

As you will be aware, we are planning to relocate our practice to the new Bicester Health Hub and we therefore require consent for the relocation of our existing dispensing rights.

The plan below shows the location of the new Bicester Health Hub.



Both of the relocating practices dispense to patients at present. Montgomery House dispenses from one site and Alchester Medical Group dispenses from two sites.

The relocation of dispensing rights will keep the same services being provided in the same manner to the same patients.

Dispensing takes place at our premises to patients who attend for primary medical services. Dispensing is the only pharmaceutical service that we provide and the only relevant group is comprised of our patients who attend our premises and are registered with the practice.

Patients will continue to access our dispensary in the same manner once we have relocated to our new premises at Bicester Health Hub. There will be no change in accessibility for that patient group as the GP practice will also have relocated to the same site.

There is no reason to believe that granting the application would result in a significant change to the arrangements that are in place for the provision of pharmaceutical services. The same services will be provided from both sites. Similarly, we are not aware of any plans in respect of the provision of pharmaceutical services to which significant detriment would be caused should their application be granted.

Please note the following as part of this application. You will note that the same information is provided for each of the two practices as the facts relating to the relocation are also the same for each practice as are the rules for which patients we are permitted to dispense to.

1. There will be two distinct practices operating at the new medical centre. Montgomery House and Alchester Medical Group (Alchester is comprised of Victoria House and Langford Medical practice that merged on 1 October 2016)
2. As part of the development for the new medical centre the developer and practices undertook consultation and engagement with patients including public meetings both in person and online and consultation with community groups. This consultation led to support for the scheme from the local council, CCG, and patient participation groups.
3. There are two patients groups and they are;
 - A. Dispensing Patients who collect their medicines after attending the practice to see their GP or associated primary care service
 - B. Patients who collect medicines but who do not also have an appointment with their GP or associated primary care service

For both groups above it is important to note that none of these patients live in Bicester as there are no patients who live in Bicester who are permitted to use the GP practice dispensary. All dispensing patients must live outside a 1 mile radius from the nearest pharmacy and therefore the patient groups in both cases are made up of patients who live in the rural areas outside the town of Bicester.

For patient group A - there will be no change in accessibility as the patient will also be attending the new medical centre premises in any event irrespective of the method of travel used. All of these patients live outside of Bicester as they are “dispensing patients” and must live outside a 1 mile radius from any pharmacy.

For patient group B – these patients do not walk to the practice as we are not permitted to dispense to patients who live locally due to the 1 mile rule and location of existing pharmacies. Instead, these patients drive and the difference in location for car drivers is insignificant and the patients already live outside of Bicester. we are not permitted to dispense to any patient who lives in Bicester, or to patients who live within a 1 mile radius of any pharmacy and this will later include the new pharmacy opening in Upper Heyford. Dispensing patients are therefore made up of those living in areas that would be classified as “rural” and they do not use public transport to access the existing premises and there is an overwhelming preference for car use. This is likely because the bus service for patients who live outside of Bicester is considered to be poor and there are very high levels of car ownership. Car ownership in the locality is not considered a luxury and is instead a necessity.

4. Each practice will have its own dispensary in the relocated medical centre.
5. We anticipate the relocation of the practices and associated dispensing rights in Q3 of 2023.
6. Oxfordshire CCG is supportive of this relocation and has been heavily involved in the approval process for the new medical centre.
7. We have provided the attached practice boundary map and ask that you note that we are not permitted to dispense to any patient who lives in Bicester, or to patients who

live within a 1 mile radius of a pharmacy and this will later include the new pharmacy opening in Upper Heyford.

We look forward to hearing from you.