

140 Fitzwilliam Street Huddersfield HD1 5PU

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Creation: Jan 06 **Revised:** Annually

Due for review: Sept 2026

Version: 14

Contents

1 Introduction

- **1.1** Policy statement
- **1.2** Status
- **1.3** Training and support
- 2 Requirements
- 2.1 Complaints management team
- **2.2** Definition of a complaint versus a concern
- **2.3** Formal or informal
- **2.4** Complaints information
- **2.5** A duty of candour
- **2.6** Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO)
- 2.7 Complainant options
- 2.8 Timescale for making a complaint
- 2.9 Responding to a complaint
- 2.10 Meeting with the complainant
- 2.11 Verbal complaints
- 2.12 Written complaints
- 2.13 Who can make a complaint?
- 2.14 Complaints advocates
- **2.15** Investigating complaints
- **2.16** Conflicts of interest
- 2.17 Final formal response to a complaint
- **2.18** Confidentiality in relation to complaints
- **2.19** Persistent and unreasonable complaints
- **2.20** Complaints citing legal action
- 2.21 Multi-agency complaints
- **2.22** Complaints involving external staff
- **2.23** Complaints involving locum staff
- **2.24** Additional governance requirements
- **2.25** Fitness to practise
- **2.26** Staff rights to escalate to the PHSO
- **2.27** Private practices and the PHSO
- **2.28** Logging and retaining complaints
- 3 Use of complaints as part of the revalidation process
- **3.1** Outlined processes
- 4 Legislation and further reading
- **4.1** Other Protocols & procedures to be read in conjunction
- 5 Appendices

1 Introduction

1.1 Policy statement

The purpose of this document is to ensure all staff at Rose Medical Practice understand that all patients have a right to have their complaint acknowledged and investigated properly. This organisation takes complaints seriously and ensures that they are investigated in an unbiased, transparent, non-judgemental and timely manner.

The organisation will maintain communication with the complainant (or their representative) throughout, ensuring they know their complaint is being taken seriously.

1.2 Status

The organisation will aim to design and implement policies and procedures that meet the diverse needs of our service and workforce, ensuring that none are placed at a disadvantage over others, in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. Consideration has been given to the impact this policy might have regarding the individual protected characteristics of those to whom it applies.

This document and any procedures contained within it are non-contractual and may be modified or withdrawn at any time. For the avoidance of doubt, it does not form part of your contract of employment. Furthermore, this document applies to all employees of the organisation and other individuals performing functions in relation to the organisation such as agency workers, locums and contractors.

1.3 Training and support

The organisation will provide guidance and support to help those to whom it applies to understand their rights and responsibilities under this policy. Additional support will be provided to the Manager to enable them to deal more effectively with matters arising from this policy.

2 Requirements

2.1 Complaints management team

The organisation has a responsible person for complaints who is known as the Complaints Lead/Complaints Manager (the Practice Manager) as delegated by the GP Partners. This person is responsible for maintaining both legislative and regulatory requirements as well as the day-to-day management of any complaint that may be received.

2.2 Definition of a complaint versus a concern

NHS England defines that a concern is something that a service user is worried or nervous about and this can be resolved at the time the concern is raised whereas a complaint is a statement about something that is wrong or that the service user is dissatisfied with which requires a response.

Should a service user be concerned and raise this as such, if they believe that it has not been dealt with satisfactorily, then they may make a complaint about that concern. A concern may also be called a criticism.

2.3 Formal or informal?

While there is no difference between a 'formal' and an 'informal' complaint with both being an expression of dissatisfaction, ordinarily the distinction would be whether it can be resolved quickly or not. Unless the complainant specifically requests that their issue needs to be raised as a complaint, the Complaints Manager will consider whether it is logged as either a concern or complaint should they believe that it can be resolved quickly.

2.4 Complaints information

This organisation has prominently displayed notices within the practice detailing the complaints process. In addition, the process is included on the website and a complaints leaflet is also available at Appendix D and at reception.

