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Dear Patients

**Locally Commissioned Services Spending Cap**

 Most services that we provide are carried out under a National General Medical Services (GMS) Contract. This contract sets out the core services that every GP Practice has to provide to its registered patients.

 In addition to these core services, some specific services have been set up based on the needs of the local population, these are agreed locally, rather than nationally, and GP Practices are paid separately to provide them via the NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board. These are known as Locally Commissioned Services and will vary from one Practice to another.

Throughout the last year, the number of treatments and procedures delivered as part of these Locally Commissioned Services has increased considerably across Sussex.

NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board receives its budget from central government, and it has a

statutory responsibility to ensure the local NHS does not exceed its allocated funding.

The increased demand on these Locally Commissioned Services means that the cost of the

services are following an upward trend and it is expected, that without any changes, they will cost more money than has been budgeted for by the end of this financial year.

NHS Sussex has therefore taken the decision to make changes to some of these services for

the rest of the financial year so that they can meet their budget for this year. This means some Locally Commissioned Services will be temporarily capped or delivered by another NHS service with existing capacity.

Unfortunately, this leaves the Practice having to make unavoidable cuts to services that we

deliver under the Locally Commissioned Services umbrella. This is something we do not wish

to do and acknowledge the inconvenience this may cause our patients. We are disappointed to be having to cut services that we know for some of our patients combine to give the outstanding level of care we pride ourselves in providing. However, financially we cannot afford to continue to offer these services without remuneration from NHS Sussex.

The services that will be affected by these cuts until the end of the current financial year (April 2024) are listed below:

**Joint Injections**

We will not be running a regular clinic. Patients will be assessed on a case by case basis and only those who are deemed clinically urgent will be appointed.

**Non-Contraceptive IUS (HRT)**

We will continue to replace any IUS that has reached its expiry but will be unable to appoint patients for a first non-contraceptive IUS.

**Ring Pessaries**

Patients will be assessed on a case by case basis and only those who are deemed clinically urgent will be appointed.

**Ear Irrigation (ear syringing)**

We will not be running ear irrigation clinics. We advise to attempt self-treatment using ear drops, for advice on this process, please download https://www.esht.nhs.uk/wp-

content/uploads/2019/01/0700.pdf.

If following this treatment, patients continue to experience hearing difficulties, they can access ear irrigation services via a private provider.

**Ear Check Appointments**

Nurse appointments for ear checks will continue. In cases where the ears are found to be blocked with wax, patients will be provided with information about self-treatment.

**Ear Microsuction**

We will not be running a regular clinic. Patients will be assessed on a case by case basis and only those who are deemed clinically urgent will be appointed.

**Phlebotomy service (blood tests)**

Our phlebotomists will continue to carry out blood tests. We would encourage patients who have a hospital blood test form to use the hospital phlebotomy service.

It is important to be clear that this does not affect our core services as a GP practice, our core services will all still remain available to anyone that needs our help and support.

For patients who need to access one of the affected services, you may need to wait longer for treatment or you may be directed to another NHS service to receive this type of care. Your GP or a member of the Practice team will discuss this with you directly.

 We expect that many of our patients will be disappointed and may wish to make a formal

complaint. Complaints can be made direct to NHS Sussex via email at

sxicb.contactus@nhs.net, or alternatively you may wish to write to your local MP.

Dr Andrews & Partners