



Cancer and Covid

This year has been difficult for everyone and we hope that you have managed to cope with the trying times and are looking forward to 2021.

You may have heard in the news that, with such a focus on the virus, there is a worry that early signs of cancer are being ignored by patients or missed by doctors and this is obviously a concern that needs to be addressed.

It is important to emphasise that, although access to your GP may start in a different way such as a telephone call, we are still consulting with patients face to face when required, and are available to discuss symptoms that you may have, so do contact the Surgery if you are concerned about your health. This is especially important if you have previously been referred and have persisting symptoms, or appointments cancelled during lockdown.

Many screening programmes were halted during lockdown, but these are now running again and are a vital part of early cancer diagnosis. Therefore, we would urge you to attend any breast, bowel or cervical smear screening that you are offered and to make contact with the service directly or Parkwood Surgery if you have missed an appointment or had an appointment cancelled. We are also contacting patients who are overdue for these tests.

Once again, we hope you enjoy the Christmas season and wish you a healthy 2021.

Dr T Fernandes

Building Work has started at Parkwood Surgery

We are pleased to say that work has started on the extension and refurbishment of the Surgery. The contractors have taken down the garages to the side of us and are laying the foundations, ready for the new part of the building to be erected.

This part of the work is expected to be completed towards the end of August when we will move the work into here to allow them to give the current premises a reconfiguration and full make over.

Completion and handover of the finished project is set for the end of January 2022, which seems a long way off, but I am sure that it will soon come around. We are sure that this will allow us to meet the increasing demands of increased patients and the need for more services to be offered closer to where our patients live.

I will send updates through the year.

Colin Neal, Practice Manager

Partners

Dr S Stier

Dr H Antscherl

Dr H Shakir

Dr M Nicholas

Dr A Kamal

Associates

Dr T Fernandes

Dr S DaSilva

Dr T Darku

Dr F Sunassee

Dr J Bilaney

Dr A Gohar

Dr N Zourob

Dr S Soltanieh

Dr T Kasagra

Dr S Chopra

Registrars

Dr B Awujoola

Pharmacist

Miss Radhika Lakhani

Practice Nurses

Clare Jones

Kerry Farmer (maternity)

Charlie Rooney

Ann Timms

Louise Hibberd

Karen Dancer, HCA

Practice Manager

Mr C Neal

Asst Practice Manager

Miss K Day

Deputy Managers

Miss S Wartnaby

Mrs S Conway

The Partners and staff wish all of our patients and their families a happy, healthy, fun filled and stress free festive season.

Flu and Covid Vaccinations

We are nearing the end of our flu vaccination programme. We have had to run more clinics than normal to allow for social distancing, but I am very pleased to say that more patients have taken up the vaccination than in previous years. Once again this year we have had issues with the delivery of the flu vaccines, which became even more complicated with the newly introduced cohort of the 50 – 64 year olds. It would have been nice if we had been given a bit of a clue when the programme for this age range was starting, as the first we knew about it, was from hearing it on the television!

With regard to the Covid vaccination, the role of this has just started, but because of the nature and complications of storage, it is expected that the first few groups will be delivered through larger sites with GP practices working together. It is a very fast and ever changing vaccination programme and unlikely that we will be involved until the New Year.

At this moment we are asking that patients do not call to enquire about the Covid vaccine, as we have not been given that much information, but as and when we are aware of the delivery method for all of the various groups we will let you all know.

Please stay healthy.

Colin Neal, Practice Manager

Telephone Triage Service

We want to thank you for your ongoing support in what has been an unprecedented time for NHS and General Practice specifically. Not only have we had to change our practice significantly to remain open and keep our patients safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, but we are now dealing with an increased demand on our services with the winter coming and further queries due to a backlog from the first lockdown. We want you to know that we are open, and here for you and your family.

Can we ask for your support once again and ask that you:

Contact us on the day to access our urgent telephone triage list where GPs will aim to sort out problems that require same day contact.

These include:

Earache, sore throats, fevers, coughs

New/acute back pain

Urinary tract infection symptoms

New eye problems

New skin problems and rashes (feel free to have photos ready on your phone/device to send)

Acute abdominal pain, diarrhoea or vomiting

Chest pain

Palpitations

Collapse or Seizure

Suicidal thoughts

Or if you feel your concern is URGENT and requires same day advice or treatment.

This list is a guide and not an exhaustive list of problems.

All other queries including chronic medical reviews, ongoing problems and follow ups will be offered a GP callback slot where your problem can be addressed. Please help us when you call by giving the Team as much information as you can so that we can offer you the most appropriate type of appointment. This is to ensure that we deal with queries in a timely way, but do not overload our Team at a time of great strain on the Service.

We appreciate your time to read this and look forward to continuing to support you and your family during this difficult time.

Best wishes, From Parkwood Surgery Staff