The complaints leaflet should be readily available and include details of the process, who to address the complaint to, advocacy support information and that they can escalate their complaint if they not content with the findings or outcome.

A desktop aide-memoire for staff on the complaints management process is detailed at Appendix A.

Should a patient or their representative wish to complete a complaints form, then templates for both are available on our website.

2.5 A duty of candour

The duty of candour is a general duty to be open and transparent with people receiving care at this organisation. Both the statutory duty of candour and professional duty of candour have similar aims, to make sure that those providing care are open and transparent with the people using their services whether something has gone wrong or not.

2.6 Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO)

The PHSO role is to make final decisions on complaints that have not been

resolved locally by either the organisation or the Integrated Care Board (ICB). The PHSO will look at complaints when someone believes there has been an injustice or hardship because an NHS provider has not acted properly or has given a poor service and not put things right.

The PHSO can recommend that organisations provide explanations, apologies and financial remedies to service users and that they take action to improve services.

2.7 Complainant options

The complainant, or their representative, can complain about any aspect of care or treatment they have received at this organisation to either:

Stage 1

- The organisation, or,
- Directly to the ICB

While there is no requirement for a complaint to be sent to NHS E, a complaint may still be received by NHS E directly.

Stage 2

Should the complainant be dissatisfied with the response from either the ICB or the organisation then the next steps are to:

Escalate the complaint to the PHSO.

Specific details of how to complain to the ICB can be found within their webpage. For this organisation this is West Yorkshire ICB <u>West Yorkshire NHS</u> Integrated Care Board

2.8 Timescale for making a complaint

The time constraint for bringing a complaint is 12 months from the occurrence giving rise to the complaint or 12 months from the time that the complainant becomes aware of the matter about which they wish to complain. If, however, there are good reasons for a complaint not being made within the timescale detailed above, consideration may be afforded to investigating the complaint if it is still feasible to investigate the complaint effectively and fairly.

Should any doubt arise, further guidance can be sought from the ICB.

2.9 Responding to a complaint

While each concern or complaint will warrant its own response, generally the outcome will always be to ensure that the best response is always provided. The following is to be the considered communication responses to any complaint:

- Should a patient be complaining in person, then this should be discussed face-to-face with them
- If via telephone, then it is acceptable to call back should the issue not be immediately resolved
- If by email/letter, then any response should be in writing

Immediate response

Should a patient, or the patient's representative, wish to discuss a complaint or a concern, then this can be deemed to be a less formal approach. These are often simply a point to note or a concern and can be dealt with at this time.

Points that should be considered should an immediate response be given:

- All facts need to be ascertained prior to any escalation to the Complaints Manager
- Should the person be or become angry and if there is no risk of escalation, then suggest to the complainant that their concern is dealt with within a quiet space and away from other patients. When doing this, support from a colleague should be requested for safety purposes
- If needing to return the call to an angry patient then by allowing time
 to lapse can often be useful as this delay may diffuse their anger.
 However, this should ordinarily be within the same day as any
 extended delay could be counterproductive and the situation could
 then become more inflamed
- Time management always needs to be considered

Consider any potential precedence that may be established and will any future concern be expected to always be dealt with immediately should any response be given too soon.

Longer term response

This is normally when a more formal approach has been taken, although the concern or complaint could still be via a face-to-face discussion or telephone as it does not require to have been in writing to be considered.

When a concern, or complaint cannot be easily resolved, then the complainant has a right to be regularly updated regarding the progress of their complaint. With any complaint, the Complaints Manager will provide an initial response as an acknowledgement within three working days after the complaint is received.

Timescales

The Complaints Manager will provide an initial response to acknowledge any complaint within three working days after the complaint is received. A letter

template can be found in the appendices. Following any complaint, a full investigation will be undertaken and while primary care organisations can suggest a deadline for a response to be given, there is no obligation to do so.

