**ABINGDON MEDICAL PRACTICE**



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**NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN/WINTER 2023**

***STAFF NEWS***

Dr Alisha Khanna is the practice’s GP registrar whose placement in the practice started in August 2023. She will be working in the practice for one year.

The practice nurse Smeralda De Lucia will be on maternity leave from October 2023 for about a year.

The practice nurse Amanda Afoa-Peterson has completed the nurse prescribing course. She now works 4 days per week Tue-Fri.

***FLU AND COVID AUTUMN BOOSTERS***

Flu clinics have begun in September. The Practice will invite patients who are eligible for the flu vaccination.

Patients eligible for the flu vaccine are:

• Aged 65 years and over

• Aged 6 months and under 65 with long term conditions • Pregnant women

• All children aged 2 or 3 years on 31st August 2023

• Living in residential care homes

• Carers in receipt of carer’s allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person

• Immunocompromised patients and their household members.

**Please support your GP**

**Practice by having your flu vaccine at the Practice.**

The Primary Care Network (PCN)

will invite patients who are eligible for the Covid vaccination. Patients will also be able to book appointments at the Violet Melchett and St Charles by calling the practice, or by accessing the national booking link which can be found on the practice’s website.

The groups eligible for a COVID-19 booster vaccine are:

* Residents in a care home for older adults
* All adults aged 65 years and over
* Persons aged 6 months to 64 years in a clinical risk group
* Frontline health and social care workers
* Persons aged 12 to 64 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
* Persons aged 16 to 64 years who are carers and staff working in care homes for older adults.

All those who turn 65 years by 31 March 2024 are eligible.

Patients can choose to have both vaccines together on the day in the Covid vaccination centres.

All eligible patients are being contacted via text message or telephone to book an appointment.



***ATRIAL FIBRILLATION***

The practice has been running a screening programme for all patients over 55 to check for Atrial Fibrillation. This is an abnormal beating of the heart and if detected & treated early can drastically reduce the risk of strokes.

Please call the practice to book your appointment!

***ENHANCED SERVICES HUB***

The Abingdon Medical Practice is one of the twelve practices that make up the Brompton Health Primary Care Network (PCN). We offer appointments Mon-Fri 6.30pm-9pm and on Saturdays and Sundays 8.00am - 8.00pm.

The appointments are held at the Violet Melchett and at St Charles and can be booked by calling the Abingdon Medical Practice reception. There are a selection of clinics and clinicians available for all twelve practices to book into.

***FIRST CONTACT PRACTICIONER - PHYSIOTHERAPY***

As part of the Enhanced Services access, appointments can be booked with First Contact Practitioners, who are experienced, senior physiotherapist who will:

**\***Assess patients with an MSK related issue and diagnose what is happening

**\***Give expert adviceon how best to manage a patient’s condition

**\***Recommend exercises and other approaches for self- management

**\***Refer patients onto specialist services if necessary

**\***Discharge where necessary

**Who can be seen by a FCP:**

\*All soft tissue injuries, sprains, strains or sports injuries

\*Arthritis – any joint

\*Possible problems with muscles, ligaments, tendons or bone, eg tennis elbow, carpal tunnel syndrome, ankle sprains

\*Spinal pain including lower back pain, mid-back pain and neck pain

\*Spinal-related pain in arms or legs, including nerve symptoms, eg pins and needles or numbness

\*Post-orthopaedic surgery (can differ between localities)

**Who can’t be seen by a FCP:**

\*Acutely unwell

\*Children under 16

\*Medical management of rheumatoid conditions

\*Women’s health, antenatal and postnatal problems

\*House-bound patients

\*Medication reviews for non-MSK conditions

\*Neurological and respiratory conditions

\*Headaches

\*Acute mental health crises

\*Patients who do not want to see a FCP

Appointments can be booked by GPs and by reception.

***PRACTICE LIST SIZE AND CATCHMENT AREA***

The enlarged practice catchment area has been approved by the local Integrated Care Board.

In the past year the practice list size has slightly dropped.

**We accept new registrations, and we encourage new patients to register with us!**

**MISSED APPOINTMENTS**

During the months of June (96) July (91) and August (67), a total of 254 patients failed to attend their appointment. Please contact the surgery if you are unable to attend your appointment.

You can also cancel appointments by texting your Date of Birth and appointment details to 07385543698.

**Repeated DNA (did not attend) offenders may be removed from the Practice list.**

