

### **Comments, Suggestions and Complaints;**

Our Aim at the Atrium Health Centre is to provide you with a high standard of medical treatment and care, and we are anxious to learn of any instances where you feel we have fallen short of this aim.

We welcome your comments, both positive and negative, as these let us know when we are doing things right for you, our patients, and show us where there is room for improvement.

This leaflet explains how you can make these suggestions; comments or complaints about services provided and/or staff members at the Atrium or Crossways surgeries.

### **Letters of Appreciation;**

If you are happy with the care you have received, or a service by any of our staff, please let us know.

Letters or emails can be sent to the Patient Services Manager; Ms Natalie McCafferty, or any of the Doctors and are always appreciated.

### **Suggestions;**

If you have any suggestions for making changes or improvements to the way we provide our services, please complete the form on the website (or paper form from Reception). Alternatively details can be posted or emailed to the Patient Services Manager; Ms Natalie McCafferty via [atrium.reception@nhs.net](mailto:atrium.reception@nhs.net)

### **Patient Participation Group;**

The Practice also has an active Patient Participation Group (PPG) who are involved with assisting the practice with ideas for improving the service the Practice provides for its patients.

If you are interested in joining this group please either visit our website for an application form or see one of the receptionists in your surgery.

### **Complaints;**

If you are unhappy with any aspect of your care or service, please let us know as soon as possible. We operate an In-House Practice Complaints procedure as part of the NHS system for dealing with complaints. Our complaints system meets national criteria.

### **How to Complain;**

We hope that most problems can be sorted out easily and quickly, often at the time they arise and with the person concerned. If your problem cannot be sorted out in this way and you wish to make a complaint, we would like you to let us know as soon as possible, ideally within a couple of days as this will enable us to establish what happened more easily. If this is not possible please let us have details of your complaint within 12 months of the incident that caused the problem.

Complaints should be addressed to Ms Natalie McCafferty; Patient Services Manager (designated complaints manager); Telephone; 01305 251545 or email; [atrium.reception@nhs.net](mailto:atrium.reception@nhs.net)

Where your complaint is in writing, it will be acknowledged in writing within three working days of receipt by the Patient Services Manager. The complaint details will then be investigated by the Patient Services Manager and either discussed in a meeting with the relevant parties, or in a one to one meeting. Following this investigation a response letter will be sent which will include;

- an explanation of how the complaint has been considered,
- the conclusions reached; including any matters for which remedial action is needed and confirmation that these have been completed, or the Practice is in the process of doing so.

### **Making a complaint on behalf of someone else;**

Please note that we adhere fully to the rules of medical confidentiality. Therefore if you are complaining on behalf of someone else you must have their written permission to do so. Our complaints form contains a section which provides consent where necessary.

### **Dorset Advocacy;**

If you have a query or concern but are not sure if you want to make a complaint, or how to go about the process, you can speak to Dorset Advocacy. Who will be happy to assist you in answering your queries or concerns.

Tel; 0300 343 7000

Email; [enquiries@dorsetadvocacy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dorsetadvocacy.co.uk)

Website; [www.dorsetadvocacy.co.uk](http://www.dorsetadvocacy.co.uk)

### **NHS Complaints Procedure;**

We hope that if you have a problem you will use our In-house Complaints procedure and that the response you receive will be satisfactory. We believe this will give us the best chance of putting right whatever has gone wrong and an opportunity to improve our practice

However, if you do not wish to complain directly to the Practice you can address your complaint to NHS England;

**NHS England**

PO Box 16738

Redditch

B97 9PT

Direct tel: 0300 311 2233

email: [england.contactus@nhs.net](mailto:england.contactus@nhs.net)

Website: [www.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/complaint](http://www.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/complaint)

Under the NHS Complaints Procedure, complaints are usually investigated only if they are made within 12 months of the event, or within 12 months of you realising that you have something to complain about.

However, this 12-month limit does not apply if there were good reasons for not making the complaint within the time limit, or despite the delay, it is still possible to investigate matters effectively and fairly. There are two stages to the NHS Complaints Procedure;

- 1<sup>st</sup> stage; local resolution, either by the Atrium Health Centre, or NHS Complaints.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> stage; Parliamentary & Health Service Ombudsman, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP. Tel: 0345 015 4033  
Website: <http://www.ombudsman.org.uk>

You may also approach PALS, Healthwatch or the Independent Health Complaints Advocacy for help with advice;

- PALS; <http://www.dchft.nhs.uk/patients/patient-experience>
- Healthwatch; [www.healthwatch.co.uk](http://www.healthwatch.co.uk)
- The Advocacy People;  
<https://www.theadvocacypeople.org.uk/nhs-complaints-advocacy>

#### **Care Quality Commission;**

The CQC does not manage individual complaints about GP's, however if can let them know about your experiences if you wish.

Phone: 03000 616161

email: [enquiries@cqc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cqc.org.uk)

Online form; [www.cqc.org.uk/content/contact-us-using-our-online-form](http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/contact-us-using-our-online-form)



## **How to make Comments, Suggestions and Complaints**

#### **Our Promise to you;**

At the Atrium Health Centre we try to ensure that all patients are pleased with their experience of our service and we take complaints very seriously. If you need to complain, you will be dealt with courteously and promptly so that the matter is resolved as quickly as possible.

We learn from every mistake that we make, and we attempt to respond to patients' concerns in a caring and sensitive way.

#### **Practice Address;**

Letters should be addressed to;

[Patient Services Manager, the Atrium, 7 Weymouth Avenue, Dorchester, DT1 1QR.](#)

Or email; [atrium.reception@nhs.uk](mailto:atrium.reception@nhs.uk)

or via the Practice website;

[www.atriumhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.atriumhealth.nhs.uk)

or ask for a complaints form at reception.