NHS E current guidance states that it will attempt to complete any complaint within 40 working days. This document <u>only</u> supports complaints that have been made directly to NHS E. Guidance for primary care organisation is:

• The Local Authority Social Services and National Health Complaint (England) Regulations 2009 Regulation 14

2.10 Meeting with the complainant

To support the complaints process, BMA guidance suggests that a meeting should be arranged between the complainant and the complaints lead. This is not a CQC requirement.

2.11 Verbal complaints

If a patient wishes to complain verbally and should the patient be content for the person dealing with the complaint to deal with this matter and if appropriate to do so, then complaints should be managed at this level. After this conversation, the patient may suggest that no further action is needed, then the matter can be deemed to be closed.

If the matter demands immediate attention, the Complaints Manager should be contacted who may then offer the patient an appointment or may offer to see the complainant at this stage. Staff are reminded that when internally escalating any complaint to the Complaints Manager then a full explanation of the events leading to the complaint is to be given to allow an appropriate response.

Verbal complaints that are not resolved within 24 hours should be added to the Complaints Log.

2.12 Written complaints

It is a complainant's choice as to the method of communication that they use when making a complaint and as detailed at Section 2.9.

When a written complaint is received, a full investigation and response will always be provided. As part of the investigation process, often other clinical governance tools may be used to complete this action, such as meetings, audit, significant event and training etc. Even should the complaint not be upheld, this organisation will scrutinise the event in the desire to improve patient outcomes.

2.13 Who can make a complaint?

A complaint may be made by the person who is affected by the action, or it may be made by a person acting on behalf of a patient in any case where that person:

Is a child (an individual who has not attained the age of 18)

In the case of a child, this organisation must be satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for the complaint being made by a representative of the child and furthermore that the representative is making the complaint in the child's best interests.

Has died

In the case of a person who has died, the complainant must be the personal representative of the deceased. This organisation will require to be satisfied that the complainant is the personal representative.

Where appropriate, the organisation may request evidence to substantiate the complainant's claim to have a right to the information.

Has physical or mental incapacity

In the case of a person who is unable by reason of physical capacity or lacks capacity within the meaning of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to make the complaint themselves, the organisation needs to be satisfied that the complaint is being made in the best interests of the person on whose behalf the complaint is made.

Has given consent to a third party acting on their behalf

In the case of a third party pursuing a complaint on behalf of the person affected, the organisation will request the following information:

- Name and address of the person making the complaint
- o Name and either date of birth or address of the affected person
- Contact details of the affected person so that they can be contacted for confirmation that they consent to the third party acting on their behalf

The above information will be documented in the file pertaining to this complaint and confirmation will be issued to both the person making the complaint and the person affected.

- Has delegated authority to act on their behalf, for example in the form of a registered Power of Attorney which must cover health affairs
- Is an MP, acting on behalf of and by instruction from a constituent

Should the Complaints Manager believe a representative does or did not have sufficient interest in the person's welfare, or is not acting in their best

interests, they will discuss the matter with either medico-legal defence or NHS Resolution to confirm prior to notifying the complainant in writing of any decision.

2.14 Complaints advocates

Details of how patients can complain and how to find independent NHS complaints advocates are detailed within the complaints leaflet at Appendix D. Additionally, the patient should be advised that the local Healthwatch can help to find an independent complaints advocacy service in the area.

The PHSO provides several more advocates within its webpage titled <u>Getting</u> advice and support.

