

# Form 1

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## Out of Area Registrations

New arrangements introduced from January 2015 give people greater choice when choosing a GP practice. Patients may approach any GP practice, even if they live outside the practice area, to see if they will be accepted on to the patient list.

The new arrangements mean GP practices now have the option to register patients who live outside the practice area but without any obligation to provide home visits.

Out of area registration is voluntary for GP practices meaning patients may be refused because they live out of area. NHS England guidance to practices makes it clear that the service is not meant for patients who need home visits from the GP or who have input from other community services.

If your application is considered the GP practice will only register you without home visits **if it is clinically appropriate and practical in your individual case.**

To do this we may:

- Ask you or the practice you are currently registered with questions about your health to help decide whether to register you in this way.
- Ask you questions about why it is practical for you to attend this practice (for example, how many days during the week you would normally be able to attend).

If accepted, you will attend the practice and receive the full range of services provided as normal at the surgery. If you have an urgent care need and the surgery cannot help you at home we may ask you to call NHS 111 and they will put you in touch with a local service (this may be a face to face appointment with a local healthcare professional or a home visit where necessary).

We may decide that it is not in your best interests or practical for you to be registered in this way.

When you return your forms, it may take up to seven days to make a decision on your registration.

## Patient Information – Choice of GP Practice

From 5 January 2015, all GP practices in England are free to register new patients who live outside their practice boundary area.

This means that you are able to join practices in more convenient locations, such as a practice near your work, closer to your child's school or even re-join your existing practice when you move home.

There are some important things you need to know before choosing to register with a GP practice away from your home address. Things such as:

- These new arrangements are voluntary for GP practices. If the practice has no capacity at the time or feels it is not clinically appropriate or practical for you to be registered so far away from home then they can still refuse registration. The practice should explain their reason to you.
- Once you have decided to register with a GP practice away from your home address, you will need to choose a practice that is accepting registrations from outside of their traditional practice boundaries. You can find this information by contacting the GP practice directly. They may have this information on their practice website or on their practice leaflet but the best way will be to contact them by telephone and asking a receptionist.
- Because of the greater distance to your home, the GP practice may register you without the responsibility to provide you with a home visit when you are not well enough to go to the practice yourself.
- When you register with a practice away from home, without home visits, you will be given information about what you should do in those circumstances where you need to access care whilst at home.
- You may, if your circumstances change and it is no longer clinically appropriate or practical for you to be registered away from home, be asked to consider registering with a practice closer to home where your care may be better provided at that time.
- Should you become too ill to attend your registered practice in person or your practice advises that they are unable to assist you over the phone, contact NHS111 who will direct you to the right service for your needs.

You should also read the sections about:

- [How to choose a GP](#)
- [Making a GP appointment](#)
- [General information on what to expect from your GP](#)

These are available at: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)