

Primary Care Networks

- ✓ Joined up services
- ✓ Convenient appointments
- ✓ Shorter waiting times
- ✓ Different ways of getting advice and treatment
- ✓ Increased focus on prevention
- ✓ Greater patient involvement



What is a Primary Care Network?

A Primary Care Network, 'PCN' for short, is a group of general practices working together with a range of local providers. This includes community services, social care and the volunteer sector, as well as medical professionals. A typical PCN covers between 30,000 and 50,000 patients, although larger and smaller networks exist.



Why do Primary Care Networks exist?

PCNs were introduced as part of the NHS's Long Term Plan, which was published in January 2019, and they came into place in July 2019. They were created to provide patients with proactive, coordinated care, with a strong focus on prevention and personalised care.



Who leads my Primary Care Network?

Each Primary Care Network is led by a Clinical Director. You can find out who the director is for your PCN either by contacting your GP or by accessing our PCN list.



Will anything change for me as a patient?

Your GP practice will remain your point of contact. However, through Primary Care Networks there will be a chance for different health professionals to become more involved with your day-to-day care. This could include physiotherapists, social prescribing link workers, and clinical pharmacists. When you call your GP practice with a medical issue, you will be advised which health professional you need to see. Although you could be asked to see your GP or your practice nurse, a different health professional may be recommended if your needs suggest this would be best.



What new roles will I see?

Health professionals from across a range of roles in primary care will get more involved in your day-to-day care. The following are just a few examples of the roles you may run into in the new PCN structure.

Clinical Pharmacist

The Clinical Pharmacist is an expert in the field of medication and preventive healthcare. This person can work with you directly to make sure your medicine helps you get well and stay well.



This means you could be asked to see the Clinical Pharmacist rather than your GP for medicine reviews. The Pharmacist can also advise on any changes that are needed to your prescription or any lifestyle changes you need to consider.

Social Prescribing Link Worker

Sometimes a patient will seek help from their GP about a non-medical issue. This can include things like loneliness or difficulty cooking and caring for oneself.



In those cases, a Social Prescribing Link Worker may be able to help. This person will meet with the patient to identify what they need. They will then put them in touch with the right services. Social prescribing can include volunteering, walks through nature or joining community groups.

First Contact Physiotherapist

First Contact Physiotherapists are specialists who have extra qualifications. This enables them to undertake additional duties, like ordering x-rays or blood tests, referring patients to other specialists and providing joint injections.



How do I find out more about PCNs?

You can find out more about your PCN via your GP practice or the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). You can contact the CCG via contact.capccg@nhs.net.