2.15 Investigating complaints

This organisation will ensure that complaints are investigated effectively and in accordance with extant legislation and guidance. Furthermore, it will adhere to the following standards when addressing complaints:

- The complainant has a single point of contact in the organisation and is placed at the centre of the process. The nature of their complaint and the outcome they are seeking are established at the outset
- The complaint undergoes initial assessment and any necessary immediate action is taken. A lead investigator is identified
- Investigations are thorough, where appropriate obtain independent evidence and opinion, and are carried out in accordance with local procedures, national guidance and within legal frameworks
- The investigator reviews, organises and evaluates the investigative findings
- The judgement reached by the decision maker is transparent, reasonable and based on the evidence available
- The complaint documentation is accurate and complete. The investigation is formally recorded with the level of detail appropriate to the nature and seriousness of the complaint
- Both the complainant and those complained about are responded to adequately
- The investigation of the complaint is complete, impartial and fair
- The complainant should receive a full response or decision within six months following the initial complaint being made. If the complaint is still being investigated, then this would be deemed to be a reasonable explanation for a delay

2.16 Conflicts of interest

During any response, any staff member should consider and declare if their ability to apply judgement or act as a clinical reviewer could be impaired or influenced by another interest that they may hold. This could include, but is not limited to, having a close association with or having trained or appraised the person(s) being complained about, and/or being in a financial arrangement with them previously or currently.

Should such circumstances arise, the organisation should seek to appoint another member of the organisation or another appropriately experienced local Primary Care Service staff member as the responsible person with appropriate complaint management experience.

2.17 Final formal response to a complaint

A final response should only be issued to the complainant once the letter has been agreed by medico-legal defence*.

Following this, and upon completion of the investigation, a formal written response will be sent to the complainant and will include the following as detailed within the NHS Resolution document titled Responding to complaints.

The full and final response should ordinarily be completed within six months and signed by the responsible person. Should it be likely that this will go beyond this timescale, the Complaints Manager will write to the complainant to explain the reasons for the delay and outline when they can expect to receive the response. At the same time, the organisation will notify the complainant that they have a right to approach the PHSO without waiting for local resolution to be completed.

* Note, it is not a mandatory requirement to forward all complaint response letters for medico-legal defence consideration prior to sending to the complainant. This has simply been added to reduce any potential risk of litigation. Organisations may therefore wish to continue to forward only those most significant complaints.

A template example of the final response letter can be found in the appendices.

2.18 Confidentiality in relation to complaints

Any complaint is investigated with the utmost confidentiality and all associated documentation will be held separately from the complainant's medical records.

Complaint confidentiality will be maintained, ensuring only managers and staff who are involved in the investigation know the particulars of the complaint.

2.19 Persistent and unreasonable complaints

The management of persistent and unreasonable complaints at this organisation will follow the *Dealing with Unreasonable*, *Violent or Abusive Patients Policy* although advice will be sought from the ICB prior to any acknowledgment of a persistent, unreasonable or vexatious complainant.

2.20 Complaints citing legal action

Should any complaint be received and the content states that legal action has been sought then, prior to any response, consideration should be given to contacting the defence union for guidance.

- It is strongly suggested that should any organisation receive a complaint that highlights that legal action has been taken then they should be cautious
- By doing nothing with any complaint of this type, this could affect the outcome of a CQC assessment and/or the organisation's relationship with the ICB
- Should any complainant cite legal action that refers to an incident after 1 April 2019, contact NHS Resolution and they will assist under the <u>Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice (CNSGP)</u>. Refer to the NHS Resolution Guidance for general practice document <u>here</u>

While detailed records will always be maintained following any complaint, it is of particular importance when a complaint cites legal action. This is to ensure that all information can be forwarded for medico-legal defence support as required.

2.21 Multi-agency complaints

The <u>Local Authority Social Services and NHS Complaints (England)</u> Regulations 2009 state that organisations have a duty to co-operate in multiagency complaints.

If a complaint is about more than one health or social care organisation, there should be a single co-ordinated response. Complaints Managers from each organisation will need to determine which the lead organisation will be, and the lead organisation will then be responsible for co-ordinating the complaint, agreeing timescales with the complainant.

If a complaint becomes multi-agency, the organisation should seek the complainant's consent to ask for a joint response. The final response should include this and, as with all complaints, any complaint can be made to the provider/commissioner but not both.

2.22 Complaints involving external staff

Should a complaint be received about a member of another organisation's staff, then this is to be brought to the attention of their Complaints Manager at the earliest opportunity. The Complaints Manager will then liaise with the other organisation's manager.

