

## Appendix 17 - Letter Inviting Patients for Review

[Practice name]

[Address]

[Tel]

[Fax]

[Email]

[Date]

[Title/Initial/Surname]

[Patient Address Block]

Dear [Title] [Surname]

At ..... Surgery we take patient safety very seriously. We follow the latest advances in medical research and continually update and review our clinical practice to ensure patient care is of the highest standard.

Recent research has highlighted a significant risk to patient safety around the use of opioid type painkillers for chronic pain.

We know that these drugs are helpful in pain of recent onset for example a broken bone and they are also effective in patients with cancer related pain.

However, recent medical evidence questions the benefit of opioid type painkillers for chronic pain. Strange as it might sound – we don't think they are very good at killing pain at all when taken for more than a few months.

Our records suggest that you are being prescribed opioids for chronic pain (please tell us if that's incorrect) and, because we don't want our patients put at risk, we would like to see you to discuss the current research and new methods of managing chronic pain with less emphasis on drug therapy.

Please book a face-to-face appointment with a doctor of your choice before your next medication repeat is due and we'll work together towards a safer, more effective treatment plan.

Yours sincerely

Dr XXX and partners