

GP Direct Patient Newsletter

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GP DIRECT LAUNCHES EXTENDED OPENING HOURS

GP Direct appreciates the changing needs of its patients and is consistently striving to provide the best quality of care and as a direct result of the suggestions and views made by you, we have great pleasure in announcing the launch of GP Direct's extended opening hours from 1st October 2008.

In conjunction with our current late evening Commuter Clinic already running on a Wednesday, we will be having two additional clinics running on a Monday evening and also a 3 hour session on Saturday morning, additionally we will also be increasing the number of appointments on Wednesday evening.

These sessions will take place at Welbeck Road and will be made up of bookable appointments available in advance and on the same day like our existing appointments. The weekday clinics will run until 8pm on Monday and 8.30pm on Wednesday and the Saturday morning clinic will run between 9am and 12noon.

GP Direct is responding to the changing needs of general practice and sees the extension of our opening hours as a paramount factor in improving the level and quality of service in today's NHS. We hope that the new system will help in providing our patients with the level of care that they deserve.

Protect yourself against the Flu

Our flu campaign will start on Monday 6th October 2008. The doctors at GP Direct strongly recommend patients who fall in one of the categories below to get vaccinated this winter.

- ❖ Over 65 years of age
- ❖ Diabetic
- ❖ Asthmatic or have other respiratory illness
- ❖ Have Heart related problems
- ❖ Stroke sufferer
- ❖ Have a Kidney or Liver illness
- ❖ Is a carer
- ❖ Or if you suffer from an illness or take medication that compromises your immunity

If you fall in one of these categories it is strongly recommended that you get yourself vaccinated. You may also receive a letter in the post about the flu campaign and the walk-in clinics starting in October.

Expansion and refurbishment work at Welbeck Road completed

If you have been to Welbeck Road since late August you would certainly have noticed the major expansion and refurbishment work to our waiting room and the introduction of three new consulting rooms. This now brings the total number of consulting rooms to 7 at 5-7 Welbeck Road with a further 3 consulting rooms at 3 Welbeck Road. The work was carried out to a very high standard so we are sure you will find the new look surgery more comfortable.

New GP trainers

We hope you will join us in congratulating Dr. Rabia Yaqoob and Dr. Akil Nurmohamed in becoming certified GP trainers. They follow the footsteps of Dr. Imtiaz Gulamali as mentors to doctors who undergo GP training within the Practice. Over the past few years many doctors have worked with GP Direct in achieving full GP status and we hope to continue this valuable provision.

Hundreds of patients have signed up – why don't you

Many patients have signed up to EMIS access since its introduction in early 2007 at GP Direct. It offers you the ability to make appointments, request repeat medication and update contact details online via the EMIS access module at www.gpdirect.co.uk, for more information read the article overleaf.

gpdirect.co.uk

Our online interactive website

Dear Patient,

In early 2007 GP Direct launched an interactive website which gives our patients the option of making appointments online, requesting repeat medication and updating contacting details. Since its inception many hundreds of you have registered to use this service. If you have not we would like to take this opportunity to invite you to make use of this invaluable service.

What is EMIS Access?

EMIS Access is a service provided by our IT clinical provider which allows for patients to make appointments, request repeat medication and update contact details online. We believe that the service will save you time as you can book appointments and request your repeat medicines at your convenience any time of the day. We currently have well over 500 users.

How can I use EMIS Access?

This service is available for anyone to use provided they have access to the internet. All you need to do is come to the Surgery and request an 'Access Pin' which the receptionists will be happy to provide to you from any of our Surgeries. We require that you show visual ID in the form of a Passport or Drivers License as we don't want to take any risks with your confidentiality.

So I have my PIN, what next?

Once you have your PIN all you need to do is register to use the service online. Our website address is **www.gpdirect.co.uk**, once you are on the website just go to 'book an appointment' or 'request repeat prescriptions' and you will find an option for new users to create an account. Once you have created your account you will have instant access to this service. (A registration guide will be given to you with your Access PIN).

Does your website only have EMIS Access?

No. Our website also has useful information about the services we offer, our staff, our patient newsletter and some key policies of the practice. We are also planning to expand the content in the coming months.

Your views are much appreciated so if you have any comments or suggestions please feel free to share them with us, you can write, phone or use the contact us form on our website.

GP Direct Management