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A NEW SERIES OF HEALTH EVENTS

The Practice, in conjunction with the Patient Participation Group (PPG) continues to hold a series of Health Events over the next few months to help patients in a variety of ways. The second Event, in Shaftesbury featured Diabetes and high blood pressure, with Dr Damian Paterson and Kay Green, Practice Pharmacist.

Almost 70 people came along and took part in a wide ranging conversation about the conditions and causes and the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and diet.

The Wellbeing Team also showcased the many ways they can support people and Help & Care took part - a charity which helps people and communities live independent and fulfilling lives for as long as possible. www.helpandcare.org.uk

The next Health Event is on **May 28th at the Exchange, Sturminster Newton at 15.30 – 17.00**. There will be clinical staff and the Young Person's Social Prescriber, to answer your questions along with information, advice and support about health issues for **children and young people**. Also taking part will be members of the Wellbeing Team on hand to help with support, advice and digital access.

2nd July - 18:30 - Respiratory - Shaftesbury

13th Aug - 18:30 - Nutrition - Sturminster Newton

24th Sept - 18:30 - Dermatology - Shaftesbury

Please feel free to come along and find out more to help you understand your own health.

PRACTICE NEWS

- As Spring arrives, we are making preparations for the Spring Covid clinics which are planned for Saturday 10th and 17th May at The Exchange in Sturminster Newton. Eligibility for the Spring Booster is below - Invitations have been sent out but if you have not received an invitation and are eligible, please contact the Practice via telephone or SystemConnect and we can book you in:
 - Adults aged 75 and over by 17 June 2025
 - Individuals aged 18 and over who are immunosuppressed
- Dr Sam Moorcroft, who is currently providing maternity cover for Dr Julia Cornish at Abbey View, will now remain with the Practice on a permanent basis once Dr Cornish returns in August. This will provide additional capacity at Abbey View.
- Dr Molly Anderson, who has previously worked for the Practice on a Locum basis, will join our Sturminster Newton Medical Centre in June, again providing additional capacity.
- Dr Michiru Nakamura will return to the Practice after maternity leave on 14th May 2025.
- Practice Stats -
 - In March, there were 7505 SystemConnect requests, 77% of which were responded to within two hours.
 - and 8225 Telephone calls answered, an average of 392 per day with an average waiting time of 1m 38 secs.
 - Of the appointments with clinicians (excluding nurses) 5046 were Face to Face, 1444 by Telephone and there were 145 patients who did not attend. If you are unable to take up an appointment, please contact the surgery, so that another patient can have the slot and not waste valuable time and resources.
 - Of those appointments, 61% were with GPs, 33% were with Advance Care Practitioners and 6% with Mental Health Practitioners.
 - Also in March, more than 15,800 prescriptions were issued and over 11,000 Test results reviewed.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

WOMEN'S HEALTH is now firmly on the Dorset map thanks to the launch of a new website.

Contraception, mental health, breast health, menopause, HPV and pelvic health are some of the female-focused topics visitors to the new site can explore.

The website, produced by Dorset Women CIC in conjunction with NHS Dorset, clinicians and the public, raises awareness of local community services and provides useful resources to empower people with an interest in women's health to make informed decisions about women's mental and physical wellbeing.

This is expected to improve access and quality of care – a priority identified by women – and ease pressures on the NHS.

The website is part of a wider programme of women's health activity in Dorset, having been granted part of a £25 million investment earmarked by Government for the development of 'women's health hubs' under the national Women's Health Strategy.

A website awareness-raising campaign coincides with the launch of the site. As part of this, residents will see promotional materials in their local pharmacy, general practice and other locations to help spread the word. Stakeholder events have also been organised. To access the site visit <https://ourdorset.org.uk/women>

PRACTICE GREEN PLAN

The Practice is helping reduce Dorset's carbon footprint by installing PV solar panels at Abbey View Medical Centre. The project has been part funded by Low Carbon Dorset, as part of the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund and will save 17.9 tonnes of CO2 a year!

To help reduce their carbon footprint further, all of their computers are automatically get switched off at 9pm and they recycle all food waste as well paper, card, plastics and cans.

Just more ways to reduce energy consumption, reduce bills and help the NHS reach its Net Zero targets.

TOTAL TRIAGE

This is a reminder about how the triage process and access to appointments works in the Practice.

Demand for appointments has grown steadily in the last decade, alongside a decline in available GPs and a reduction in real terms funding. The old 'first come first served' system is not sufficient to safely deal with current levels of demand. If we were to still operate such a system, a patient with an urgent clinical need could end up not being seen for days or weeks because appointments are taken by other patients whose needs are less urgent, just because they happened to get through more quickly.

Blackmore Vale Partnership implemented a 'total triage' system in 2022 and NHS England have since made it a contractual requirement for all GP Practices to assess the clinical need for all appointment requests, whether submitted via telephone or online, and then to allocate an appropriate appointment. The only exceptions to this are where the request is for an appointment where no assessment is required, i.e. vaccination and immunisation, or pre-agreed test.

In order to determine the clinical urgency of a request, whether online or via telephone, we ask patients the same questions to provide as much information as possible for a GP to triage the request. By providing this information you are helping us to ensure you get the appointment you need.

All requests are triaged confidentially by a GP and we aim to contact patients the same day to book an appointment, except where a request is received later in the afternoon or evening. On average we process most requests within 2 hours.

NHS DATA



University Hospital Southampton is leading the development of the Wessex Secure Data Environment (Wessex SDE), a new online platform which will use NHS data to improve health outcomes and save lives. Imagine life-saving treatments, quicker diagnoses, and breakthroughs in managing long-term conditions – all powered by NHS data. The Wessex SDE will make this a reality.

Built to the highest standards for safety and security of NHS data, the Wessex SDE will enable large amounts of de-identified NHS patient data to be safely stored, linked together and made accessible to researchers to improve services and treatments.

By linking different types of data, researchers can ask bigger questions and gain new insights. This will drive discovery of new treatments and make the health and care system more efficient, effective and safe.

The team is inviting everyone across Wessex to join a public conversation on Improving Tomorrow's Health.

What matters most to you about how your NHS data is used? What kind of research projects should the Wessex SDE support with your de-identified data? How involved do you want to be in decisions? To share your views and be part of the conversation, go to WessexSDE.nhs.uk/have-your-say today.