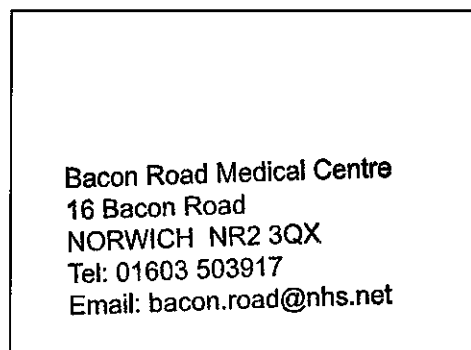


Application to Close Patient List

Practice stamp



Please complete the following:

Briefly describe your main reasons for applying to close your practice's register to new registrations:

The decision to submit a request to temporarily close the patient list at Bacon Road Medical Centre has not been made lightly. The Practice is keen to ensure a robust and safe environment for all patients and staff, ensuring that there is a good delivery of patient care. Due to existing and forthcoming clinical vacancies, it is becoming more problematic to ensure an equitable level of patient care; this is due to both the high level of demand from patients and also shortfall of clinician availability. In the previous 6 months, the practice has had a high demand on clinical appointments, partly due to winter pressures, but predominantly due to the availability of clinicians covering clinics. Episodes of both short and long term sickness have increased within the clinical team relating to both viral and stress related conditions.

Currently, the practice has 0.8 Nurse Practitioner vacancy, 0.6 GP vacancy in addition to 0.6 GP imminent maternity leave.

What options have you considered, rejected or implemented to relieve the difficulties you have encountered about your open list and, if any were implemented, what was your success in reducing or erasing such difficulties?

To address the demand on capacity, clinicians on duty will extend clinics and those not on rota undertake administration from home and undertake other clinical duties on non-working days, to ensure that there is a delivery of patient care. The management team are actively involved in pilot's schemes that will alleviate pressure, such as home visiting pilot, physiotherapy pilot – with the intention of patients accessing care at the earliest opportunity. These pilots are alleviating some demand, however it does not address daily requirement for GP to be accessible in clinic, and provide immediate care when required, such as home visits.

Locum GP cover and nurse practitioner cover is utilised wherever is possible; however, securing cover is heavily dependent on Locum availability, does not provide consistency of patient care, and can be vulnerable when managing and supporting patients with complex clinical needs. The impact financially is such that this dependency cannot continue for many more months.

Have you had any discussions with your registered patients about your difficulties maintaining an open list and if so, please summarise them, including whether registered patients thought the list of patients should or should not be closed?

In addition to this request to temporarily close patient list, the practice will also be submitting a request to reduce the current boundary, in order that we are able to manage patient demand; notifications regarding both have been made available to patients, to date there has been no feedback.

Have you spoken with other contractors in the practice area about your difficulties maintaining an open list and if so, please summarise your discussions including whether other contractors thought the list of patients should or should not be closed?

Colleagues at practices in the local geographical area have been notified of the intention to temporarily request close of patient list, in addition to inviting discussion around adjustments to boundary – no feedback has been received.

How long do you wish your list of patients to be closed? (This period must be more than three months and less than 12 months)

We are seeking a temporary closure to patient list of 10 months. On request, we would continue to register children 16yrs and under and those co-habiting with

existing registered patients.

What reasonable support do you consider the area team would be able to offer, which would enable your list of patients to remain open or the period of proposed closure to be minimised?

The request to close patient list for a temporary period is related to existing vacancy, which has not been filled and GP maternity leave. We would require 0.8 nurse practitioner and 0.6 GP vacancies to be filled.

Do you have any plans to alleviate the difficulties you are experiencing in maintaining an open list, which you could implement when the list of patients is closed, so that list could reopen at the end of the proposed closure period?

Active recruitment is in progress for the substantive posts and discussions underway with other practices with regard possible future merger.

Do you have any other information to bring to the attention of the area team about this application?

The practice has always been very dynamic and forward thinking, identifying and embedding change to meet the rising needs of the patient population. It has a good CQC rating and is recognised as a leading teaching and training practice. The Senior Partner is a Governing Body member for the CCG, another Partner is a key member of the training faculty and the Strategic Manager also works as the Transformation Programme Manager for *OneNorwich* which demonstrates our commitment to general practice and the local health economy. Therefore, this request has been given considerable thought before being made and we would ask for your support in this matter.


Please note that this application does not concert any obligation on NHS England to agree to this request

To be signed by all parties to the contract (where this is reasonably achievable):

Signed: 

Print: DR SARAH DUSHITOV

Date: 16/5/2018

Signed: 

Print: DR ANDREW DOUGLAS

Date 16/5/2018
