Bridge of Earn Surgery will be closing on 30th August 2019. We understand that patients will have questions about the closure of the practice and how this will affect their future GP care.

The main priority for NHS Tayside is to ensure that the patients who are registered at Bridge of Earn Surgery have continued access to a GP.

Patients will receive a letter with details of their new GP surgery.

To support patients this question and answer sheet has been developed.

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**Why is Bridge of Earn Surgery closing? When does it close?**

The Bridge of Earn Surgery has decided to terminate its contract with NHS Tayside.

GP partners Dr Da Silva and Dr Dorothy McDonald will cease to practice from the Bridge of Earn Surgery following close of business on Friday, 30th August 2019. Until this time, the practice will continue to be fully operational.

This means that the Bridge of Earn Surgery will close at 6pm on Friday, 30th August 2019.

**What does this mean for me? Will I need to find a new GP?**

NHS Tayside has arranged for you to be allocated a new GP practice as of 2nd September 2019. In the event that you become unwell in the out of hours period, please dial 111 for assistance.

In the meantime, Bridge of Earn Surgery will continue to run as a fully functioning General Practice until Friday, 30 August 2019 and you will remain registered with the practice until then.

We appreciate that transferring to a new practice can be difficult for patients and that you may prefer to move to an alternative practice. However, I would request that you wait three months before attempting to register with another practice as all nearby practices have experienced increases to their patient lists following the closure of the Bride of Earn Surgery and will therefore need time to adjust to their increased workload.
I have already registered with a new GP practice. Do I need to do anything else?

No - If you have already taken action and registered with another GP practice you do not need to do anything. This will not affect registration at your new practice.

What will my new doctor know about me?

Your full records held at the Bridge of Earn Surgery will be transferred to your new doctor, so that your new doctor will have all the GP notes and hospital letters that are in your medical notes.

I am waiting for a referral to hospital. Will this be affected by the closure of the practice?

No – all referrals and investigations made by the Bridge of Earn Surgery are not affected by the closure of the practice.

If you have been referred to a clinic or for a test, then you will still get an appointment.

The results of any hospital tests you have been sent for or any letters from the hospital will be sent to your new GP practice.

My repeat medicines are sent to a local pharmacy. Will this be affected?

It is important to tell your new GP practice the name and details of the pharmacy where you would normally collect your repeat prescription. Once you have given your new practice your pharmacy details your repeat ordering service can continue as before.

My repeat medicines are on a serial prescription (lasts for 24, 48 or 56 weeks) which is kept at the community pharmacy. Will this be affected?

Yes it is very important that you contact your new GP practice to get your repeat prescription set up, as your prescription currently in the pharmacy may be cancelled. This is due to changing your general practice. Your new practice may ask to see you before adding the medication on a serial prescription and some practices do not use serial prescriptions.

My relative is in a nursing home - how do they get registered?

Your relative has been allocated a new GP practice as will be detailed in their letter.

I am housebound and can’t come out to register at a new surgery. How do I get registered with a new practice?

You can phone your new GP practice to discuss how best to register. Details of your new practice can be found in your letter. If you are too unwell to attend the surgery, then they will still be able to register you as a new patient.