

Marden Medical Centre Patient Participation Group



News Update

This is the first issue of a new monthly News Update the PPG and the Marden Medical Centre will be providing as a trial throughout 2022 (replacing the bi-annual PPG Newsletter) – designed to regularly communicate important Surgery and other general health & wellbeing information, patients might find useful. Feel free to share with friends and family in the community.

For the latest Marden Medical Centre updates please refer to the Surgery website:

<https://www.mardenmedicalcentre.nhs.uk/>

Seasonal Flu and Covid Vaccinations

We are extremely grateful to the PPG and all the volunteers for the support with our clinics. With their help we have had a successful season and our community is better protected as a result.

- 92% of our patients aged over 65 have been triple vaccinated for Covid
- Approximately 2500 flu vaccinations have been given at the surgery this season
- We are in the top 5 surgeries within West Kent CCG for percentage coverage for all age cohorts

It's not too late to be vaccinated. We will be continuing to administer both Covid and Flu vaccinations through to the end of March please contact the surgery if you think you are eligible and would like an appointment.

Face Coverings

Face coverings and face masks will continue to be required in health and care settings to comply with [infection prevention and control \(IPC\)](#) and [adult social care](#) guidance. This includes hospitals and primary or community care settings, such as GP surgeries.

Please continue to wear a mask when entering the surgery for any reason. You should also wash or sanitise your hands on entry and should not enter the building if you have any symptoms of Covid, have tested positive or are awaiting a PCR result.

New Staff Members

We are delighted to welcome 2 new members to our team.

Josh Smith is joining us a Paramedic Practitioner. He is a very experienced paramedic but is new to general practice. He will receive training and supervision from the GPs before working more independently in a few months' time.

Kaye Rickards is an experienced Practice Nurse with an interest in asthma and diabetes. She will be taking over from Alison Tinsley who leaves us at the end of February to take up a community diabetes post. We wish Alison all the best in her new role.

Pharmacy Support Scheme

We work closely with our local pharmacy in Marden who provide an excellent service. The Pharmacy are able to offer advice and treatment for a number of minor illnesses and can also help with medication queries through a scheme called: Community Pharmacist Consultation Service. If one of our reception team feels that your problem may be suitable for this service they will offer this with your agreement and refer you directly to the Pharmacy. See:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/pharmacy/pharmacy-integration-fund/community-pharmacist-consultation-service/>

Other News:

Local NHS Hospital Performance

A combination of winter and the ongoing Covid pandemic is placing a huge strain on hospitals. Patients are facing long waits for emergency treatment and wards are short of beds. If you are interested in seeing the current performance of our local NHS hospitals. See:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-59549800>

Improving Vascular Services Consultation

You still have time to have your say on the future of vascular services across east Kent, Medway and **Maidstone**. The Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are seeking views on their preferred option to create a medium term vascular centre at Kent and Canterbury Hospital. The new proposals will impact Marden patients. See: <https://jointheconversation.scwcsu.nhs.uk/vascular-services>

Marden Health and Wellbeing Key Community Contacts List

The Marden Health and Wellbeing Key Community Contacts List has been updated. You can find the latest online copy at: <https://www.mardenppg.org.uk/community-groups.html>. A printed version of the list will be distributed to all Marden residents in the next Marden Parish Council Newsletter due out in early March.