



The Clarkson Surgery
DeHavilland Road
Wisbech
Cambs PE13 3AN

Telephone: 01945 583133
Fax No: 01945 464465

Introduction

Following a working at scale meeting in September 2017, 5 Peterborough practices decided that they would work towards a merger to become a larger practice with 5 branch sites. Along the way, other practices have joined the process as the opportunities to work at scale have proved to be successful for patients and staff alike. The name Octagon Medical Practice was chosen from staff entries to name the new merged entity. The practices have a joint patient population of circa. 75,000 patients and with the Clarkson Surgery and others currently joining we will total 12 Practices and close to 120,000 patients in mid-2019.

Background

For several years, the forward plan within the NHS has been to support the merger of primary care practices to enable long term secure care for Patients. The practices within Octagon share a vision of being part of a larger service which offers many benefits to all of our registered patients. This proposed merger will strengthen the Patient care choice and service available within its Patient population and allow for investment in new technology and ways of working.

Proposal

It is envisaged that Octagon will continue to grow, and to add further Practices to our portfolio, this will ensure financial and medical stability whilst continuing to provide the opportunities a larger Practice can offer. The merging of the Clarkson Surgery within Octagon is planned to take place by April 2019.

What does this mean for patients?

- ☑ There will be no reduction in current services offered at the Clarkson Surgery, and Octagon will look to develop service choice where we possibly can.
- ☑ Will this lead to more appointments being available for patients? This cannot be guaranteed, but the aim of the merger is to offer more choice without reducing any of the current service or appointments that the practice offers.
- ☑ As Octagon develop new services, Clarkson Surgery patients will benefit from these improvements as these services may be offered locally at the Clarkson Surgery site.
- ☑ It is our aim to be one of the leading Practices in the country for high quality patient care.

Other benefits of a Merger

The benefits of a merger of the practices are;

- ☑ Patients will have a choice of location. This will improve access for all patients who may live or work nearer to an alternative Octagon Practice.
- ☑ We are embracing technology as an enabler for those patients who choose to use it. Being part of our group will offer patients more ways to get clinical advice and support.
- ☑ A larger team of clinical staff means the practice can offer better training prospects for, including medical students, trainee GP's and nurses.

- ☒ More staff resources meaning staff can focus more on individual tasks.
- ☒ A larger practice can negotiate and commission additional services for patients in-house rather than sending them elsewhere.
- ☒ Bigger practices are more attractive to new staff both clinical and non-clinical.
- ☒ Properties across Octagon can be better utilised and this will allow Octagon to adapt and create more clinical space.

Engagement Process

Staff

Staff were informed of the proposed merge in November 2018. They were assured that there would be no redundancies. Staff have been informed at every stage of the merger process and were involved in preparing for the engagement period.

Patient Participation Groups (PPG)

We are currently looking for volunteers to join the Clarkson Surgery PPG and be involved with the merger process, if you are interested in joining please contact Suzanne Hurst the Practice Manager for more information.

Timeline of events and future events

Patients are invited to attend one of the following events which will happen in January/February to listen to representatives of Octagon and Clarkson Surgery speak regarding the merger;

January 30th - Patient open evening at the Clarkson Surgery at 6.30pm

February 5th - Patient open evening at the Clarkson Surgery at 6.30pm

This is the opportunity for all Patients to meet with the Partners of Clarkson Surgery and Octagon to discuss the merger and allow for questions to be answered. Patients can also visit the Clarkson Surgery website to view local questions and answers (see below).

Engagement Activities

Posters/Leaflets/Publications

We have posters in the Surgery and leaflets being distributed to advise of the proposed merger.

Social Media and general questions and answers

Patients can visit the Octagon website at www.octagonmedicalpractice.co.uk to read the frequently asked questions (FAQ) page and learn a little more about Octagon and their services. Further details of questions asked and answers given are available on the Clarkson Surgery website www.theclarksonsurgery.co.uk where you can also send us a question and we will answer it and share on the website