

Pressure on appointments & staff changes

As I am sure everyone is aware, there is huge pressure on GP practices to keep up with the ever increasing demand for appointments. This problem is only made worse by the dire shortage of trained staff available to fill the gaps.

We have been very lucky in finding another nurse prescriber, Louise Phillips, who will be joining us in the middle of May part time as our new Practice Matron. Louise was recruited to increase our clinical capacity due to our increased list size. Unfortunately, since offering Louise her new position we find we are losing Zoe, our nurse practitioner, who will be leaving us as Louise arrives. Despite extensive advertising, to date we have been unable to find a replacement for Zoe which means that we will have even less capacity than we had before.

We will continue to advertise not only for nursing staff but doctors as well as we find that our list size continues to grow. It may be that in the not too distant future we are forced to close our list.

Emergency appointments—changes to the system

At present patients will be aware that the surgery operates an emergency appointment service with a significant number of appointments held back for 'on the day bookings' both in the morning and the afternoon. This will continue, but all booking will be with the Practice Matron and will be overseen by the duty doctor. Patients will no longer be able to request to be seen by a doctor on these emergency slots.

The Practice Matron will be taking over the role of the Nurse Practitioner. She can prescribe and refer in much the same way and it is hoped that she can help reduce some of the pressure being placed on the GP's

Due for your yearly check?

The surgery is currently sending out letters to patients who are due for their yearly checks for conditions such as diabetes, asthma and COPD. These checks are important in monitoring a patient's condition and the surgery is rated as to how well we undertake this monitoring.

It is therefore very important, not only to your well being but for the surgery as a whole, that either you attend these checks or let us know that you do not want to attend.

Hayfever (allergic rhinitis)

It's that time of year again!! - Hayfever is a condition in which people experience an allergic reaction to different types of pollen. The symptoms may include sneezing, itchy eyes and maybe even difficulty in breathing. It is very common, affecting about 1 in 5 people at some stage. Tree pollen often triggers symptoms in the spring, grass pollens in late spring and summer and weeds and flowers from early spring to late autumn.

There are lots of treatment options with many of them available over-the-counter. If you are a sufferer ask your local Pharmacist for advice about self treatment before seeing the doctor

