



February Newsletter 2024

## The Apples Medical Centre – February 2024 Newsletter



### Apples Patient Group – Note from the Chair

The Apples Patient Participation Group (PPG) 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, it also assists with the provision of information to patients from the Practice.

See <https://www.sherborneapples.co.uk/Home> for full information. The web site is new and much improved.

### New Clinical Floor:

On 14th March 2024 the new treatment rooms will be opened by Chris Loder MP. Nurses, Pharmacists and Nurse Practitioners will work from the new floor, named as Entrance B (explained in previous Soundbites)

### What can a Nurse Practitioner do:

A Prescribing Nurse can, have a level of authority to prescribing medications. Their roles can also include

- a) education on disease prevention
- b) ordering, analysis and discussion of the results from diagnostic tests
- c) assessing patients' conditions
- d) diagnoses and treatment of patients

### Behind the scenes at the surgery:

Some patients have mentioned to me about the apparent lack of action at the surgery! It is not obvious how much work goes on behind the scenes.

GPs deal with test results and informing the patient (if not using the NHS App)

GPs receive daily tasks from a variety of teams; Dispensary, PCN Pharmacy, Frailty, Mental Health Team, plus outside providers i.e. Social Services, Health visitors, Secondary care,

GPs have to action admin requested by patients i.e. Medical forms/Insurance forms, private letters etc! and much more!

### Different methods of communication:

There are a number of different method of communication that the practice communicates with you; email, SMS, phone calls or letters.

### PPG:

The group communicates through the Newsletters, Website and monthly Soundbites (SMS)

*In the meantime, stay healthy*

*Bruce Duncan, PPG Chair*

*bruceduncanab@gmail.com*

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Website: <https://www.sherborneapples.co.uk>

Facebook: The Apples Medical Centre

Instagram: sherborneapples



### **NHS Pharmacy First Advanced Service:**

The new Pharmacy First Service will enable community pharmacists to complete episodes of care for patients without the need for the patient to visit their general practice. This, alongside expansions to the pharmacy blood pressure checking and contraception services, could save up to 10 million general practice team appointments a year and help patients access quicker and more convenient care.

Patients will be able to access the new service via referrals, such as from NHS 111, General Practice and Emergency Departments or by walking into the pharmacy directly, or where appropriate, by contacting them by video consultation.

### **Pharmacy in Sherborne who have signed up; Abbey Pharmacy, Well Pharmacy and Boots**

#### **How pharmacies can help**

Pharmacists can give you advice on a range of conditions and suggest medicines you can buy that can help.

They may also be able to offer treatment for some conditions, without you needing to see a GP:

- earache
- impetigo
- infected insect bites
- shingles
- sinusitis
- sore throat
- urinary tract infections (UTIs)

If you go to a pharmacy with one of these conditions, the pharmacist will offer you advice, treatment or refer you to a GP or other healthcare professional.

They will then update your GP health record.

So this is a great way to help the Surgery if those options could fit your requirements

### **Practice Update**

#### **Workforce updates:**

Working alongside the 4 GPs are 2 Nurse Practitioners; Sharon and Sarah, covering each week day, mainly seeing urgent on the day for conditions that are new and not long term

Our Nursing team will shortly change due to Sarah Sutcliffe going on Maternity Leave early May 2024, we have recruited a lovely new Nurse Alison Evans, joining the practice on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024, along with our Lead Nurse Trudy we will have a team of 3 practice Nurses along with our lovely 2 Health Care Assistants; Ruth King and Yaz Topp

Ruth King is also the Practice Carers lead, if have any queries with regards to being a Carer please contact the surgery and ask to speak to Ruth King

#### **Non-clinical workforce;**

Recently recruited within our Administration team, well come to Elaine Bird, who will be working alongside Michelle (Admin Team Leader) Suzie and Rickie

#### **Dates for the Diary**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March Protected Learning Session for the workforce, whole practice closure from 3.30pm

(Prescriptions can be collected between 8:30am – 3pm today ONLY)

**If you require medical assistance during surgery closures, phone 111 or 999 in the case of an emergency**