

Application to change our Practice Catchment Area

At Tamar Valley Health, we want to ensure that all the patients in our catchment area receive the best care and access to services possible.

Our current catchment area covers a large rural area of Cornwall and includes part of Devon. Our Practice patient list size continues to grow due to the development of new housing estates in several parts of the area, and this is set to continue.

With declining numbers of GPs, we continue to find recruitment a problem. We have been very fortunate this year to have 2 new GPs join us but that has not filled our recruitment gaps. We continue to rely on locum doctors to provide cover. Whilst we have a strong multi-disciplinary team, made up of lots of different roles to provide care to our patients, we still find that our GPs are carrying large patient list sizes, above the national average.

Our community services are becoming a problem to manage across our Practice areas, particularly for those patients who live in Devon, with some Cornwall service providers unable to treat/see them. Whilst we are able to get them the care they need via Devon community services we recognise that this sometimes is not as smooth a process as we would like.

To that end, we have made the decision to apply to the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to change our Practice boundary and follow along the Cornwall/Devon border, registering only those who live in Cornwall.

We have produced a list of FAQs that may help to answer any queries you have.

If you would like to submit any feedback on this application or you have a question that is not covered below please use the following link [Contact the Practice | Tamar Valley Health](#) or contact the Practice by letter, addressed to Mrs L-A Bruton, Practice Business Manager.

Application to change our Practice Catchment Area - FAQs

- Q. I currently live in Devon, and I am registered at your Practice, do I need to change to another GP Practice?
- A. No, all patients who are currently registered with Tamar Valley Health will stay registered at the Practice for as long as they are at their current address.
- Q. Do I have to change GP if I move home?
- A. Our Practice Policy is to write to patients who move out of our catchment area, giving them 30 days to re-register at another Practice, closer to where they live. We are not contractually obliged to keep patients registered at the Practice who do not live in our catchment area.
- Q. When will this change take place?
- A. Once we have gathered any patient feedback received about the proposed change, the information will be sent to the ICB who will then discuss the application and advise us if it has been approved. We should know before the end of 2023.
- Q. If I live in Devon and am registered with your Practice but move to another address, can I stay registered with you?
- A. If your new address is in our Practice catchment area, then yes. However, this could mean that you do need to change GP Practice if you move to another address in Devon and our catchment area application has been successful.
- Q. Who have you discussed this application with so far?
- A. We have made an initial application to the ICB to understand what supporting evidence we need in order to have this application taken to the Primary Care Operational Group for a decision. We have spoken to our PPG for their views and feedback. They are in support of this application.
- Q. I will be moving to Devon in the near future, if I can't stay registered with you, where can I register?
- A. Your postcode will determine the Practices that can accept you on to their list. The best way to find out this information is to use the "Find a GP" option on the NHS website [Find a GP - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)