

Making a Complaint

Most problems can be sorted out quickly and easily, often at the time they arise with the person concerned and this may be the approach you try first.

Where you are not able to resolve your complaint in this way and wish to make a formal complaint you should do so, preferably **in writing** as soon as possible after the event and ideally within a few days, as this helps us to establish what happened more easily. In any event, this should be:

Within 12 months of the incident,

or within 12 months of the incident coming to your attention, giving as much detail as you can.

If you are a registered patient you can complain about your own care. You are unable to complain about someone else's treatment without their written authority. See the separate section in this leaflet.

Please note that details of any complaint logged will not be added to your clinical notes and will not affect your future medical care.

Please send your written complaint to:

In the first instance you should complain to the practice:

Mrs Tracey Squirrell (Practice Manager)

[Alternatively you may complain to NHS England \(details overleaf\)](#)

Note: YOU MAY NOT COMPLAIN TO BOTH

What we do next

We look to settle complaints as soon as possible.

We will acknowledge receipt within 3 working days, and aim to have looked into the matter within 10 working days. You may then receive a formal reply in writing, or you may be invited to meet with the person(s) concerned to attempt to resolve the issue. If the matter is likely to take longer than this we will let you know, and keep you informed as the investigation progresses.

When looking into a complaint we attempt to seek `the facts` and see what happened and why, to see if there is something we can learn from this, and make it possible for you to discuss the issue with those involved if you would like to do so.

When the investigations are complete your complaint will be determined and a final response sent to you.

Where your complaint involves more than one organisation (e.g. District nurses or social services) we will liaise with that organisation so that you receive one coordinated reply. We may need your consent to do this. Where your complaint has been sent initially to an incorrect organisation, we may seek your consent to forward this to the correct person to deal with.

The final response letter will include details of the result of your complaint and also your right to escalate the matter further if you remain dissatisfied with the response.

Complaining on Behalf of Someone Else

We keep to the strict rules of medical and personal confidentiality. If you wish to make a complaint and are not the patient involved, we will require the written consent of the patient to confirm that they are unhappy with their treatment and that we can deal with someone else about it.

Where the patient is incapable of providing consent due to illness or accident it may still be possible to deal with the complaint. Please provide the precise details of the circumstances which prevent this in your covering letter.

Please note that we are unable to discuss any issue relating to someone else without their express permission, which must be in writing, unless the circumstances above apply.

We may still need to correspond direct with the patient, or may be able to deal direct with the third party, and this depends on the wording of the authority provided.

An alternative FIRST point of complaint:

NHS England

PO Box 16738

Redditch

B97 9PT

England.contactus@nhs.net

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome

You also have the right to approach the

Health Service Ombudsman. The contact details are:

The Parliamentary and Health Service
Ombudsman
Millbank Tower
Millbank
London
SW1P 4QP

Tel: 0345 015 4033

Website: www.ombudsman.org.uk

You may also approach PALS for help or advice;

who provide confidential advice and support, helping you to sort out any concerns you may have about the care we provide, guiding you through the different services available from the NHS

PALS
Rushbrook House
Paper Mill Lane
Bramford
Ipswich
IP8 4DE

0800 389 6819

The Practice Complaints Manager is:

Tracey Squirrell, Practice Manager

The practice Responsible Person is:

Dr E Cope

HADLEIGH BOXFORD GROUP PRACTICE

Patient Information



How to make a Compliment or a Complaint

Hadleigh Boxford Group Practice
Hadleigh Health Centre
Market place
Hadleigh
Suffolk

01473 822961