



Welcome to July's newsletter! Summer holidays are nearly here and we hope that you are all gearing up to enjoy the (fingers crossed) sunshine safely, and that you'll get chance to spend quality time with your loved ones.



If you think you may have Coronavirus symptoms you should still use the on-line 111 service or call 111 initially. If you are concerned about a non-Coronavirus matter, that you think is important, do still contact us but for minor issues or self care advice please consult a pharmacist where possible in the first instance.

Update

Summer is now here and the situation at Marysville continues to be tough but with some positives; we are very much trying to maintain the best service we possibly can but with limited resources.



What is stopping us? The main barrier we have is staffing as like all GP practices locally and also nationally it is difficult to recruit new staff. The number of GPs locally and nationally continues to fall - in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin there has been a 12% reduction overall in GP workforce capacity and a 27% reduction in overall GP Partner workforce (GPs who take responsibility for running the practice). We have been back to 2 GPs again since February at Marysville but have been able to attract some very good locums to help provide GP appointments.

We have been very fortunate to have in place a strong medical team of Urgent Care Practitioners (UCPs often paramedic background) and Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANP/ Urgent care nurses). Our Urgent care staff (as well as others from the Primary Care Network) have had specialist training and are having continued supported educational sessions run by Dr Visick to ensure they are competent in dealing with potentially important symptoms. This includes:

- Rectal bleeding/ change in bowel habit/ abdominal pain
- Prostate symptoms- Urine control problems
- Coughing up blood / ongoing cough

They are able to assess patients thoroughly and start investigations off to make a speedy diagnosis and will involve the GP in this follow up.

We have also had a change of nursing staff but are very glad to say another experienced nurse is joining us soon. Sister Jessica Matthews will be starting on 1st August and we hope you will join us in giving her a warm welcome.

First Contact Physios

The introduction of these long-awaited professionals who can deal with a wide range of problems involving joints and muscles and many related problems, has revolutionised our service. They are able to fully assess many problems equally as well (or better sometimes) than a GP, and can either prescribe as needed or access this from the GP. Later this year they will also be able to issue fit notes (sick notes). There are robust systems in place so they can request x-rays and scans if appropriate for the patient they are seeing, and they are also able to discuss these results with patients. Please do utilise these appointments if appropriate for your need. Our reception team will be able to signpost you to these clinicians if you advise them that your issue is Musculoskeletal.

Dr Visick Update:

I have reduced my hours slightly as I am now feeling my age (!!) and can no longer cope with a 50- 60 hour week year after year. Now it should be more like 30 hours but often extra hours or duties creep in. The working day is still very long and there are extra responsibilities such as meetings and training on top, and so GPs doing “only 3 days “ a week are often doing a full time job.

Dr Hine and I are struggling with being “on-call” each day we work as this is a demanding, tiring role. Very few locums feel able to do this. This role is to support the other clinicians with medical supervision and also deal with the huge number of queries that come through from patients via reception. As well as this we look, comment on and action every result that comes back and also need to issue hundreds of prescriptions each week. We have a handful of appointments each day but these are reserved and used for palliative care patients, dealing with the urgent results, and complex or urgent patients that need the skills of a GP. We really miss having surgeries and seeing patients as we used to and realise that many of our patients miss this contact also but we are simply unable to provide this whilst keeping our surgery processes safe and effective. We continue to try and recruit another GP to join our team to help ease this pressure.



Reception now able to book a Pharmacy appointment directly

We are participating in a new approach to improve access for patients for GP appointments by redirecting patients to the most appropriate healthcare professional, which may be a GP or a pharmacist. If you call reception and explain your symptoms, the reception team may indicate that you can best be helped by a pharmacist. Pharmacists are qualified healthcare professionals and experts in medicine. They can offer clinical advice and over the counter medicines for all sorts of minor illnesses, and a same day consultation can be arranged quickly and at a time to suit you. This in turn frees up GP appointments for those with more complex symptoms. The reception team will share your details with the pharmacist and then you will be contacted to arrange an appointment.



Shingles affects 1 in 4 people and predominantly those who are over 70. There is a national vaccination program that reduces your risk of getting shingles and if you do go on to have the disease, your symptoms may be milder and the illness shorter. Shingles can be very painful and uncomfortable. Some people are left with pain lasting for years after the initial rash has healed. This is reduced by the vaccine. On your 70th Birthday you become eligible to have the shingles vaccine. There are vaccines suitable for all patients. On your 80th Birthday you are no-longer eligible to have the vaccine this is because the vaccine ceases to be effective. If you are aged 70-79 yrs and not had your vaccine - please book with the surgery today. You can find more information here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/shingles-vaccination/>



New Building- will Marysville move?

We are in talks with a central government scheme about the possibility of a new health hub in Shrewsbury; this is very much in the development stage and practices have so far just expressed an interest in moving into this building. **There are no immediate plans that we are aware of to merge any GP practices.**

The current situation is that the Partnership of Marysville are 100% responsible for the Lease on the Brook Street building; this means although we don't have to pay the rent (NHS England pay it), we are liable and responsible for it, and it is a very large sum of money. We are also responsible for paying the upkeep on the internal aspects of the building e.g. the lift, the doors, the windows, painting and decorating every 3 years, the floors, All in all this costs more than one full time GP per year. The current lease on the Marysville building is due to run out in 2025 and given that all the responsibility for the financial risk would continue to lie with the partners it is unlikely we would seek to extend this significantly. Because the liability for the Lease is unlikely to change we wanted to explore our other options. We will keep you posted!



PLEASE MAKE SURE RECEPTION HAVE YOUR UP TO DATE CONTACT INFORMATION INCLUDING MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBERS & EMAIL ADDRESSES!