

PRACTICE NEWSLETTER

Bradford on Avon & Melksham Health Partnership

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Staff News

Due to a change in family commitments Dr Van Lany sadly left the Practice on 12th July 2013.

This is the second time Dr Van Lany has worked at the Practice, initially joining the team to provide maternity leave locum cover a few years ago. We are very sorry to be saying goodbye but would like to thank Dr Van Lany for her tremendous contribution to the Practice and the help/support she has given to so many patients (and staff!).

The surgery is currently advertising for a replacement and we will keep patients updated via the Practice Website when we have more information to share.

Continuing the surgery's role as a training practice we would like to welcome Dr Rebecca Johnson and Dr Robert Allen, GP Speciality Trainees, who will be joining the Practice on 7th August for the next twelve months. Also joining the team for the next four months are Dr Catherine Tappes-Lomax, Dr Helen Sims and Dr Francesa Millinchamp who are all Foundation Year 2 doctors.

We would like to offer belated congratulations to Nurse Julie Flett who passed her Non Medical Prescriber's Course in April with flying colours.

Audiology Appointments

As from 31st July, Max Seal, Audiologist, will be available to see patients at The Health Centre every Wednesday. Appointments need to be booked through the RUH on 01225 824035 or 01225 821771 for repairs.



Spotlight on Emergency Nurse Practitioner

The Practice employs a number of Emergency Nurses/Nurse Practitioners who are Registered Nurses with extra training in advanced Nursing Practice. They are able to see emergencies, take your history, diagnose and treat a broad range of medical problems, working closely with the Emergency Doctor and are able to prescribe medication if necessary.

Ros Carlile is the Clinical Nurse Manager and an Emergency Nurse Practitioner at St Damian's Surgery together with Jo Walford.

Jackie Cooper is the Emergency Nurse for Winsley Health Centre. Julie Flett, Lisa Blake and Beverley Lewis Belza are the Emergency Nurses for Bradford on Avon Health Centre.

On average the Emergency Nurse Team see 390 patients across the practice sites per week; this equates to 78 patients per day.

Telephone changes at St Damian's Surgery

Did you know?

From Monday 3rd June the telephone line at St Damian's Surgery will now remain open at lunchtime, but will close at 6pm instead of 6.30pm.

PPG News

The next Patient Participation Group General Meeting, which includes the Annual General Meeting, will be held at The Health Centre on Tuesday 10th September at 7.00pm.

The PPG welcomes all suggestions for future topics for discussion. These can be sent to the PPG email address at ppgboam@orangehome.co.uk

National Eye Health Week 16-22 September

Did you know?

1.8 million people in the UK are living with sight loss. For 53% of these, a simple sight test and new spectacles could really help.

A sight test can detect early signs of conditions like glaucoma, which can be treated if found soon enough.

During a sight test, carried out by your Optician, other health conditions such as diabetes or high blood pressure may be detected.

For healthy eyes, eat well, don't smoke and wear eye protection in bright sunlight.

Many people think that a trip to their Optician for a sight test is just about checking whether your vision needs correcting with glasses or contact lenses. A sight test is also a vital check on the health of the eyes and includes the detection of eye conditions. Many of these, if found early, can be treated successfully, avoiding potential sight loss.

"Surgery Gets Gold Carer's Award"

Since 2011 the surgery has been working closely with Carers Support Wiltshire and Wiltshire Council to help raise awareness of carers and to create a new Wiltshire Investors in Carers Award. We believe that supporting carers is an important part of general medical services as carers are three times more likely to suffer ill health compared to non-carers. There are currently 322 registered carers at the surgery.

On Monday 10th June the surgery was delighted to be presented with a GOLD award (the highest award) for the work it has done with carers. The award was presented by Dr Steve Rowland's, Chair of Wiltshire Commissioning Group, at a ceremony held at the Devizes Corn Exchange.

Hayley Holland, Carers Representative and lead on the project, received the award along with 35 practices in Wiltshire who had taken part in the initiative (there are 62 across the Country) some of whom were awarded Bronze and Silver.

Achieving Gold will spur the surgery on to maintain our current good practice and encourage us to continue to develop services even further. We hope to take part in the next level of the Award Scheme, Gold Plus, which encourages practices to continue their high level of care for carers.

If you are a carer and would like more information on the services available please pick up a Carers leaflet in Reception or alternatively visit the Carers section on the Practice Website www.boamhp.co.uk/

Monthly Topics of Focus

The Practice has implemented a monthly "Topic of Focus".

Topic for August: Updating Your Contact Details

More and more we are using mobile phones as a way of communicating with patients and to provide important information via text messages.

It is important that patients advise the surgery of any changes to their contact details.

In order to keep our records up to date members of staff will, from time to time, ask you to confirm your landline and/or mobile telephone number.

Topic for September: Blood Pressure Readings for the over 35s

To help us monitor patients health, all patients over the age of 35 are being asked to check their blood pressure on the self test machine located at The Health Centre (the tear off slip can then be handed to the clinician you are seeing or handed to our Reception Desk).

For patients of St Damian's and Winsley who are unable to self test an appointment can be made with a Healthcare Assistant.

Your readings will be shared with the doctor and you will be contacted if necessary.

Topic for October: Smoking Status

During October the Reception Team will be asking all patients to confirm their smoking status in order to keep our records up to date.