**If you are dissatisfied with the outcome**

You have the right to approach the  
Health Service Ombudsman.   
The contact details are:

**The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman  
Millbank Tower  
30 Millbank  
London  
SW1P 4QP**

**www.ombudsman.org.uk**

**Tel: 0345 0154033,** during office hours

**You may also approach PALS for support, help or advice;**

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (**PALS**) is based at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, who provide confidential advice and support, helping you to sort out any concerns you may have about the care received. They are really good at guiding you through the different complaint services available from the NHS **www.pat.nhs.uk**

Tel: 0121 371 3280

Or you can get totally impartial and unconnected support from the Powher Birmingham Advocacy hub (charity) **www.pohwer.net/birmingham**

Tel: 0300 456 2370



**Complaints Procedure**

**Also see separate   
Complaints Form,  
 available at Reception**

**Making a Complaint**

Most problems can be sorted out quickly and easily with the person concerned, often at the time they arise, and this may be the approach you try first.

Where you are not able to resolve your complaint in this way and wish to make a formal complaint you should do so, preferably **in writing** as soon as possible after the event and ideally within a few days, giving as much detail as you can, as this helps us to establish what happened more easily. In any event, this should be:

* Within 12 months of the incident,
* or within 12 months of you becoming aware of the matter

If you are a registered patient you can complain about your own care. You are unable to complain about someone else’s treatment without their written authority. See the separate section in this leaflet.

We are able to provide you with a separate  
complaints form to register your complaint and this includes a third-party authority form to enable a complaint to be made by someone else. Please ask at reception for this. You can provide this in  
your own format providing this covers all the  
necessary aspects.

**Send your written complaint to:**

The Practice Manager  
Pearl Medical Centre  
619-621 Washwood Heath Road  
Ward End  
Birmingham B8 2HB

**Next Leaflet Review Date: May 2024**

**What we do next**

We look to settle complaints as soon as possible.

We will acknowledge receipt within three working days, and aim to have looked into the matter within 21 working days. You may then receive a formal reply in writing, or you may be invited to meet with the person(s) concerned to attempt to resolve the issue. If the matter is likely to take longer than this we will let you know, and keep you informed as the investigation progresses.

When looking into a complaint we attempt to see what happened and why, to see if there is something we can learn from this, and make it possible for you to discuss the issue with those involved if you wish to do so.

When the investigations are complete, a final response will be sent to you.

Where your complaint involves more than one organisation (e.g. social services) we will liaise with that organisation so that you receive one coordinated reply. We may need your consent to do this. Where your complaint has been sent initially to an incorrect organisation, we may seek your consent to forward this to the correct person to deal with.

The final response letter will include details of the result of your complaint and also your right to escalate the matter further if you remain dissatisfied with the response.

**Complaining on Behalf of Someone Else**

We keep to the strict rules of medical and personal   
confidentiality. If you wish to make a complaint and are not the patient involved, we will require the written  
consent of the patient to confirm that they are  
unhappy with their treatment and that we can deal with someone else about it.

Please ask at reception for the Complaints Form, which contains a suitable authority for the patient to sign to enable the complaint to proceed.

Where the patient is incapable of providing consent due to illness or accident it may still be possible to deal with the complaint. Please provide the precise details of the circumstances that prevent this in your covering letter.

Please note that we are unable to discuss any issue relating to someone else without their express  
permission, which must be in writing, unless the circumstances above apply.

We may still need to correspond directly with the patient, or may be able to deal directly with the third party. This depends on the wording of the authority  
provided.