## PROBUS SURGERY PATIENT NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2021

'To improve health, well-being and lives of those we care for'



The Probus Surgery doors are open from 08.00am - 6.30 pm Monday to Friday (except Bank Holidays).
The Surgery telephone lines
(01726 882745) are open to receive calls from 08.30 am until 6.00 pm Monday to Friday (except Bank Holidays).
For general enquiries please email us at enquiries.probussurgery@nhs.net
Website: www.probussurgery.co.uk

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Firstly, I would like to thank you all for being patient as we get to the new normal, whatever, that may be .The practice promises our patients that we will continue to work hard in trying our best to deliver quality service to our patients at a time of great uncertainty. We are aware that we, like a lot of other practices in Cornwall and the rest of the country have demand and capacity issues. However, we live in a world that is forever changing and we have to do the best we can with the resources that we have.

No-one has ever dealt with a COVID- 19 Pandemic before. We are having to learn new skills and new ways of working. Some of them are great and some of them are challenging. We will do our best to reflect and make changes to try and ensure our quality of service to our patients remains our priority. I would like to thank our patients once again for their understanding and the support you have shown us and continue to give. We have the same issues and worries and anxieties as the rest of society and knowing we have your support makes a huge difference. As a practice we need our patients to work with us. You can be assured that we are all trying our hardest during these strange times.

During the last few months, all of us have experienced dramatic changes in our work and personal lives, which were unanticipated and unimaginable 18 months ago. We are grateful for the strong commitment, hard work, dedication, and creativity of all our staff at Probus Surgery as we pivot and adjust to our new reality. Their can-do attitude during these unique times has been nothing short of inspiring. We are humbled to work alongside such a dedicated bunch of staff and appreciate their continued commitment to serve our patients.

Stay safe, Dr Rawlins Murthy





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#### WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

Be kind

We've been working hard to ensure we can carry on seeing patients who need our care safely.

Here are some figures from this summer to show you the caring service we have provided and will endeavor to continue ...

Data collected from May to July 2021:

Registered patients = 9,157

Incoming calls answered = 15, 067

**Telephone consultations = 6,730** 

Face to face appointments = 8, 405

Sick notes = 143

Home visits = 34

Prescriptions raise = 22,819

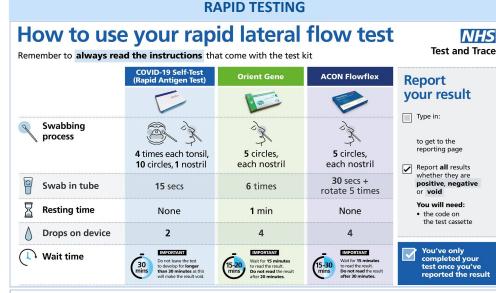
Items dispensed = 47, 555

The NHS app is a simple and secure way for people to access NHS services. It lets you share your COVID-19 status, order repeat prescriptions, access 111 online, book appointments at your GP surgery, and access a range of NHS services.

Our Facebook page shares regular updates relevant to the practice and local community.

Please follow our page to access these updates. search @probussurgerycornwall to find our page or type in the following link: www.facebook.com/probussurgerycornwall

**COVID NEWS** Page 2



#### Why should you get tested regularly?

About 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms but can still infect others. You should do a rapid test twice a week (every 3 to 4 days) to check if

If people test positive and self-isolate, it helps stop the virus spreading. Even if you're vaccinated, there's still a chance you can pass COVID-19 on, so you should keep getting tested regularly.

#### About rapid tests

The test for people without symptoms of COVID-19 is called a rapid lateral flow test. Research shows rapid tests are 99.9% accurate. This means the chance of getting a false-positive result (where the result shows as positive but is actually negative) is extremely low. If you test positive, you and anyone you live with will need to self-isolate.

#### Who can get regular rapid tests

Anyone who does not have symptoms can get regular rapid lateral flow tests to check for COVID-19.

#### How to get regular rapid tests

Order tests online at

#### www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

If you order online, you can get rapid flow test kits sent to your home. If you do tests at home, you'll need to report your results online or on the phone.

You might be able to:

- collect tests from a pharmacy
- collect tests from a community centre, such as a library
- get a test at a site

#### **VACCINATIONS AND BOOSTERS**

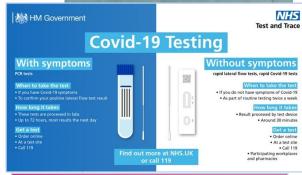
If you haven't yet been vaccinated for Covid-19 and would like to be, you can book online on the NHS website. You will need your name and date of birth, & your NHS number.

If you do not know your NHS number you can still book.



Alternatively, if you do not have internet access you can call 119 free of charge to book. For updates on walk-in clinics for Covid vaccinations please check our Facebook page.







