

The Village Surgeries Group

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Patient Notice: Practice Merger – Effective 1st April 2026

Dear Patient,

We are pleased to share some important and positive news regarding the future of The Village Surgeries Group. As of 1st April 2026, The Village Surgeries Group (Tattenhall and Farndon) will be merging with Laurel Bank Surgery (Malpas).

Following the merger, the combined practice will continue under the name Laurel Bank Surgery and will be led by the current Partners of Laurel Bank Surgery, Malpas: Dr Richard Henney, Dr Mark Edney, Dr Christine Snowden, Dr Amy Evitts, and Mr Edward Rigby.

Dr Laura Freeman and Dr Melissa Siddorn, will continue to work as GPs at the practice.

Why are we merging?

This decision follows careful consideration and represents a proactive step in response to the rapidly evolving landscape of general practice in England.

By joining together as a larger practice, we will be better positioned to continue delivering outstanding care and service to our patients, while also gaining the flexibility to introduce new services and models of care.

What does this mean for you?

To help answer some of the common questions about the merger, we have compiled a Frequently Asked Questions:

Will I have to re-register as a patient?

No. All patients of both practices will automatically remain registered with Laurel Bank Surgery from 1st April 2026.

Will I still have my usual doctor?

The Village Surgery Group patients will adopt the model of care that Laurel Bank operate, where each patient is assigned to a usual GP. The priority being continuity of care. You will be informed of any change to your usual GP, if this occurs because of the merger. You will of course continue to have access to the wider clinical team.

What is a usual GP?

Your usual GP is the doctor you are registered with at the practice. Whenever possible, we aim to register families and households under the same GP to ensure continuity of care. This doctor is responsible for managing most of your healthcare needs and coordinating your care.

Whenever possible, we recommend that you see your usual GP for appointments, and our staff will generally guide you toward them. However, in cases of acute illnesses, you may be seen by any available GP at the practice if appropriate.

How far in advance can you book appointments?

At Laurel Bank Surgery, GP appointments can be booked up to four weeks in advance, and nursing appointments up to six weeks ahead. To support continuity of care and the usual GP model, we encourage patients to book in advance for routine concerns whenever possible.

Do more patients mean less appointments?

No. The number of appointments is calculated to ensure sufficient same-day and routine appointments for our patients.

Where will the practice be?

There are no new sites, and no site closures. The practice will have sites in Malpas, Tattenhall and Farndon.

Will I have to travel for appointments?

You will normally attend the practice location where your usual GP is based. However, when requested, necessary, or appropriate, you will also have access to clinicians at any of the three sites. For many patients, this will offer the convenience of accessing care closer to home.

How do I contact the practice?

The main practice address will be Laurel Bank Surgery, Old Hall Street, Malpas, Cheshire SY14 8PS. For your convenience, you will be able to visit any of our sites to speak with a member of the reception team. Any change to contact telephone numbers will be communicated in advance of the 1st of April.

Can you dispense my medication?

Laurel Bank Surgery will be able to dispense to all patients who are currently eligible for this service. Additionally, any Village Surgeries Group patients who live greater than one mile from any pharmacy will also be eligible to have their medication dispensed by the practice.

There will only be a dispensary in Malpas. There are no plans to apply to open dispensaries in Farndon or Tattenhall.

We know that change can feel unsettling, and we want to reassure you that this merger has been carefully planned with your care as our top priority. We will keep you updated and involved every step of the way as we move forward.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us or speak to a member of our team.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Richard Henney
Senior Partner
Laurel Bank Surgery

Dr Laura Freeman
Senior Partner
The Village Surgeries Group