Version	Date Published	Review Status
1.0	July 2021	Annually



## **Zero tolerance Policy**

Watlington Medical Centre and Watlington Health Limited operate a zero-tolerance policy to any abuse or bad behaviour towards its staff, doctors or other patients.

This could be physical, verbal or online abuse. GPs and staff have a right to care for others without fear of being attacked, abused or treated badly in any way.

To successfully provide our services a mutual respect between staff and patients has to be in place. All our staff aim to be polite, helpful, and sensitive to all patients' individual needs and circumstances.

We would respectfully remind patients that very often staff could be confronted with a multitude of varying and sometimes difficult tasks and situations, all at the same time. However, aggressive behaviour, be it physical, verbal or online, will not be tolerated and may result in you being removed from the practice list and, in extreme cases, the Police being contacted.

In order for the practice to maintain good relations with our patients we would like to ask all our patients to read and take note of the occasional types of behaviour we see that are unacceptable:

- Using bad language, shouting or raising of voices at practice staff.
- Any physical violence towards any member of our team or other patients.
- Verbal abuse towards staff or patients in any form including shouting.
- Racist, xenophobic, sexist, homophobic or other intolerant Language, discrimination or sexual harassment will never be tolerated.
- Persistent or unrealistic demands that cause stress to staff will not be accepted. Requests will be met wherever possible and explanations given when they cannot be met.
- Being perceived to bully or manipulate a staff member to obtain some-thing.
- Causing damage to, stealing or not returning practice equipment from the practice's premises, staff or patients.
- Obtaining drugs and/or medical services fraudulently.