## PRACTICE NEWSLETTER

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**Bradford on Avon & Melksham Health Partnership Newsletter July 2021 Edition** 

#### **COVID-19 Restrictions**

## We're High Risk

We must act cautiously and maintain Covid Control measures

We are acting very cautiously and are maintaining:

#### Social distancing Face coverings PPE for healthcare staff

On 19th July the COVID-19 restrictions are being lifted, however we have been advised by the Local Medical Committee to continue to ask patients to wear face masks inside our buildings to protect our staff and other patients. We will also continue to ask patients to wait outside under the shelters provided or in their cars for face to face appointments. Please ask if you feel too poorly to do this, or feel that you need a chair.

We have worked hard throughout the pandemic to keep our patients and staff as safe as possible. Our buildings are old and do not have adequate ventilation to enable vulnerable patients to wait inside without masks, at this current time, alongside other patients who may have been in contact (unbeknown to them) with someone who then receives a positive COVID-19 result.

In the first 15 days of July locally we have seen more COVID-19 positive cases than Nov '20, although largely in the younger age groups, we are seeing a few numbers of cases in the older age groups, hospital admissions remain very low, as the majority of these cohorts have received 2 vaccines.

We continue to encourage all unvaccinated patients over the age of 18 to attend our local vaccination walk-in clinics for your first or second COVID-19 vaccination. If you have an outstanding concern having received a first dose of AstraZeneca please call us so that we can arrange a conversation for you with a Clinician so that you can receive an appropriate second vaccination.

We will continue to conduct Risk Assessments regularly and if this advice changes we will let you know. Demand for GP services remains significantly higher than pre COVID-19 levels, so you may find it hard to access our services first thing in the morning. We would encourage patients to use <a href="Doctor Link">Doctor Link</a> where possible or call later in the day if you are wishing to book a routine nurse appointment or follow up on any test results.



#### **Happy Birthday to the NHS!**

July 5th 1948 was an historic moment in our country's history. It was the day our pioneering National Health Service (NHS) was born, bringing free healthcare to everyone. We have treasured it ever since, but never more so since March 2020 when the Coronavirus pandemic gripped the UK and utterly changed all our lives.

The local Masons wanted to recognise the work of the NHS in our local communities and have made a kind donation of 2 handheld Dopplers for the Boa & Melksham Leg Clubs, the presentation was held on 5<sup>th</sup> July at St Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon. This vital piece of equipment makes a difference to both the nurses and patients. A doppler ultrasound test uses reflected sound waves to evaluate blood as it flows through a blood vessel. It can show blocked or reduced blood flow through narrowing in the major arteries. We are lucky enough to have a number of nurses who are skilled in this area, having enough doppler machines to cover all sites ensures our nurses are able to provide timely care. These leg clubs proved to be life-lines to some of our most vulnerable patients during the COVID-19 lockdowns—a reason to get out of the house, see the nurses whilst receiving important leg ulcer treatment in a safe environment. We are also grateful to the Town Council and Spencer's Sports & Social Club for allowing us access to these facilities during the lockdowns.

## CLICK HERE TO VIEW WHEN YOUR PREFERRED GP IS AVAILABLE!









#### **Transforming Care for Older People Team (TCOP)**



JULIE Clinical Lead



DONNA Paramedic



KATHERINE Clinical Care Co-ordinator



JACKIE Team Administrator



GINNIE Age UK



CLAIRE Alzheimer's Support

### We are your Older Person's Team and we are here to help you!

#### The Concept

We recognise that people's health is determined primarily by a range of social, economic and environmental factors. Social prescribing seeks to address people's needs in a holistic way; it also aims to support individuals to take greater control of their own health and many schemes are focused on improving mental health and physical well-being.

#### Who do we support?

People who can benefit from social prescribing schemes: include people over the age of 65, who are frail, have health problems, (i.e. a mild or long-term mental or memory issue). We are here to help people who are socially isolated, to assist them to reintegrate back into society. We also support their families and carers.

#### What do we do?

- ⇒ Help keep vulnerable patients out of hospital
- ⇒ Follow up on patients who have recently been discharged from hospital
- ⇒ Visit local care homes to complete assessments and reviews
- ⇒ Review medication and give advice
- ⇒ Dementia reviews for housebound patients
- ⇒ Visit housebound patients to administer the annual flu vaccination
- ⇒ Organise two busy Leg Clubs (delivering leg wound management in a friendly, social environment) in Bradford on Avon & Melksham
- ⇒ Work with Age UK to identify social isolation
- ⇒ Support early intervention to older people in crisis
- ⇒ Fortnightly Multi-Disciplinary Meetings with other agencies to discuss the best care for our patients
- ⇒ Advise how we can help with mobility aids, home help, befrienders, respite, carers support allowance, re-enablement and a whole lot more...



# TCOP Telephone No. 01225 860812 (not for emergencies)

"Having needed help and advice when my partner came out of hospital following a broken leg, I realised that I was desperately in need of support and back-up. There is a dedicated and designated Team at our Surgery who will do all they can to alleviate worries and fears when someone comes out of hospital and also perhaps suffering a fall or a stroke. We were given a plan and the advice from an Occupational Therapist and telephone numbers if we needed further help."

- Judy, Patient Participation Group Committee Member