



Lambton Road Medical Practice

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PCNs

As from 01/07/2019, all GP practices have been encouraged to join a Primary Care Network (PCN) which is a key part of the NHS's Long-Term Plan designed to bring general practices together to work at scale.

The aim is 'to improve the ability of practices to recruit and retain staff; manage financial and estates pressures; to provide a wider range of services to patients and to more easily integrate with the wider health and care system'.

The networks are designed to cover populations of 30,000-50,000 patients and are geographically-based.

At Lambton Road we have effectively been part of such a network (Grafton Medical Partners) for many years. It would possibly have made sense for Grafton to apply to be one large PCN but we felt that Lambton Road Medical Practice had a different practice population and different local authority connections, so we elected to form a PCN with Francis Grove Surgery covering 32,000

patients in the West Wimbledon locality.

In reality, at Lambton Road this will not involve any immediate changes for patients. However, going forward as a PCN, we will attract extra funding for an attached Social Prescriber and an additional Senior Pharmacist (who will work between the two PCN surgeries). The concept of an in-house pharmacist is new to many PCNs but, at Lambton our in house pharmacist Anne Lim has been a hugely positive addition to our team. We are sad that Anne will be leaving due to relocation but she will be replaced in August by Wing Tong, and our PCN's Senior Pharmacist will effectively be an addition to our team.

Next year PCNs are promised help to fund in-house physiotherapists and paramedics. Community nursing and mental health teams are expected to configure their services around PCN boundaries. This is something we have been pushing for for some time and we are hopeful this will evolve and improve community care and communication between primary and community care significantly.

Each PCN has a Clinical Director. Dr Penelope Smith, our Senior Partner, will be a Clinical Director for the Lambton Road and Francis Grove PCN and will represent us at Federation and locality planning meetings and lead strategy within our network.

We hope Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) from the two surgeries will meet together in September so that we can discuss the potential benefits and challenges face-to-face.

Hub

In Merton over the last few years, some 'Primary Care at Scale' money has gone into the development of hubs to offer additional GP and nurse slots in extended hours. To date, Lambton Road patients have only had the option of travelling to Wide Way Surgery in East Merton or the Nelson Medical Practice which is closer but often has few appointments.

With the development of PCNs, additional hub funding was released with the creation of three new hubs.

It was initially suggested that our patients could use a new hub at Wimbledon Family Practice on Pelham Road. However, we are now assured that we have been successful in lobbying for some hub appointments to be hosted at Lambton Road.

Under this arrangement, GPs and nurses will be supplied by the Federation to offer additional slots 18:30-20:00 on weekdays as well as on Saturday mornings. This should help us hugely to boost a much-needed service and final details are being formalised.

Video Consultations

The Health Secretary has long lobbied for increased use of technology in health. Merton is pushing ahead trying to develop a video consulting hub and at Lambton Road we will be leading on this.

We are hoping to have a new service rolled out this winter. We will post details on our website when we have firmer details.

MIAPT Think Action/Ieso

MIAPT is a free, confidential service providing support and help for people who are experiencing mild to moderate/severe mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, low mood and stress. Patients are able self-refer for confidential treatment directly.

Telephone 020 3823 9063

Email mertoniapt@addaction.org.uk

Website <https://www.thinkaction.org.uk/>

Ieso Digital Health works in partnership with South West London and St George's Mental Health Trust to provide online Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) to patients registered with their psychological therapies service, Merton Uplift. If you have decided that you want online CBT with Ieso, you will need to refer yourself to Merton Uplift first. To do so, please visit:

<https://www.iesohealth.com/en-gb/online-cbt/merton>

If you would like a large print version of this newsletter, please ask at reception

Flu

Flu vaccines are delayed again this year and the manufacturers are advising an October delivery. This is due to problems identifying the correct strain and is out of our control. As soon as we have a definite date for delivery, we will be contacting patients and booking clinics.

Meningitis ACWY

All those planning to go to university (but anyone yet to be vaccinated up to age 25) should have this vaccine. We will be contacting those we identify as still needing this vaccine in the next two months. Please **DO NOT** ignore this advice as this strain of meningitis kills but is wholly preventable.

Phones

The list at Lambton Road continues to grow with pressure on phone lines, especially at busy times (e.g. 08:00). We are offering more and more online bookable slots. Please consider checking online availability first and, if calling at a busy time, consider using option 2 on our phone menu (which is automated and will offer you the next available slot).

Please ensure that your telephone number is up-to-date so that you can use this system. You can use the automated system to cancel an appointment too. Please be considerate and think that someone else could be offered your slot if you are unable to make it. Sadly, far too many appointments are wasted when patients forget to cancel. **In the last three months, more than 1000 appointments have been wasted owing to non-attendance.**

Hellos & Goodbyes

We welcome Dr Cecilia Murphy back to our GP team. Cecilia previously worked with us as a GP Registrar and joins us as a salaried GP this month.

We are so sorry to say goodbye to Dr Sarah Hillson and wish her all the best in the next stage of her career. We say goodbye to F2 doctors Ross McClaren and Holly Emms and welcome Carl Adkin and Pratyasha Saha. Anne Lim has sadly left due to relocation but will be replaced in our pharmacy team by Wing Tong, who previously worked at the Royal Marsden.

Wishing everyone a happy healthy end of summer holidays
Dr Penelope Smith (Senior Partner)
 Lambton Road Medical Practice