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You may have been aware of changes to some of the services that you usually receive in the surgery. Below is some further information in respect to these changes which should help you to understand why the surgery has had to make these difficult decisions.

Most services that are provided by GP practices are carried out under a national general medical services (GMS) contract. This sets out the core services that every GP practice has to provide to its registered patients.

However, some specific services have been set up based on the needs of the local population that are outside of this contract. This could be services that meet a particular need of that population, for example a specific service for older people, or something for families. These are agreed locally rather than nationally, and GP practices are paid separately to provide them. They are known as Locally Commissioned Services.

Across Sussex over the last year, the number of treatments and procedures provided to patients within Locally Commissioned Services has significantly increased. The increase in activity means that these services are also costing more for the local NHS. NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board receives its budget from central government, and it has a statutory responsibility to ensure the local NHS does not overspend on its allocated funding.

The increase in these Locally Commissioned Services means that the cost for these services is also increasing, and it is expected that without any changes, they would cost more money by the end of the year than has been budgeted for. NHS Sussex has taken the decision to make changes to some of these services for the rest of the year so that they can be meet the NHS locally can help to meet its budget for this year.

It is important to be clear that these changes will not affect our core services at our GP practice, and these will all still remain available for anyone that needs help or support.

We appreciate that this may be frustrating, but we hope we have been able to explain the reason for the current change. Your GP or member of our practice team will be able to discuss the options for your care directly.

Partners: R P Crossman & L C Shillito
Non Clinical Partner: Bret Stevenson

Website: www.parkcrescenthealthcentre.nhs.net

In summary:

There are some of these LCS services which are classed as essential and a reduction of these could impact patient safety and as such we will continue to provide them to our patients however others will be deferred until April 2024 or will be limiting how we provide them to you as outlined below:

Continue to provide	Deferring until April 2024
Suspected DVT	TNBI
Drug monitoring	Ambulatory Blood Pressure
Warfarin safe prescribing	Ear Wax Removal
DOACs	Non Contraceptive-IUS
INR monitoring	Joint injections
PSA monitoring	Familial Hypercholesterolaemia
Phlebotomy	Minor Surgery / Procedures
Wound Care	
Ring Pessary	
ECG	
Spirometry	

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FAQs:

How long will I have to wait if I need one of these services?

Wait times may vary according to how many people need to use the specific service in your area. You will be contacted when you can arrange your appointment.

Can I access these services elsewhere?

If another NHS organisation has capacity to provide this service, you will be transferred to them to access the care you need.

Is this a reduction in the funding to primary care?

GP practices will receive the same funding as last year for the Locally Commissioned Services (LCSs) they provide, so there is no reduction in funding to primary care. However, the steps being taken by NHS Sussex this year aims to ensure there is no overspend of the allocated budget for these services, due to increased activity.

Why is this happening?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, NHS Sussex paused reporting on LCS activity. Now that this reporting has resumed, we are observing considerably higher than predicted activity which will cause the local NHS to exceed the allocated budget.

NHS Sussex has a statutory responsibility to act in recognition of the overall financial position to avoid overspending. As a result, the local NHS has reviewed LCSs and capped those that will have the minimum impact on patient care. This is not the only area under review, and the local NHS is making several efficiencies throughout this year and 2024/25 across all parts of the health system.

Who can I speak to about this?

If you would like to complain, please contact sxicb.contactus@nhs.net or 0300 140 9854.