# Swillington Health Practice (branch of Oulton Medical Centre) - Frequently Asked Questions

## **When is this change likely to take place?**

The practice would like to hear from its patients on the potential impact of any change.  All feedback will be reviewed by the partners and the Integrated Care Board.  It would be the practices intention that all services will be moved from Swillington Health Practice by 31 July 2025.

## **Why are the services having to move?**

In recent years, the practice has been struggling to manage the costs associated with the Swillington branch site and those costs have now become financially unworkable.

Many meetings and conversations with West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (the ICB in Leeds) and the National Health Service Property Services (NHSPS, who own the building) over the past three years have failed to result in a solution which would mean the practice could remain open.

As a result, we are having to look at new ways of working. Patients living in the Swillington area have been travelling to one of our other sites since early 2020 for GP appointments, and patients who require home visits will still be able to receive their care this way.

There will be no reduction in patient services resulting from the branch closure and we want to ensure that no-one is disadvantaged by these services moving to other premises.

## **I am a patient registered at Oulton Medical Centre and currently access services at Swillington Health Practice, what will this mean for me?**

The services which are currently still running at Swillington (nursing, physiotherapy and midwifery sessions) will relocate to Oulton Medical Centre and our branch site at Marsh Street Surgery by the end of July 2025.

There will be no reduction in service provision, and you will continue to be able to access medical services at our other surgeries (Oulton Medical Centre and Marsh Street Surgery).

We will be confirming which services will be running at which other site in the coming weeks and will provide updates about this on our practice website.

## **Following this change, can I choose which GP practice to register with?**

You can remain registered as a patient of Oulton Medical Practice, meaning you can attend either of our other surgeries (Oulton Medical Centre and Marsh Street Surgery).

Alternatively, you have the right to register at another practice. The NHS GP finder website at [www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-GP](http://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-GP) will provide you with a list of practices near your home postcode.

## **I receive home visits. When Swillington Health Practice closes will I still be able to receive a home visit?**

We will continue to visit housebound patients in their own homes, as before, and will make sure capacity will meet the demand required, even if this increases.

## **With the Swillington Health Practice closing, can the other practice sites cope with the additional patients?**

The services which are currently still running at Swillington will relocate to Oulton Medical Centre and our branch site at Marsh Street Surgery, along with the staff who deliver these services.

There will be no reduction in service and therefore no impact on the capacity of the two remaining sites.

We continue to have additional staff working with the practice, through our primary care network (PCN). These include pharmacists, first contact practitioners, physicians’ associates, paramedics, health & wellbeing coaches, mental health support workers and social prescribers. These are in addition to the practice staff.

## **What will happen to the building when the surgery closes?**

The building is owned by NHS Property Services (NHSPS) and, in the short-term, once staff and services are withdrawn, the building will remain empty. The long-term future for the building will be decided by NHSPS.

## **What will happen to the staff who work at Swillington Health Practice?**

All staff will remain employed by the Oulton Medical Centre practice and will transfer to provide services at Oulton Medical Centre and / or Marsh Street Surgery.

## **What will happen if more houses are built in the area, and there is more demand on the practice?**

The West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (the ICB in Leeds) has a statutory duty to look at the provision of healthcare in the area and this would be reviewed if planning permission were granted for more houses.