



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION	ANSWER
What does it mean when my GPs resign their contract?	<p>GP practices are independent contractors that are commissioned by the Health Board to provide care through the General Medical Services Contract.</p> <p>GPs can choose to terminate (resign) their contract arrangement with the Health Board, giving 6 months' notice.</p>
What does the Health Board do when they receive a contract resignation?	<p>When a practice resigns their contract, it is the Health Boards responsibility to ensure all patients have access to General Medical Services from the date the contract will end.</p> <p>The Health Board follows a process called the Vacant Practice Process, where a panel meet to discuss the options available.</p> <p>This process details a number of options that can be considered, examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advertising the practice, with the aim to secure a new GP partnership to take over the practice.• Allocating patients to local GP practices, patients will be registered with an alternative GP close to where they live.• Health Board Management, the Health Board takes over the responsibility of the practice.
How does the Health Board decide on what happens to the contract?	<p>There is a Vacant Practice Panel which includes representation from Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council and the Local Medical Committee.</p> <p>Several factors are considered including the size of the practice, existing premises and local population health needs and the</p>



	impact on both patients and nearby practices.
Do I need to do anything when I am notified that the GP practice I am registered with has resigned the contract?	<p>No. You do not need to do anything. You will continue to receive care from your existing practice until the contract ends.</p> <p>It is important that patients stay with their existing practice so that the Health Board can make the necessary arrangements for patients when the contract ends.</p> <p>If a large number of patients register with another practice before the Health Board confirms the arrangements it may impact on the practices ability to deliver care safely.</p> <p>The Health Board will notify you, in writing, on how you will access care when the contract ends.</p>
What if I don't want to stay with the new practice or go to a practice I have been allocated to?	The Health Board will try to ensure that you still have a choice of a GP Practice to register with.
I use My Health Online – what should I do?	If you are allocated to a new practice, registration is not transferable and you will need a new code for your new practice. Reception staff will be able to help you with this.
What do I need to do if I am allocated/transferred to a new practice?	You do not need to do anything – your records will automatically be transferred and you will be added to the practice list in the new practice.
Is this about money?	No, there is sufficient money to secure all of the GPs that are needed for the population. There can be issues relating to the shortage of GPs we can attract to work in the area.



Can I do anything to help?

General advice for anyone thinking about making an appointment with the practice would be to consider :

- Do I need to see a doctor or could I request a different member of the healthcare team (e.g. practice nurse, practice pharmacist etc.)
- Could I visit a pharmacy instead of the practice?
- Did you know about the Community Pharmacy Common Ailment Scheme?

A community pharmacy common ailment service is a scheme whereby patients are able to consult a participating community pharmacy, rather than their GP, for a **defined** list of common ailments which may not require being seen by a nurse or doctor. The pharmacist will supply medication from an agreed list, give advice or refer the patient to the GP if necessary. **Medicines are supplied free of charge.**

Please see Aneurin Bevan University Health Board website for further details - **[https://:abuhb.nhs.wales/healthcare-services/pharmacies-chemists/](https://abuhb.nhs.wales/healthcare-services/pharmacies-chemists/)**