

# Vale Medical Group

www.valemedicalgroup.co.uk



**Only one letter has been sent to each household, please share with other family members registered with the above practice.**

Dear Patient

**CONSULTATION WITH PATIENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED MERGER OF:  
WOOLSTHORPE SURGERY AND  
STACKYARD SURGERY (CROXTON KERRIAL)**

As a patient of one of the above Practices, we are writing to you to let you know that we are commencing a formal consultation about the possibility of merging the two practices into one practice. A merger would mean the practices would have one patient list and patients could access care at both sites. The two practices will still remain at their current location.



If the merger goes ahead, the Practice will be known as Stackyard and Woolsthorpe Surgeries. Our aim is to:

- Improve the overall range and quality of services to patients
- Improve access to services
- Improve access to more clinical staff for patients
- Improve patient choice
- Increase GP availability

The merger would also:

- Enable us to secure GP services throughout the rural population
- Enable us to provide timely care for patients who require urgent visits to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions.

**Next steps – tell us your views**

The practices have written to every household with patients currently registered with Woolsthorpe Surgery and Stackyard Surgery asking for their views on the merger of the two practices, by completing a short survey.

We would like to hear your views on the proposed merger. We have provided a 'Frequently Asked Questions' sheet to address any concerns you may have.

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We are carrying out a consultation to obtain your views before a decision is made by South West Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group. This 45 day period of consultation will start on Monday 7th August 2017.

We are also holding the following Public Consultation meetings, where you can complete the questionnaire and find out more details about the change:

Date	Venue	Time
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> August 2017	Woolsthorpe Village Hall	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2017	Croxton Kerrial Village Hall	6:00pm – 8:00pm

Your views and feedback regarding the proposed merger are important to the overall decision making process.

There are several ways you can have your say:

Fill in the survey online at [www.valemedicalgroup.co.uk](http://www.valemedicalgroup.co.uk)

- Pick up a paper copy of the survey at your surgery. In each surgery there is a designated box for you to place your completed survey.
- Visit a Public Consultation meeting detailed above.
- Request a copy of the patient survey form to be posted to your home address by telephoning the practice on 01476 871809

The closing date for your feedback is Wednesday 20th September 2017 and we look forward to hearing your comments.

Yours sincerely

Dr Philip Rathbone - Dr Simon Wooding

If you require help with understanding the contents of this document or require an alternative format please contact

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q. What does the merger mean for patients?

- Patients will be able to access Primary Healthcare at both sites and will be offered a choice when booking appointments.
- Former Woolsthorpe patients will have a choice of GP and access to longer opening hours
- We will be able to streamline all administration services, this will allow us to meet the demands placed on GP surgeries over the next five years.

### Q. Will Woolsthorpe Surgery and Stackyard Surgery have the same facilities and services?

Patients will be able to access all the same services at the two practice sites. As part of the merger, improvements will be made across both sites to ensure that patients can continue to access high quality healthcare.

### Q. Will I need to re-register with my GP if the practices merge?

You will not need to do anything. If the merger is approved, patients from both practices will be able to access services across both sites.

### Q. Will I still be able to see my usual GP if the practices merge?

Yes. Patients will also have access to a larger clinical team during longer opening hours.

### Q. How will you provide enough appointments?

The surgery team will regularly review the number of appointments available to ensure that we are able to accommodate patients. GP appointments will not be reduced; the merger will result in greater appointment availability for patients overall.

### Q. Where will I get my prescriptions from?

You can continue to use any pharmacy or, if entitled, the Dispensing Doctor Service to collect your prescriptions.

### Q. If the surgeries do merge, when is it likely to happen?

The consultation about the merger will commence on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017, for the duration of 45 days and will end on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017. All feedback we receive from the survey will be taken into consideration and a decision will be made shortly after this date. The final decision will be made by South West Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group. If it is agreed that Woolsthorpe Surgery and Stackyard Surgery can merge, you will be notified of the decision by letter and will receive information about how to access services.



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## What happens now?

The practices have written to all households of patients currently registered with Woolsthorpe Surgery and Stackyard Surgery, asking for their views on the merger of the two practices, by completing a short survey which needs to be returned by 20th September 2017.

The practices are also holding two Public Consultation meetings to answer any questions or queries that you may have in relation to this merger or around the patient survey. Drop in sessions will be held at the following locations:

Date	Venue	Time
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> August 2017	Woolsthorpe Village Hall	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2017	Croxton Kerrial Village Hall	6:00pm – 8:00pm

## Q. What do I need to do?

You don't need to do anything. At the moment we are currently proposing to merge and we are carrying out a consultation to obtain your views before a decision is made. You can give us your views on the proposed merger of the practices by completing the survey in one of the following ways:

- Fill in the survey online at [www.valemedicalgroup.co.uk](http://www.valemedicalgroup.co.uk)
- Pick up a paper copy of the survey at the surgery
- Visit one of our meetings and ask one of our staff to complete it with you

If you want to become more involved with your surgery, you can speak to a member of staff for details of the Patient Participation Group.