

# Wheaton Hall Medical Practice

## Complaints Policy

Help us to reach the highest standards by having your say.

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Your comments are important. We welcome feedback, both positive and negative. Please let us know if there is something we are doing well or if there is anything we could try to do better.

We know that you might not want to give feedback in person, so you can fill in our complaint form instead. You can also write a letter or an email. We look at all comments that come in and we try to make improvements based on feedback.

We need to know if you have a complaint about our care so that we can try to resolve the issue and try to learn lessons. This helps us to improve the care of our patients. We follow a standard procedure to make sure that we manage complaints appropriately.

### Step 1: How do I make a complaint?

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There are four ways to make a complaint.

- Fill in the form and put it in the box in the waiting room
- Talk to your GP or to any member of staff
- Send us a letter or email [wheatonhall@gmail.com](mailto:wheatonhall@gmail.com) or register for our practice portal which allows for secure messaging
- Telephone us on 041 9846846

*In the interest of fairness, we cannot deal with anonymous complaints. If you want us to deal with your complaint, please give us your name. When we look into a complaint, we treat everyone with dignity and respect, and we would ask you to do the same as we go through the process*

### Step 2: What will happen next?

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We will try to resolve your complaint as quickly as possible.

- We will acknowledge receipt of your complaint within five working days
- We take patient confidentiality very seriously. If you want to make a complaint but you are not the patient involved, we will need written consent (permission) from the patient to say that you can deal with the complaint and that we can discuss their medical details with you.

- We aim to have looked into the complaint within 10 working days. This may sometimes take longer (staff annual leave etc.). If we anticipate delays, we will keep you informed of likely timelines
- You will receive a written answer, or we might ask you to meet us to discuss your complaint.

Some complaints are serious or complicated and mean that we have to hold an investigation. If this arises, we will tell you. We will tell you how the investigation will work, who will be in charge of it and how long it will take. If we need to do an investigation, we will aim to finish it in 30 days. If we think it will take longer, we will tell you why and we will talk to you about this. You will be able to talk to us about the process. If a meeting is held, you can bring a friend or relative to any meeting.

### **Step 3: When we look into a complaint, we try to:**

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- Treat everyone involved with courtesy and respect
- Find out what happened, what went wrong and why
- Give you the opportunity to discuss the problem with the staff member(s) involved
- Give you an apology if this is the right thing to do
- Take steps to make sure the problem does not happen again

We hope that we will be able to resolve your complaint quickly and to your satisfaction.

### **Step 4**

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We will answer your complaint in writing or in person or by telephone and if there is an investigation, we will send you a final response when the investigation is over. We hope to resolve all complaints satisfactorily, but if you are not happy about the response you receive, we can review and reconsider the complaint and our response. Alternatively, there are several other organisations where you may bring your complaint depending on the nature of your complaint and who it involves.

#### **HSE**

Patients with a medical card may contact the HSE

**Email:** [yoursay@hse.ie](mailto:yoursay@hse.ie)

**Website:** [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)

**Infoline:** 1850-24-1850

**Address:** Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare

## **Office of the Ombudsman**

If the HSE complaint resolution is unsatisfactory, GMS patients can contact the Office of the Ombudsman or if the complaint is about children, the Ombudsman for Children (see below)

**Email:** [info@ombudsman.ie](mailto:info@ombudsman.ie)

**Website:** [www.ombudsman.ie](http://www.ombudsman.ie)

**Telephone:** 01 639 5600

**Address:** 18 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2

## **Ombudsman for Children**

**Email:** [oco@oco.ie](mailto:oco@oco.ie)

**Website:** [www.oco.ie](http://www.oco.ie)

**Infoline:** 1800 20 20 40

**Address:** Millennium House, 52–56 Great Strand Street, Dublin 1

## **Medical Council**

If your complaint is specifically related to a doctor, you can contact the Medical Council

**Email:** [info@mcirl.ie](mailto:info@mcirl.ie)

**Website:** [www.medicalcouncil.ie](http://www.medicalcouncil.ie)

**Telephone:** 01 498 3100

**Address:** Kingram House, Kingram Place, Dublin 2

**Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI)** If your complaint is specifically related to a practice nurse, you can contact the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI)

**Email:** [ftp@nursingboard.ie](mailto:ftp@nursingboard.ie)

**Website:** [www.nursingboard.ie](http://www.nursingboard.ie)

**Telephone:** 01 639 8500

**Address:** 18–20 Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin

### **The Data Protection Commissioner**

If your complaint relates to an allegation of a breach of confidentiality / data protection, you can contact

**Website:** [www.dataprotection.ie](http://www.dataprotection.ie)

**Telephone:** 057 868 4800

**Address:** Data Protection Commission, 21 Fitzwilliam Square South, Dublin 2, D02 RD28

### **Workplace Relations Commission (WRC):**

If your complaint relates to an allegation of discrimination under the Equal Status Acts, you can contact the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC)

**Website:** [www.workplacerelations.ie](http://www.workplacerelations.ie)

**Telephone:** 059 917 8990

**Address:** O'Brien Road, Carlow, R93 E920

Wheaton Hall Medical Practice, Wheaton Hall, Dublin Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth A92 E266. Telephone 041 9846846 Email: wheatonhall@gmail.com. Website: wheatonhall.ie

**Thank you!**