



THE APPLES MEDICAL CENTRE

COVID-19 information available on our web site

Patient Participation Group

The Apples Patient Participation Group (PPG) / Sherborne Apples Forum is a voluntary group, established by patients of the Apples Medical Practice as a link with the clinicians and staff to represent the interests of all patients. This newsletter provides topical information and help.

Do look at the Practice website, especially for information regarding eConsults; a quick and safe way to get help and advice from your GP.

See <https://www.sherborneapples.co.uk/> for full information including Covid-19 updates.

The PPG wants to grow and have an increasing role in helping the Practice operate. The volunteers we have provided for the Covid Vaccination Clinics have been an excellent example of help when it is needed. We would really love more patient members so do let us know if you are interested, via me on bruceduncanab@gmail.com or Philippa Cannings on philippa.cannings@dorsetgp.nhs.uk

Covid is still with us and has changed the way your doctors work – see later – BUT the big picture is the vaccination clinics at the Digby Hall where over 10,000 patients of the Sherborne Group Primary Care Network (PCN = Apples, The Grove and Yetminster surgeries) have been injected.

2020 Flu vaccinations were satisfactorily completed in the Autumn, so thanks to all patients and the staff for a very efficient roll out!

It was very sad to see Steve Morris retire last September, and we all thank him so much for his advice and guidance over the last 28 years. I hope he can take all our best wishes for his future; he will be missed. We warmly welcome Dr Chris Minton and Dr Dominic Parsons (he has been a locum here before) both have been with us long enough to become a part of the team. Dr Miles has managed to survive 40 years with the NHS – well done and congratulations. We send best wishes to Mary Dalison who moved surgeries at the end of November 2021 and welcome both Trudy Silk to the Nursing team and Camille Douch to the Administration and Reception teams.

To adapt for Covid the Practice has initiated Practice Isolation rooms, for which the building work is now complete. This is to ensure patients with Covid are not mixing with non-Covid patients.

We have also been busy trying to ensure the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) at the Yeatman Hospital will reopen. We have got some form of confirmation from the Chair of the NHS Dorset Healthcare University Foundation Trust (What a mouthful).

The Dorset Local Plan consultation looks for land use in Sherborne and Dorset until 2038, and it is light on infrastructure which includes medical facilities. With a possible 2500/3000 more residents this is an important issue, and one we have responded to on the basis that land should be earmarked for medical centres/hospitals etc.

For those who are not connected to the web we are still trying to find ways of communicating so any ideas please, how to achieve this, apart from a delivered hard copy, would be welcome.

In the meantime, stay healthy

Bruce Duncan, PPG Chair





SPRING 2021 SURGERY CLOSURE: **Good Friday – 02/03/2021 Closed ALL DAY**
Easter Monday – 05/03/2021 Closed ALL DAY
Staff Training – 20/04/2021 Closed 1:30-4:30pm

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE DOCTOR PLEASE

Covid has changed the way our Drs and the NHS work. Please note the Practice is currently unable to carry out ear syringing or health checks, but most other services are now available.

If you feel you need to see a Dr, please **phone the Surgery on 01935 812633** as soon as possible in the morning after 08:00 and one of the Drs will phone you back. Please, please make sure you are available for that return phone call.

We fully encourage the use of the eConsult service which allows you to quickly and safely give full details of the problem/administrative help you'd like from the Dr and upload any relevant photos, thus giving a well-informed idea of the problem before the Dr calls you. Please use the links below and follow the online steps (All links can be found on the homepage of the surgery website should you need it in the future):

General advice:

https://sherborneapples.webgp.com/react-consult-general-advice?codeName=GEC_GEN#EC

Administrative help:

https://sherborneapples.webgp.com/react-consult-administrative-help?codeName=GEC_ADM#EC

The Apples Medical Centre is now using **accuRx**, which appears to be a more flexible base. This is free software for GP practices in the UK, allowing anyone in the practice to text a patient about anything they need. The GPs can also use video consultations when appropriate. The following link gives you more details:

<https://support accurx.com/en/articles/3790662-my-gp-has-sent-me-a-video-link>

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS 2021

These may come as an invitation from the PCN (see above including your surgery) or direct from the NHS for a group centre. You can accept either, especially to fit in with work, but please let the Practice know should they contact you and you've already booked/received elsewhere! If you are 50 years and over; are clinically vulnerable; have a learning disability; are a frontline health or social care worker; or a main carer for someone at high risk from Coronavirus, you can also book appointments online via NHS website:

[Book a coronavirus vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

DISPENSED PRESCRIPTIONS

Please ensure you allow **at least two full working days from ordering to collecting your dispensed prescription** from the surgery. Prescriptions must be signed before they can be dispensed, and we are unable to hold stock of every item needed. To allow for us to unpack and dispense any items that have been ordered, please try to collect your prescriptions in the afternoon.

If you place your order after 5.15pm your request will not be actioned until the following day. For urgent requests, please contact the surgery on 01935 812633.

PRESCRIPTION ORDERING

Our preferred method of prescription ordering is online via SystmOnline. Alternatively you can use our dedicated prescription email account: apples.prescriptions@dorsetgp.nhs.uk If you are unable to order prescriptions online or via email, you can **contact us on our dedicated prescription line: 01935 816595**. Please note this telephone line is only **open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am-11.30am**. We do not routinely take prescription requests over the phone outside of this time. You can also drop in your paper prescription to the surgery. You should order your prescription when you have a week's supply of medication left. Please allow at least two full working days for a dispensed prescription to be collected, and 2-3 days for a prescription collected from a pharmacy.

OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATION

Your GP will not generally give you a prescription for over the counter medicines for a range of short-term, minor health concerns. Instead, over the counter medicines are available to buy in a pharmacy or supermarket in your local community. The team of qualified healthcare professionals at your local pharmacy can offer clinical advice to manage minor health concerns safely and effectively.

Wishing you a healthy year ahead

The Apples Team

