



## CHANGES TO PRACTICE APPOINTMENTS SYSTEM

The Practice has undertaken a review of our appointment system which has involved incorporating the views of patients. We propose implementing the following changes from **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June** in an attempt to improve our effectiveness in meeting the needs of our patient population.

**Morning Booked Surgeries:** The 10.00 am Open Surgery will be replaced by appointments with a named GP.

**On the Day Appointments:** The current 11.15 am Open Surgery, which is bookable on the day, will remain as is. This surgery provides 3 appointments per doctor on a 'first come first served' basis for acute / urgent symptoms which arise on the day and are with **any** GP. These appointments cannot be nominated to a specific GP.

There will be additional On-the-Day Appointments available each afternoon which will be a bookable appointment with a named doctor of those present.

**Medical Emergencies:** The Duty Doctor will speak to patients who feel they need to be seen as a medical emergency and arrange an appropriate consultation.

**Further Information:** Further information on our appointments system may be obtained from the Practice website and leaflet at:

[www.bruntsfieldmedicalpractice.co.uk](http://www.bruntsfieldmedicalpractice.co.uk)

It is intended that the above changes will result in an improved and more efficient service to our patients. We will of course continue to monitor the service and welcome comments in the meantime.

## STAFFING NEWS

As many of you will know by now, Dr Fraser Uytman left the Practice at the end of March to take up the position of GP Partner at another practice in Pathhead. While this is a great opportunity for Dr Uytman, and we are all delighted for him, he has been missed by patients and colleagues alike. Fortunately for us, Dr Georgina Rowan started with us at the beginning of April, and has taken over care of Dr Uytman's patients.



Dr Rowan trained in Edinburgh, and has just finished a stint at Stockbridge Medical Practice to cover some maternity leave, but she has gained experience throughout Lothian doing locum work as well as working for the out of hours service.

She has a particular interest in Obstetrics & Gynaecology as well as contraception, and along with Dr Boyd and Dr Calvert, is able to insert contraceptive implants. Overall she enjoys the variety of General Practice and getting to know the patients, as well as their families. In her spare time she is currently busy planning her wedding later in the year.

We are losing another doctor in June, with the loss of Dr Catriona Davidson, who is moving shortly to work in Austria. Dr Davidson has stepped in a number of times over the last couple of years when we have needed cover for maternity leave, or for short-term locum sessions. We are all very grateful for her work and wish her the best for her time abroad. *(continued over)*

### Forthcoming dates for your calendar:



Thu 24th July  
Wed 20th August  
Wed 10th September  
Mon 15th September

Staff Training - Practice closed between 12.30-1.30pm  
Staff Training - Practice closed from 12.30pm-onwards  
Staff Training - Practice closed from 12.30pm-onwards  
Public Holiday - Practice closed all day

## STAFFING NEWS (cont)



We have a familiar face re-joining the Practice to take on Dr Davidson's previous hours. Dr Jo Loudon is returning to Scotland after spending a year with her family in Australia. Dr Loudon will be starting in mid-July, and we are all looking forward to catching up with her again.

Practice Nurse Shona Swain has now started her maternity leave for baby number 3, so we have a new PN to cover Shona's days for the duration of her leave. Elaine Revie is an experienced Practice Nurse, having recently covered a maternity leave at Craiglockhart.

Lastly we have also said goodbye to Cathy Ireland, a long-standing member of the District Nursing team, as she moves on to work with the Cardiac Rehabilitation team based at Astley Ainslie Hospital. Cathy has worked at Bruntsfield on and off for a number of years, and we all wish her well for this new career challenge.

## NON-NHS GP CHARGES

While the majority of the services that the National Health Service provide are free of charge, there are some times when we need to charge a fee for the work that we do. This can happen if you are someone who is not entitled to free NHS cover, or if the work needing done falls outside the standard NHS remit, such as medical examinations for insurance, sports, education or employment.

We have recently undertaken a review of these charges, and will be raising the cost of several services offered by the end of June. This is the first such raise we have undertaken in 2 years.

A full list of these fees is available on request, or you can view them on the Practice website at the following address:

[www.bruntsfieldmp.co.uk/information/medical-fees](http://www.bruntsfieldmp.co.uk/information/medical-fees)

## COMMUNICATING VIA TEXT

For the last few of years, the Practice has been keen to contact patients via text, to invite people in for review as well as remind patients of their appointments. We have so far been unable to get this initiative off the ground, but we are still inching our way closer to introducing this .

If you have a mobile, and don't mind the Practice using it to get in touch, can you please make sure you inform us, and keep us updated of any changes to your contact details. You can do this via our website, or at reception.

## SAFE SUMMER IN SCOTLAND

We all hope for a good summer to enjoy the outdoors in Scotland. This is a significant year for Scotland, with events such as the Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup taking place. It is important that we remember to stay safe this summer, as in any year.

The NHS Inform website has information and guidance available to help people be ready and prepared for a Safe Summer in Scotland. This information includes guidance on:

- When it's hot outside
- Staying safe in the sun
- In the garden
- Exploring the great outdoors
- Travelling safely

You can access this information online at:

<http://goo.gl/lkP1QZ>

One of the leaflets shared on the NHS Inform site is some Age UK information for elderly patients on how to stay cool in a heat wave. If you don't have access to the internet, this leaflet can be ordered from Age UK on **0800 169 65 65**.

And if you are planning to travel this summer, check the NHS Fit For Travel website for up-to-date advice on disease prevention and news of any disease outbreaks as they happen:

[www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

Please remember to inform us if you can't keep your appointment (by phone or online)



### Contributors

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