

GREEN STREET GREEN MEDICAL CENTRE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) NEWSLETTER



Staff Changes at the Surgery....

Dr Lena Vishnubala has joined the practice and will have a surgery on a Friday morning.

Practice Clinical Pharmacist: The Surgery now has a Clinical Pharmacist who reviews and advises on all aspects of medicines and prescribing. Patients may be asked to have a telephone appointment with her to review their repeat medications and to check if any special monitoring is required.

GP Registrar: Dr Anna Anthonypillai joined the practice on the 5th August and will have surgeries on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, in the mornings and afternoons.

News from the Surgery...

Even with the lockdown restrictions being lifted from 19th July 2021 it will still be necessary to wear a face mask when visiting the surgery. The Doctors and staff will continue to wear masks when dealing with patients face to face. This is in line with NHS policy and is for the protection of both vulnerable patients and staff. All patients will continue to be triaged by telephone, and although there will be more face to face appointments available, the majority of appointments will continue to be by telephone, video or on line consultation.

Vaccination programme update...

COVID-19 booster vaccine now available. A coronavirus (COVID-19) booster dose helps improve the protection people have from their first two doses of the vaccine, giving longer term protection against getting seriously ill from COVID-19. Booster vaccinations will be available for people who are over 50 and those most at risk from COVID-19 who have already had two doses of a vaccine. People who are eligible for a booster dose will be offered this six months after they had their second dose.

12-15 year-olds vaccination offer. In line with JVC1 guidance, all children aged 12 to 15 will now be offered one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Parents and guardians will receive a letter with information about when the vaccination will be offered. Most children will be given their vaccination at school, although children who miss their school vaccination date will be able to attend a PCN or Vaccination Centre site for their jab. Updated resources on vaccinating children and young people and other guidance on the vaccination programme can be found at <https://selondonccg.nhs.uk/in-your-area/bromley/working-together/covid-19-vaccination-programme-in-bromley/bromley-cyp12-15-vaccination/>

16--17 year-olds vaccination offer. Bromley is currently the highest performer in south east London for vaccinating 16-17 year-olds. There is still much to do, but a number of initiatives have been put in place to boost these numbers. This includes:

- Pop up clinics at the Bromley College Campus.
- Advertorials and flyers distributed to appeal to younger people.
- Food vouchers (provided by the Cabinet Office) offered as an incentive to come in for a vaccine.

Contact Details:

Green Street Green Medical Centre
21/21a High Street
Green Street Green
Orpington
Kent
BR6 6BG

Telephone—01689 850012

Results—01689 850116

Fax—01689 862247

Out of Hours—111

Website: www.gsgmc.co.uk

Medical Centre Opening Times:

The Medical Centre is open from 8am until 6.30pm Monday to Friday

Has the Surgery got your mobile telephone number?

If you would like to receive Practice appointment reminders or information alerts, then please ensure the Surgery has your up-to-date mobile telephone number. The NHS uses your mobile number to send text reminders for Covid and Flu vaccinations. The easiest way of updating the surgery is via the website in the 'Administration Office' section which can be accessed under the Reception menu.



Living On...

It is important for children to know who they can go to for help when someone they love has died. **Living On** is a small local charity providing support to bereaved children and their families in the Orpington area. Their volunteers and professionals offer one to one face to face support (although due to COVID-19 this is limited at the moment) along with online, telephone and email support. Living On also runs grief groups to bring together children who have been bereaved for therapeutic support. For more information please visit their website at www.livingon.org.uk

Electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD)...

If you take regular repeat medication that does not change frequently, you may be eligible for the NHS electronic repeat dispensing service. eRD allows the surgery to authorise and issue a batch of repeat prescriptions to your nominated pharmacy that can cover up to 12 months (based on your circumstances and clinical need). So there's no need for you to order them each time. It's reliable, secure and confidential. Your regular prescriptions are stored securely on the NHS database, so they'll be ready at the pharmacy each time you need them. When your pharmacy supplies your final prescription in the batch, they will advise you to contact the surgery.

GP Access Hubs...

Patients registered with a Bromley GP can now be seen outside of normal practice hours at one of six locations:

- ◆ Addington Road Health Centre - Stanley House, 77 Addington Road, West Wickham, Kent, BR4 9BG
- ◆ Beckenham Clinic - 14 The Crescent, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 1DU
- ◆ Crown Medical Centre - 3 Mackintosh St, Bromley, BR2 9GT
- ◆ Orpington Health and Wellbeing Centre - 19 Homefield Rise, Orpington BR6 0FE
- ◆ Poverest Medical Centre - 42 Poverest Rd, Orpington, BR5 2DQ
- ◆ The Links Medical Practice (Mottingham) - 198 Court Farm Road, Mottingham, London, SE9 4JS.

The Hubs are open:

- ◆ Monday to Friday 4pm to 8pm
- ◆ Saturday and Sunday 8am to 8pm

All GP surgeries in Bromley are connected to the same IT network, meaning, once you have given permission, your medical records can be accessed and updated, no matter which doctor you see.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Our committee is urgently looking for volunteers to join us. It is important that the PPG is representative of the patient population and currently this is not the case. In order for us to truly represent the patient population at the surgery we urgently need new members and your input could be invaluable.

For more information on the PPG please visit our page on the GSGMC website <https://gsgmc.co.uk/practice-information/practice-info/patient-participation-group/>.

If we have captured your interest and you would like further information, either complete the sign up form on our page or email Linda Rusk, Lead Co-Ordinator (email address shown on the top of this newsletter).

PPG Committee Members

Linda Rusk—Lead
Co-Ordinator
robert.rusk@btinternet.com

Brian Cooke
Sally Gower
Sona Jakeman

Overdue Out Patients Appointments...

Within the NHS things are slowly returning to normal, but the waiting lists are still extremely long. If you are overdue a routine outpatient appointment, please call the appropriate department directly. Do not contact the surgery as they unfortunately have no influence over priority of appointments.

Carers UK...

The Carers UK "*Looking after someone*" guide is available for anyone caring for family or friends. This guide outlines your rights as a carer and gives an overview of the practical and financial support available. To download the full version of this, please visit www.carersuk.org/help-and-advice/get-resources/looking-after-someone or printed copies can be obtained from the Carers UK Online Shop.

Flu Vaccine...

Flu vaccinations are now available for all patients aged 50 years and over (including those who will be over 50 by 31st March 2022). Some patients under 65 are eligible if they have certain medical conditions such as Diabetes or Asthma.

To book an appointment please telephone the surgery.