2.23 Complaints involving locum staff

This organisation will ensure that all locum staff are aware of the complaints process and that they will be expected to partake in any subsequent investigation, even if they have left the organisation.

Locum staff must receive assurance that they will be treated equally and that the process will not differ between locum staff, salaried staff or partners.

2.24 Additional governance requirements

When a complaint is raised, it may prompt other considerations, such as a significant event, audit or supporting training requirements.

The practice may:

- Highlighting a concern by raising a significant event.
- They may report the incident to <u>Learning from Patient Safety Events.</u>

The complainant, their carers and/or family can be involved in the SE process as this helps to demonstrate that the issue is being taken seriously

- To scrutinise any internal processes
- Any remedial training considerations are supported within the practice HR procedures, appraisal process and and continued professional development plans.

2.25 Fitness to practise

If the complaint is of a clinical nature, the Senior Partner will be responsible for discussing this with any clinician cited in the complaint. Should the complaint merit a fitness to practise referral, advice is to be sought from the relevant governing body.

2.26 Staff rights to escalate to the PHSO

It should be noted that any staff who are being complained about can also take the case to the PHSO. An example may be that they are not satisfied with a response given on their behalf by the organisation or the

2.27 Private practices and the PHSO

Independent doctors are unable to use the PHSO as they have no legal requirement to have an appeals mechanism. It is good practice to provide independent adjudication on any complaint by using a service such as Independent Sector Complaints Adjudication Service (ISCAS).

2.28 Logging and retaining complaints

All organisations will need to log their complaints and retain as per the Records Retention Schedule.

Evidence required includes:

- a. Logging, updating and tracking for trends and considerations
- b. Details of all dates of acknowledgement, holding and final response letters and the timely completion of all correspondence relating to the complaint
- c. Compliance with the complaints in the categories that are required to complete the annual KO14b submission to NHS Digital

This data is submitted to NHS E within the KO14b complaints report annually and then published by NHS Digital. Any reporting period covers the period from 1 April until 31 March.

3 Use of complaints as part of the revalidation process

3.1 Outlined processes

As part of the revalidation process, GPs must declare and reflect on any formal complaints about them in tandem with any complaints received outside of formal complaint procedures at their appraisal for revalidation. These complaints may provide useful learning.

The following information is to support the appraisal and revalidation process for various healthcare professionals:

GPs	Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP)
Nurses	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
Pharmacists	General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)
Other healthcare professionals	Healthcare Professionals Council (HCPC)

4 Legislation and further reading

The following links support complaints management:

- <u>The Local Authority Social Services and National Health Services Complaints</u> (England) Regulations 2009
- Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014: Regulation 16
- The Data Protection Act 2018
- Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998
- The NHS Constitution
- PHSO Principles of Good Complaint Handling
- PHSO NHS Complaint Standards
- PHSO An opportunity to improve
- Good Practice standards for NHS Complaints Handling
- CQC GP Mythbuster 103 Complaints Management
- General Medical Council (GMC) ethical guidance
- <u>Assurance of Good Complaints Handling for Primary Care A toolkit for</u> commissioners

4.1 Other Protocols & procedures to be read in conjunction

Bullying & Harassment Policy Dealing with Violent & Abusive Patients Policy Grievance Procedure Ethics Policy

5 Appendices

Appendix A - Complaint handling desktop aide-memoire

Appendix B - Acknowledgement of a complaint letter (example)

Appendix C - Final response to a complaint letter (example)

Appendix D - Patient complaints leaflet

Appendix A – Complaint handling desktop aide-memoire



^{*} It may be necessary to liaise with external third parties such as hospitals in order to gather additional information or to formulate a joint response. Where this is the case, the patient or their representative must be advised accordingly.

