

Priory Medical
Group and
Abbey Medical
Group



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Update for Overview Scrutiny Committee on Merger between the Abbey Medical group and Priory Medical Group.

This paper has been prepared to provide and update to Overview Scrutiny Committee on a number of questions raised at a previous meeting relating to the merger of Priory and Abbey Medical Groups.

It should be noted that the merger has now taken place and that no significant issues with the merger have been raised.

The questions raised were as follows:

1. Whether the merger would influence commissioning of services in the future?

The Primary Care commissioning responsibility transferred to NHS England on the 1st April 2013. The merger between the two practices would have no influence on any present or future commissioning strategy.

2. Would the merger lead to a trend to create a very small number of powerful businesses involved in providing health care?

There is undoubtedly a pressure on primary medical care practices at present and the requirement to achieve CQC accreditation and meet raising patient demands does mean that practices will be looking at how best to meet these challenges. There has been some talk nationally around the federated model with practices working together, sharing back office functions etc and whilst these discussions are being had the outcome of the merger is unlikely to have any impact on future models.

3. Would the advent of seven day working for GP surgeries arrive sooner rather than later?

There are no definitive plans for 7 day working by GPs at this stage.

4. How the newly merged surgeries were working with the Out of Hours Service and how data was shared.

There are no particular circumstances where the practice would need to engage with the service outside of the normal contractual arrangements, the practice would utilise the service on the same basis as all other practices in the area. Data would continue to be shared as required by the contract.

We asked the practice to provide an update from their perspective and they made the following comments. In relation to patient feedback, the practice run a continual survey and will be updating this in coming months to capture greater details and will include electronic data capture. Work is continuing to look at ways where they can improve the service offered and this includes appointment of new GPs which take place from September 2013.

The practice are keen to share that they achieved maximum Quality and Outcome Framework points for 2011/12 and have stated that they have robust governance structures applied across the merged practice to ensure clinical best practice is delivered continually, this is monitored on a fortnightly basis.

Priory Medical Group have provided continuity of service following four partner resignations from the Abbey Medical group and have made efficiencies in other areas allowing reinvestment into the practice.

As a result of the merger all the GP's in the group now have access to specialist advice, in particular Gynaecology and Dermatology due to GPs with a Special Interest being in the group. Improvements are being made to the Gynaecology service offered to the patients of Tang Hall Lane, Victoria Way and Park View surgeries.

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