



Branch End Surgery

NEWS

Dr L Corbett Dr A Maguire Dr F Kamali Dr L Dornan Dr S Gupta

WELCOME.....

GP Registrars

We are happy to welcome our new GP registrar Dr Tiffany Chan, who will be with us until August. Tiffany will be working full time.

We bid farewell to our 2 GP registrars,
Dr Charlotte Gooding and Dr Rachel Preston.

Rachel will continue her GP training at another surgery in Durham. We wish her all the best.

Charlotte has now successfully completed her GP training and whilst looking for a permanent position, she is happy to help us with locum shifts every now and again.

We wish them both the very best in their future careers.

Did you know?

GP workload has increased by 20%

GP's have to deal with 20% more consultations than they did back in 2008.

Why has the demand increased so much?

- There are more people now than in 2008
- We all visit the GP more often, the average brit visits their GP 6 times a year. This is twice as often as a decade ago.
- Everybody is getting older; leading to more complex and elderly patients: 78% of all GP consultations are for people with two or more chronic illnesses.

However the budgeting for General Practice has stayed the same!

Even with the workload increasing by 20%, funding for GP's has stayed flat.



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Even though the workload has gone up, wages have gone down. Last year the average family doctor took a 20% pay cut.

This meaning the GP's are leaving the profession, early retirement is looming and the next generation of doctors do not want to become GP's. There currently is a GP training crisis as newly-qualified doctors choose not to go into general practice.

In conclusion;

- Doctors have to see more people – and they are only going to get busier
- They are getting demoralised and leaving the profession
- There are no sufficient funds to employ more; and if there was, there will be a shortage of qualified people.
- The recruitment shortage is making matters worse for the current GP's still remaining.

The put the patient first campaign is calling for a UK wide increase in the share of funding that goes into General Practice from 8.39% to 11% of the NHS budget by 2017.

How can you help?

Visit the Put the Patients First website for links to:

Contact your Health and social care board

Write to your local politician

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/campaign-home.aspx>



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How to get the most out of the NHS:

THINK PHARMACY FIRST!

Which illnesses are included?

- Aches & Pains
- Athletes Foot
- Back Pain
- Bites & Stings
- Chicken Pox
- Colds
- Cold Sores
- Conjunctivitis
- Cystitis in women
- Diarrhoea
- Ear Ache
- Eczema or Dermatitis
- Haemorrhoids
- Hay Fever
- Mouth Ulcers
- Nappy Rash
- Teething
- Threadworm
- Thrush

As well as free medical advice, your local community pharmacy can now also provide **free medication** for some illnesses and minor ailments under a scheme **called Think Pharmacy First.**

Freeing up appointment regarding warts, athletes foot and colds will allow your GP to spend more time tackling more challenging matters.

If you are suffering from one of the illnesses to the left, you may not need to see your GP for treatment!

Instead of waiting for an appointment at your GP Surgery, visit your local community pharmacy first!



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Online Services

Our online services include both 24hour appointment bookings, access to detailed coded medical records and repeat prescription ordering. To access our online services you will need a username and password which can be obtained from our reception. (Please note you will be asked for ID)

Repeat Prescriptions

Where possible we ask you to please wait to ring till mid-morning for repeat prescriptions, as between 8-9:30am the phone lines tend to be for appointments only.

We appreciate your cooperation with this.

Non NHS Work

Please note that there are charges for all non NHS-work related requests i.e; Claim forms, Medicals, Holiday cancellation forms etc. We are experiencing an increased amount of requests for these to be put forward to our GP's. Although we are happy to assist, these are **NOT** urgent requirements.

Change of contact details

Please update us with any details that may have recently changed so we can contact you when required.

For example your name, address or telephone number.

Please note that when changing your details we require valid ID and proof of new address.

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

We are looking to re-establish our PPG. We will be forming a small meeting group as well as a larger virtual group based on email.

If you are interested in taking part in either please email your details to:

Branchend.surgery@nhs.net
or contact Chris Mettham at the usual surgery number.



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DID NOT ATTEND (DNA)

In the last 3 months we have had a total of;

136 DNA (wasted) appointments.

March: 46 appointments (590 minutes wasted)

February: 49 appointments (690 minutes wasted)

January: 43 appointments (565 minutes wasted)

Please make sure you cancel your appointment if you know you are not going to attend so we can give this to another patient.



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West Northumberland Health Walks

All walks are completely FREE

8 weekly walks are being organised leaving from Allendale, Bellingham, Corbridge, Haltwhistle, Hexham, Prudhoe, Stocksfield and Wark.

You can walk with as many groups as you like.

Each walk will take from one to one and a half hours and may include some ascents and descents.

There is no need to book, just turn up a few minutes before the start of the walk and make yourself known to the leader.

You will be asked to fill out a short health questionnaire.

Please wear appropriate outdoor clothing and shoes with a good grip. It is a good idea to carry some water and some small change as some groups enjoy going for a coffee after their walk.

April Walks

4th Merryshields

11th Healey

18th High Mickley

25th Newton

May Walks

2nd Broomley Woods

9th Horsley Woods

16th Broomley Village

23rd Dilston Haughs

30th MAY BANK HOLIDAY - NO WALKS

For more information contact health walks co-ordinator at: 01670 622368 or email: loliver@activenorthumberland.org.uk

01661 842626

www.branchendsurgery.co.uk



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