Appendix B – Acknowledgement of a complaint letter (example)



ROSE MEDICAL PRACTICE

[<mark>Complainant's name</mark>] [Complainant's address] 140 Fitzwilliam Street Huddersfield HD1 5PU

01484 500921	4 500921	L
--------------	----------	---

rosemedicalpractice.huddersfield@nhs.net

www.rosemedicalpracticehuddersfield.nhs.uk

@medical_rose 📴

[<mark>Date</mark>]

Dear [name],

Acknowledgment of complaint

Thank you for your letter [dated] with regard to your complaint. We are sorry that you have felt that the standard of service at [insert organisation name] warranted your complaint.

Please be advised that, whilst complaints are infrequent, when received we will thoroughly investigate and will always manage these in line with the NHS contract.

We are aware that you would wish for a response as soon as possible and we will endeavour to conduct a full and thorough investigation in the shortest period of time possible. However, please be advised that this may take some time and, whilst we do hope to respond more quickly, current NHS complaints guidance allows this to be upwards of six months. If, for whatever reason, the investigation is likely to exceed this timescale, we will contact you and update you with all progress to date.

On our website and in our waiting room you can find a copy of the Complaints Leaflet. This details the information above, a list of advocacy services should you need any support, and also what to do should you not be content with the findings of this complaint.

Yours sincerely,
[Signed]
[Name]
[Role]

Appendix C – Final response to a complaint letter (example)



ROSE MEDICAL PRACTICE

[<mark>Complainant's name</mark>] [Complainant's address] 140 Fitzwilliam Street Huddersfield HD1 5PU

)1	484	500921	
----	-----	--------	--

rosemedicalpractice.huddersfield@nhs.net

www.rosemedicalpracticehuddersfield.nhs.uk 😚

@medical_rose 📴

[<mark>Date</mark>]

Dear [name],

Final response to complaint

Further to my letter dated [enter], please see below the findings following a full investigation into your complaint dated [insert].

[Detail, although the response is to include the following as per section 3.14]

- a. Be professional, well thought out and sympathetic
- b. Deal fully with all the complainant's complaints
- Include a factual chronology of events which sets out and describes every relevant consultation or telephone contact, referring to the clinical notes as required
- Set out what details are based on memory, contemporaneous notes or normal practice
- e. Explain any medical terminology in a way in which the complainant will understand
- f. Contain an apology, offer of treatment or other redress if something has gone wrong. The response should also highlight what the organisation has done, or intends to do, to remedy the concerns identified to ensure that the problem does not happen again.

Please be advised that this is the final response.

Yours sincerely,

[<mark>Signed</mark>]

[<mark>Name</mark>]

[Role]

If you need more help and advice from someone independent you can contact Cloverleaf Advocacy by phone on 01924 454875, write to 5th Floor, Empire House, Old Wakefield Road, Dewsbury WF12 9DJ or email referrals@cloverleaf-advocacy.co.uk

If you are not happy with how we have dealt with your complaint on this occasion, and you would like to take the matter further, you can contact the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman. The Ombudsman makes final decisions on complaints that have not been resolved by the NHS in England, government departments and some other public organisations. Their service is free for everyone. There is a time limit for making your complaint to the Ombudsman. To take a complaint to the Ombudsman, or to find out more about the service, go to www.ombudsman.org.uk or call 0345 015 4033.

In the first instance, please address your concerns to the Practice Manager, Sally

MS SALLY OLDBURY Practice Manager

Rose Medical Practice 140 Fitzwilliam Street Huddersfield HD1 5PU

Tel: 01484 500921

Email:

rosemedical practice. hudders field @nhs.net

CLOVERLEAF

Kirklees Advocacy Service Phone us on 0300 012 4212 or via email: NHScomplaints@cloverleafadvocacy.co.uk

Customer Information & Complaints – West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

West Yorkshire ICB Complaints Team, White Rose House West Parade, Wakefield WF1 1LT Email: wyicb.pals@nhs.net

THE PARLIAMENTARY & HEALTH SERVICE OMBUDSMAN (PHSO)

Millbank Tower
Millbank
LONDON
SW1P 4QP
www.ombudsman.org.uk or
call 0345 015 4033

Take it Further

The Ombudsman is independent of the NHS and free to use. It can help resolve your complaint and tell the NHS how to put things right if it has got them wrong.

