



Brunel Medical Practice

July 2020

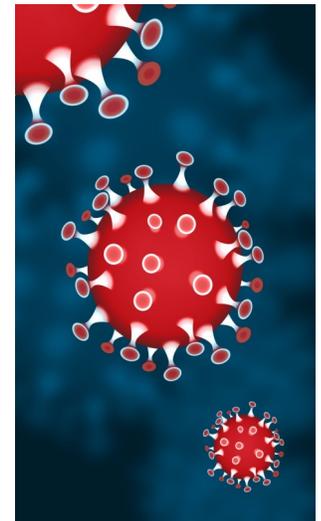
The New Normal

We would like to thank all of you, our patients for your cooperation and patience through these challenging times. We have been asked by NHS England and Public Health England to work in a very particular way to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. This way of working is set to be with us for quite some time.

- *A triage based appointment system*
- *All consultations to be conducted remotely where clinically appropriate—telephone, video and eConsults*
- *Social distancing measures of 2 metres to be in place at all times with enhanced infection control and cleaning measures in place*
- *If contact is less than 2 metres, PPE is to be worn by staff and patients*
- *The slow reinstatement of non-essential appointments and services, in a safe and controlled way*

These measures mean a big change to the way you make and access appointments. We would ask that you use eConsult from our website for non-urgent health problems and understand when members of the practice team ask you to send in photographs through our secure system.

We are here for you and are working hard to offer excellent care, despite the restrictions placed upon us. Please wear a mask or face covering when attending the practice (if you are aged over 11) and assist us by arriving at the time of your appointment to help limit the number of patients in the waiting room.



Covid-19
A global challenge

The Practice Team

In February we were joined by Dr Stevens and Dr Annan. In April Dr Pyne agreed to join us permanently after working for us as a locum for many months. From July, Dr Ghaffar joins us as a long term locum, moving to the area from Reading. We are hoping that the delights of Torbay will encourage him to stay long term.

2 other GPs are due to join the team later in the year, boosting the team and offering much needed appointments.

In other news, Dr Haugh will be retiring at the end of September. We are hoping that he may do a few sessions for us from time to time, but know that he is looking forward to spending more time with his family. Please email brunel.communications@nhs.net or write to the Practice Manager if you would like your memories and best wishes to be included in a compilation that is being created as a retirement gift.



Dr Michael Haugh



Flu Vaccination Programme

Infection control restrictions mean that it will not be possible to conduct our flu vaccination programme in the usual way. We are working with other Practices across Torbay to vaccinate patients in a safe and effective way.

Look out for advertised vaccination events starting in September.

Planned Relocation of The Practice

The Partners are still committed to moving the Practice to one site. The pandemic and the pressures it brings has strengthened our commitment to finding a home for the practice in one building.

We can now update you that we will not be continuing with plans to relocate to the former Magistrates Court building at Castle Circus. Feedback from patients, other stakeholders and challenges presented by the building itself means that this is no longer a viable option.

We are now working with a large national company who specialise in planning and building health centres. They have been working with the CCG and Torbay Council, with good progress being made. The Torbay Development Agency has identified all land earmarked for development in our patient catchment area that is big enough to meet our needs. Seven sites were originally identified and two have been marked for further investigation after a detailed scoring exercise. Suitability of the sites were scored against several criteria including access, public transport links, developability, environmental issues and other criteria that would effect building large premises.

We have not progressed enough to share details yet, and do not currently have a preferred site. We can share that plans are for the construction of a new, purpose built premises with parking. We hope to be able to share more information over the coming months and to again make it possible for patients to share their thoughts on our plans.

We know from the many surveys that were completed by patients earlier in the year that public transport links and parking are really important to many patients, so this will be included in any plans.

Annual Reviews of Long Term Health Conditions

Many annual reviews will be conducted by telephone this year. Patients will need to attend the practice for blood tests and other checks that cannot be done remotely, but many elements will happen during a telephone conversation with a Practice Nurse.

If you are worried that your long term health condition has been adversely affected by Covid-19, please call and ask for a telephone appointment with one of the specialist nurses. We know that lockdown has made it harder for many people to manage their health and we are here to help.

Interested in Helping to Shape The Practice?

Why not join our Patient Participation Group and work with the Practice, advising and shaping our future plans. Please email brunel.communications@nhs.net for more information.