 **Amersham Health Centre**

**Dr Gabe & Partners**

**Making a Complaint**

Most problems can be sorted out quickly and easily, often at the time they arise with the person concerned and this may be the approach you try first.

Where you are not able to resolve your complaint in this way and wish to make a formal complaint, you should do so, preferably **in writing,** as soon as possible after the event and ideally within a few days, as this helps us to establish what happened more easily. In any event, this should be:

Within 12 months of the incident,

**Or** within 12 months of you discovering that you giving as much detail as you can.

If you are a registered patient, you can complain about your own care. You are unable to complain about someone else’s treatment without their written authority. See the separate section in this document.

We are able to provide you with a separate complaints form to register your complaint and this includes a third-party authority form to enable a complaint to be made by someone else. You can provide this in your own format providing this covers all the necessary aspects.

**Send your written complaint to:**

Meeta Jobanputra

Practice Manager

Dr C Gabe & Partners

Amersham Health Centre

Chiltern Avenue

Amersham, HP6 5AY

**What we do next**

We look to settle complaints as soon as possible.

**We will acknowledge receipt within 3 working days and will respond to your complaint within 6 months as per NHS guidance**. If you made a complaint but do not receive a response or decision for more than 6 months, you must be told the reason for the delay. You may then receive a formal reply in writing, or you may be invited to meet with the person(s) concerned to attempt to resolve the issue. If the matter is likely to take longer than this we will let you know, and keep you informed as the investigation progresses.

When looking into a complaint we attempt to see what happened and why, to see if there is something we can learn from this, and make it possible for you to discuss the issue with those involved if you would like to do so.

When the investigations are complete, your complaint will be determined and a final response sent to you.

Where your complaint involves more than one organisation (e.g. social services) we will liaise with that organisation so that you receive one coordinated reply. We may need your consent to do this. Where your complaint has been sent initially to an incorrect organisation, we may seek your consent to forward this to the correct person to deal with.

The final response letter will include details of the result of your complaint and also your right to escalate the matter further if you remain dissatisfied with the response.

**Complaining on Behalf of Someone Else**

We keep to the strict rules of medical and personal confidentiality. If you wish to make a complaint and are not the patient involved, we will require the written consent of the patient to confirm that they are unhappy with their treatment and that we can deal with someone else about it.

Please complete the official Complaints Form which contains a suitable authority for the patient to sign to enable the complaint to proceed.

Where the patient is incapable of providing consent due to illness or accident, it may be possible to deal with the complaint. Please provide the precise details of the circumstances which prevent this in your covering letter.

Please note that we are unable to discuss any issue relating to someone else without their express
permission, which must be in writing, unless the circumstances above apply.

We may still need to correspond direct with the patient, or may be able to deal direct with the third party and this depends on the wording of the authority provided.

**Help with making your complaint:**

If you would like to make a complaint about primary care services to the commissioner, please contact the Complaints team via the contact details:

South East Complaints Hub

NHS Frimley ICB

Aldershot Centre for Health

Hospital Hill

Aldershot

Hampshire

GU11 1AY

Phone Number: 0300 561 0290

Email address: frimleyicb.southeastcomplaints@nhs.net

**You can also contact the Independent Advocacy Service (Support Empower Advocate Promote: SEAP):**

[**https://thelegaleducationfoundation.org/grantee/seap-support-empower-advocate-promote**](https://thelegaleducationfoundation.org/grantee/seap-support-empower-advocate-promote)

**If you are Dissatisfied with the Outcome**

**You have the right to approach the Ombudsman. The contact details are:**

The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman
13th Floor, Millbank Tower

Millbank
London
SW1P 4QP

Tel: 0345 015 4033

Website: [www.ombudsman.org.uk](http://www.ombudsman.org.uk)

Email: phso.enquiries@ombudsman.org.uk

**The Practice Complaints Manager is:**

Practice Manager, Meeta Jobanputra and Dr Layng, GP Partner.