The Ombudsman only has legal powers to investigate certain complaints. You must have received a final response from the Practice before the Ombudsman can look at your complaint. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, it will generally not investigate your complaint if it happened more than 12 months ago.

This leaflet has been produced with the aid of West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board and is updated annual.

The practice reports on complaints themes and numbers annually to NHS England.

If you would like this information in another format please ask at reception.

It is available in LARGE PRINT and EASYREAD on our website:

www.RoseMedicalPractice Huddersfield.nhs.uk

MAKING A
COMPLAINT







Talk to us

Updated Sept 2025

The Practice is committed to providing highquality, person-centred care, and treatment that's both safe and effective.

However, we understand that there are times when things go wrong. If something goes wrong, or you're dissatisfied with what we have or haven't done, please tell us, and we'll do our best to make things right. If we can't resolve matters the way you want, we'll explain why it's not possible to do as you suggest.

Understandably, you might be upset or distressed when formally raising concerns about you or your loved one's care. Our practice team will treat you with respect and dignity throughout this emotional time. It's expected that you will show them the same courtesy.

We hope that if you have a problem, you will use our practice complaints procedure. We believe this will give us the best chance of resolving whatever has gone wrong and allowing us to improve our services.

It is not suitable to book a GP appointment to discuss a complaint. The appointment is not long enough and impacts on our ability to care for our patients. To avoid disappointment, and delay, please use our complaints process as details here.

The role of complaints is delegated by the GP partners to the Practice Manager. An independent Practice Manager from another practice will be arranged if required.

Our aim in handling your complaint is to resolve any issues so that we can rebuild our relationship as your GP practice.

Who to talk to

If you have any concerns, you can talk to any member of our staff initially. We will work with you to resolve the issue without any formal process. It's usually best to sort out concerns within the practice. However, if you need to make a formal complaint, you can do so through our Practice Manager.

We provide this leaflet and complaints forms on our website to help you note down your concerns. Visit the Feedback area for more information.

You can **write** to us at: Practice Manager Rose Medical Practice 140 Fitzwilliam Street Huddersfield HD1 5PU

You can **email** us at: Rosemedicalpractice.huddersfield@nhs.net

You can call us on 01484 500921

We try and reply to your complaint as soon as we can but, if we are not able to reply in full straight away, we will confirm receipt of your complaint within 5 working days and hope to have a full reply to you within one calendar month. If we need to liaise with other teams to investigate your concerns fully, the final reply may take longer to gather this information.

If you find it challenging to raise your concerns with us because, for example, there has been a breakdown in the patient-practice relationship, you can raise your complaint with the Integrated Care Board (ICB), who commission and pay for the NHS services you use by several avenues.

Email: wyicb.pals@nhs.net

Telephone: 01924 552150

Please note that their team receives many telephone calls daily and may be unable to respond instantly.

In writing: West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board Complaints Team, White Rose House West Parade, Wakefield WF1 1LT

Please note: You cannot ask the ICB to consider the same concerns or complaints you raised with us at the practice.

More Support

An Independent Health Complaints Advocate is specially trained to help people through the NHS complaints process. It's a statutory service which means that anyone making a complaint about the NHS has a right to advocacy support. People can have help from an advocate at any point in the complaints process. To make a referral or find out more about the support they can provide, see contact details overleaf.

Appeals

If, after receiving the final reply letter, you feel that the issue has not been dealt with to your satisfaction you can request a meeting with the GP and Practice Manager to discuss it further at a convenient time.

If after this meeting you still feel that the complaint has not been brought to a satisfactory conclusion, you can write to the Ombudsman for a review of your complaint (contact details overleaf).