

# Important information for Islanders about registering with a GP practice

## What is changing?

Ninety seven per cent of Islanders are registered with a GP Practice. However, in the future, we need to be able to identify exact numbers of patients registered with each Practice to help with planning your care, and health services in Jersey.

As a patient it is important that when you see your GP you receive continuity of care. If you normally attend one GP Practice or see only one GP, this Practice is considered to be your **primary GP Practice**. This is the situation for the vast majority of Islanders.

However, some patients may sometimes visit a different GP at another practice, for example, for treatment for a specialist condition. If you do this, this GP will be considered to be your **secondary GP**.

There is no problem being registered with more than one GP or Practice, but due to changes in 2013 regarding the registration of GPs, the States of Jersey need to know exactly how many patients are currently registered with each Practice. If you are registered with more than one Practice, you could be “double counted” when this important evaluation takes place. In order to prevent this from happening, you are required to nominate a primary GP practice.

Please rest assured that none of your personal data will be used or made public; we just need to be as accurate with numbers of patients as we possibly can, and the only way to ensure this is to ask GPs to, in effect, “count” their patients.

## What do I need to do?

If you are only registered with one GP Practice, there is no need to do anything. If you are registered with more than one GP Practice, the Practice/s you visit the least will ask you the next time you attend an appointment if you wish them to be your primary or secondary GP Practice. You will be asked to confirm this by signing a form.

It must be emphasised that if you are registered with more than one GP practice, this is not an issue or anything to worry about, and this is not set to change. You do not need to de-register.

There is no timeline/pressure for this, but GP practices will make this simple check when you next visit them.

If you have just arrived in Jersey and/or are applying to register with a GP Practice for the first time, you will be asked to indicate when you register if the GP practice you have chosen is your primary or secondary choice.

## What are the benefits for me in doing this?

It is important that where possible, patients see the same GP as he/she will more fully understand your healthcare needs.

An initiative known as the Jersey Quality Improvement Framework (JQIF) will be launched in early 2013 and this will allow GPs to collect **anonymous** data about patients which can be used by the practice to plan the range of services and clinics they offer and will also be used to ensure that patients across the Island continue to receive high quality primary care services.

For example, data (known as “indicators”) could include information about:

- Smoking habits
- Drinking habits
- Exercise habits
- Information to do with weight/blood pressure
- Information about long term conditions – such as diabetes or asthma

**If you have any queries about this initiative, please ask your GP to explain them to you.**

**Please remember that if you are only registered with one GP Practice in Jersey, you do not need to do anything.**



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