formal process of becoming PCNs

July 2019

The new GP practice contract goes live across England

July 2019

Agreements with other community organisations are concluded

July 2019

Key appointments are made and additional funding starts.

By April 2020

Clinical pharmacists and social prescribers are appointed in PCNs

By April 2021

First Contact Physiotherapists are available in PCNs and Primary Care training hubs are set up

By April 2022

Increased focus on heart and lung disease prevention, and Community Paramedics join PCNs