

IMPORTANT PATIENT NOTICE

Changes to hospital test requests & medication prescriptions

From 1st August 2025:

Certain services will no longer be provided by your GP practice on behalf of hospital clinics, including:

- ECGs on behalf of hospital teams
 - Post-operative suture/clip removal and wound dressings
 - Pre-operative phlebotomy (blood taking) and MRSA swab testing
 - Pre and post-chemotherapy phlebotomy
 - Phlebotomy for monitoring certain types of medications
 - Pre-colonoscopy/endoscopy phlebotomy when patients are having regular surveillance
 - Complex leg ulcer management will be referred into hospital services
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What you need to do:

- Please **contact your hospital team directly** to arrange these appointments.
 - If you're unsure who to contact, our surgery Reception team can help guide you.
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We will continue to:

✓ Monitor specific medications such as DMARDs (e.g. methotrexate, azathioprine, sulfasalazine, hydroxychloroquine). Please ask if you are not sure if your medication falls into this category.

Medication Prescriptions:

- After hospital visits or admissions, prescriptions need to be provided by the hospital team.
- Once your condition is stable, your GP can take over prescribing.

This follows national NHS guidance to improve safety and convenience.

Fit notes:

If you are under the hospital for any condition where you need a sick note, e.g. after an operation, they should provide the sick note for you.

Need Support or Advice?

Speak to your hospital care provider.

Or contact:

North Cumbria Integrated Care – PALS

✉ pals@ncic.nhs.uk

☎ 01228 814008

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this transition.