**ABINGDON MEDICAL PRACTICE**



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**NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2022**

***STAFF CHANGES***

Congratulations to Dr Bilal Sahib who became a GP partner on 1st April 2022.

The GP registrar – Dr Bryony Woods – will be leaving the practice in August.

Dr Dharshika Srikantharajah will be back from maternity leave in September.

Dr Lilian Swan, who has been covering Dr Sri’s maternity leave, will remain a GP in the practice.

After few years of service to the surgery, our receptionist Xiomara left the Practice in March 2022.

Warm welcome to Madelein, our new receptionist.

***WE ARE HERE FOR YOU WHEN YOU NEED US***

Our GP practice remains very busy, but we want to reassure you that whilst we continue operating slightly differently than before Covid-19 pandemic, we are here for you when you need our help. We continue to offer routine appointments by telephone and also face to face.

***COVID-19 AND VACCINATION PROGRAMME***

Whilst Coronavirus is still with us, we are now at the stage where life is getting mostly back to normal.

PLEASE BE AWARE, THAT FACE MASKS ARE STILL RECOMMENDED WHEN VISITING THE SURGERY.

From **Monday 21st March** the following cohorts became eligible to receive an extra Spring dose of the Covid-19 vaccine:

* adults aged 75 years and over
* residents in a care home for older adults
* individuals aged 12 years and over who are immunosuppressed.

The Brompton Health PCN vaccination centres will resume in September ‘22 to start a new Phase 5 for COVID Vaccination. Until then eligible patients can book appointments in one of the local pharmacies: Medicine Chest, Golborne Pharmacy, Bayswater Pharmacy, Zafash Pharmacy, Benson Pharmacy. For more information please refer to the practice’s website.

***ONLINE SERVICES - PATCHES***

As of 8th July 2022 a new online consultation tool – Patchs – will replace the currently used eConsult platform.

Patients are very much at the heart of this new tool with the increase in functionality and usability being drivers in improving access to timely care. Patients were represented and involved during the procurement exercise and were involved in the decision making.

**MISSED APPOINTMENTS**

During the months of April (73) May (78) and June (63), a total of 214 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.

***NHS SCREENING PROGRAMS -* Minimising your risk of cancer or other serious diseases**

The NHS Screening programs are in place to help detect and treat some common cancers early, which will minimise the chance of them progressing to something more serious. This is an important service provided free of charge by the NHS, yet the number of patients who don’t turn up to their appointments or respond to invitations to screening programs remains quite high. If you think you are overdue, it’s not too late. Below are details of who you need to contact to bring yourself up to date.

\* **Cervical screening** for cervical cancer also known as smear test.

Eligibility: patients with cervix, aged 25-49 every 3 years, aged 50-64 every 5 years. Please call the surgery to book an appointment with one of the practice nurses

\* **Mammograms/Breast screening** for breast cancer.

Eligibility: women aged 50-70 every 3 years, 71+ by request only. You do not have to contact the service as you will receive your invitation at the appropriate time. If you have any [concerns about changes to your breasts](http://www.breastcancernow.org/information-support/have-i-got-breast-cancer/signs-symptoms-breast-cancer), please speak with your GP as soon as possible. If you have received your invitation letter and wish to book, change or cancel your appointment please **click here:**[appointment request form](https://www.london-breastscreening.org.uk/Change-appointment-slot) or call 0203 311 1268 to arrange an alternative visit.

The West of London Breast Screening Service is based at the Charing Cross Hospital in Hammersmith.

\* **Bowel screening** for bowel cancer.

Eligibility: all aged 60-74 (expanding to age over 50 from 2025) every 2 years. Home test will be sent to everyone eligible but you can call on 0800 707 6060 if you have missed or mislaid yours.

\* **Abdominal Aortic Aneurism** screening.

Eligibility: it is offered to men the year they turn 65. If you have missed your call please call the North London AAA Screening Programme on 0333 009 6971.

***ZERO TOLERANCE***

We have noticed an increase in the number of incidents of abuse towards staff, both on the telephone and within the practice.

We value and care for our staff. We would ask that they are treated with courtesy and respect.

The volume of calls coming into the surgery has increased significantly, particularly first thing in the morning.

We would be very grateful if you are able to avoid the busy time of 8am –11am and 1pm-2pm to call the surgery, except for urgent matters.

***PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP***

The PPG is a great way to understand more about what goes on in your practice. We do three interactive sessions a year where you can understand a little more about the services that the Abingdon Medical Practice offers our patients. For the safety of our patients and staff during the current pandemic the meetings are taking place online. The group is open to all patients; please contact reception if you are interested in joining.