

# NEWSLETTER

JULY 22, 2021

## NEW GP PARTNERS

We are delighted to announce that Dr Uwaifo and Dr Molana have joined Dr Thomason as Partners in the Junction Alkington Surgery.

We have all felt the positive difference from having both Dr Uwaifo and Dr Molana officially part of the team the last few months, and we know that this next step will only increase this.

We are looking forward to this new season in the Junction Alkington Surgery, and are excited to welcome Dr Uwaifo and Dr Molana as Partners.

## DR MARTIN'S RETIREMENT

After 39 years in General Practice, Dr Martin has now made the decision to retire. She has played a significant part in surgery life for over 39 years and has had an impact on many staff and patients alike. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

## REBRAND

As part of the process of taking on new GP partners, we have also started to re-brand. Both sites will now fall under the name of the Junction Surgery.

Letters sent out will now be under the Junction Surgery heading with the location of patient appointments (i.e. Junction or Alkington) being made clear within the content of the letter.

## FACE MASKS AND COVID PROTOCOLS

As you will be aware, lockdown restrictions were removed on Monday 19th July. However, as per NHS England guidelines, all visitors to the practice will be required to wear a facemask while inside the building. This is in order to protect our staff and most

vulnerable patients. More information can be found on the [NHSE website](#).

The practice will continue to keep it's COVID protocols (temperature checks, masks when moving away from workplace, social distancing) for now as we know COVID is still at a high transmission rate within our local area.

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

If you have not yet had a COVID vaccination and are aged 18 years and older, then you can still book your vaccination by emailing [hmrccg.hmr.enquiries@nhs.net](mailto:hmrccg.hmr.enquiries@nhs.net) or by telephoning 0300 303 0355.

There are many pop up clinics in and around Rochdale, and the mass vaccination sites (ie the Ethiad) are still running. Information about changes to the vaccination service will be posted on our news feed as and when more information is available.

## PATCHS

We are in the process of implementing a web-based triage system called PATCHS. This system will allow patients to log appointment requests, clinical queries, or medication requests, at any time of day. They can then be easily read and responded to by one of our GPs our admin staff. Once the system is live, you will see a link on our website and reception staff will start to mention if during phone calls.

## TELEPHONE SYSTEM

You may also have noticed that the telephone options have changed. Now both of our receptions are grouped together on option 2. It was decided that this would be more efficient as almost all the queries that come through can be dealt with at both sites.

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Alongside this option 1 is now the dedicated line for results and reports.

We have stopped taking medication requests over the phone, and now ask that patients submit their requests online using one of the many available apps, or have a nominated pharmacy request medications on their behalf. Alternatively, we will accept requests via email to [hmrccg.p86010@nhs.net](mailto:hmrccg.p86010@nhs.net) or via post.

## NHS GDPR

We have received lots of opt-out forms from our patients regarding the NHS GDPR data extractions. Whilst we posted some information on our website on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June after the deadline date for extraction was pushed back to the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, we held off sending out further information as the actual available guidance for us within Primary Care was very limited.

Things have now changed and Jo Churchill, Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Primary Care and Health Promotion, has written to us with further information. A copy of this letter has been put on our website and will also be text to patients soon.

The important news for patients wishing to understand this fully, is that the date for data extraction has been cancelled. Instead NHS Digital will work to address many of the concerns of patients and GPs, and only once certain criteria have been met will they start the collection of data.

The criteria are:

- the ability to delete data if patients choose to opt-out of sharing their GP

data with NHS Digital, even if this is after their data has been uploaded;

- the backlog of opt-outs has been fully cleared;
- a Trusted Research Environment has been developed and implemented in NHS Digital;
- patients have been made more aware of the scheme through a campaign of engagement and communication.

NHS Digital also commits to making opt-outs much simpler. They plan to introduce three changes to the opt-out system which mean that patients will be able to change their opt-out status at any time:

- Patients do not need to register a Type 1 opt-out by 1st September to ensure their GP data will not be uploaded;
- NHS Digital will create the technical means to allow GP data that has previously been uploaded to the system via the GDPR collection to be deleted when someone registers a Type 1 opt-out;
- The plan to retire Type 1 opt-outs will be deferred for at least 12 months while we get the new arrangements up and running, and will not be implemented without consultation with the RCGP, the BMA and the National Data Guardian.