

Newsletter February 2024

### **Staff Changes**

We are sad to inform you that Dr Matthew Degnan will be leaving the surgery on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024. He is moving with his family to work in Canada. We of course wish him every success and thank him for his hard work over the past four years.

Recruiting GPs has become much more difficult, but we are delighted to announce that Dr Villarreal is increasing his sessions at the practice, and we have appointed two very experienced Advanced Nurse Practitioners. Mrs Corrine Beirne will join us in February 2024 and Mrs Stella Clarkson In March 2024. Dr Degnan's allocated patient list will be split between the 3 remaining partners and we will inform patients who their new GP when they next need an appointment. Please avoid asking reception at present as this will increase phone calls to the practice and we are currently experiencing high volumes of requests for appointments due to the winter period.

These changes will provide far more options and improved flexibility for patients. The receptionists have been fully trained to identify the most appropriate clinician to signpost patients to. It will, therefore, be necessary to continue to give the receptionist some information about your symptoms so that you can be allocated to the appointment that will best meet your needs.

The way Primary Care is funded has changed over the past few years. We are now part of a Primary Care Network (PCN) with other surgeries in the North Cotswolds. Additional appointments have been provided through this network. We have worked as a PCN for some time to provide services such as the flu and covid vaccination clinics which were a huge success. Specialist clinics are now available that cover areas such as mental health, musculoskeletal problems, travel health and women's health. They are covered by expert practitioners who offer longer appointments over the telephone or face to face. The clinics will be held at various locations in the North Cotswolds including here at Campden Surgery and also the other PCN surgeries in Moreton in Marsh, Stow on the Wold and Bourton on the Water. Therefore, it is possible you will be offered one of these appointments instead of the traditional GP consultation.

We understand this is a big change in the way General Practice services are provided, which has been initiated by NHS England. However, we are committed to continuity of care and all patients will still be allocated a named GP at the practice. Information gathered at the clinic consultations will be added to your Primary Care records, allowing us to communicate with these additional Primary Care Practitioners.

As a reminder, you can book routine GP appointments as either face to face or telephone consultation. On the day triage appointments will be telephoned initially to assess the patient's clinical needs.

The Partners, Dr Zamir, Dr Villareal and Dr Hodgkins, are looking forward to continue to provide a high standard of personalised care with our new extended team.

### **Book donations**

Donations of £100 have been sent to Campden First Responders to help with their fundraising for a vehicle.

### **Urine testing**

A reminder for patients that forms need to be completed for any samples being handed to reception for testing, in order for the nurses to assess and test correctly.

### **Travel vaccinations**

We are able to provide NHS travel vaccines via the surgery. If patients telephone asking for advice re vaccines, receptionists will ask them to find out their requirements from NATHNAC, with a minimum of 6 weeks before travel to allow any vaccines to take effect. The patient will be added to our waiting list and a telephone consultation with a nurse will initially be organised in order to check vaccine history, decide on vaccines needed from the NATHNAC information and whether the surgery are able to provide these – please note that private vaccines will not be able to be provided by the surgery and patients will need to arrange these with a private travel clinic. The nurse will then arrange for the NHS vaccines to be ordered in and book a face to face consultation for patients to receive these. A new alternative to this option is a travel clinic provided by the North Cotswold Primary Care Network, of which we are a member practice, where our receptionists will be able to book an appointment for patients at a clinic located in the North Cotswolds.