COVID-19 immunisation
Helping to protect you and your pregnan

**STAFF UPDATES** Page 3

#### **WELCOME SPENCER CACEY OUR** STRATEGIC BUSINESS MANAGER



Spencer has worked for the NHS for several years and is legally qualified. He was also a former professional rugby player with Saracens and London Irish. Spencer said

"I am delighted and proud to be joining such a wonderful GP Practice. I hope that my experience within the business world and working within the NHS will help me continue to help and develop the practice further.

Our ethos at the practice is to continually improve the health, well-being and lives of those we care for.

I will ensure we remain true to this ethos and will strive to provide our patients with the best health care provision we can".



Doctors	Practice Management	Nurses
Dr Howard Ball	Mr Spencer Casey	Georgie
Dr Simon Purchas	Mrs Debbie Barnicoat	Kathy
Dr Gaetan Lin Sin Cho	Miss Verity Allen	Alice
Dr Rawlins Murthy	Mrs Patricia Lin	Clare
Dr Grace Moon	Ms Helen Adams	Clare
Dr Kayleigh Smithson		Healthcare Assistants
Dr Robert Hutchinson		
Dr Sarah Keast	Administration	Gloria
	Sandra	Joanne 
	Becky	Tegan
Paramedics	Barbara	Paula
Henry	Angela	Tegen
Mark	_	
	Di	Pharmacist
	Dispensary	Carla
Document	Sam	
Reception	Jenna	Medical Secretaries
Rhiannon	Jane	Rebecca
Louise	Yvonne	Emily
Julia	Hannah	Emma
Kerrie	Jo	EIIIIId
Tracy	Grace	
Charlotte	Lisa	Delivery Drivers
Char	Belinda	Paul
Nikki	Emma	Colin

#### **FLU VACCINATIONS**

Flu season is on its way. We are still awaiting information before we can confirm the details of our rollout of flu vaccinations.

Any updates will be shared on the Probus Surgery Facebook page or available from

reception. To check your eligibility beforehand

please visit https:// www.nhs.uk/conditions/ vaccinations/flu-influenza -vaccine/



#### **DISPENSARY**

Karen

Dispensary telephone lines (01726 882745 and select Option 1) are open from 8.30am until 11.00am and 3pm until 6.00pm (except Bank Holidays) to answer any queries or concerns you have regarding your medication.

Requests for repeat medication cannot be taken over the telephone. Please note that you must allow a minimum of 5 full working days (not including weekends or Bank Holidays) to process repeat prescriptions. You can order up to 10 days in advance. If you do not collect your prescription within 4 weeks it will be removed from the shelf.

As of the 1st April 2021 prescription charges are £9.35 per item.

YOUR FEEDBACK Page 4

Social Prescribing is a method of connecting individual patients with non-clinical sources of support within the community.

This service can help you by providing support:

- to live more independently & improve social connections
  - live a healthier lifestyle and be more active •
  - with mental wellbeing with financial problems •

Please speak to a member of our team to be referred to our Social Prescribing Team if you feel this service could help you.

#### **FREE DELIVERY SERVICE**

Regular repeat medication drops are made to the following locations on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays: Tregony (Post Office), Roseland Parc, Summercourt Surgery (Memorial Hall), Grampound Road (Shop), Ladock (Shop), Sticker (Londis) and Tresillian, (Shop - Mary's Pasties), Probus Garage and Grampound Village Store. In addition, a delivery service is available for patients who are housebound and further information is available from the dispensary regarding this service.



#### **MESSAGE FROM DR KAYLEIGH SMITHSON:**

Although a challenging year it was also a pleasure as a practice to play a large part in the covid-19 vaccination rollout and as part of this meet many new faces of patients at the centres and on the visits. We also have some new faces and roles at the surgery this year including our two paramedics Henry and Mark, whom are working hard alongside the on call GP to deal with your daily emergencies, as well as Josie our mental health therapist and Carla our pharmacist, both with us on Wednesdays. I wanted to make a special thank you to our dispensary staff including our delivery drivers Colin, Paul and Phil (who has recently retired) who have all continued to try their best to meet the demand and get your medications out to you and deliver to those that were most vulnerable not only through the pandemic but long-term.

All of us at Probus surgery will continue to support you in the best way we can whatever this autumn and winter throws at us and thank you all for your ongoing support as patients.

Dr Kayleigh Smithson- GP partner and Dispensary Lead.

We are committed to providing the best possible healthcare experience for each and every one of our patients.

Here is some feedback we have received in recent months:

"I just wanted to say how friendly, helpful and kind the receptionist Tracey is. I have spoken to her a few times now and nothing is too much trouble and she always goes out of her way to find out the answers and help me in any way she can"

"To all the staff at Probus who looked after me last week when I wobbled in in the middle of a heart attack... THANK YOU!!!"

"Just to say thanks for doing my script in a hurry for my holiday"

"Thank you to all the staff for their hard work over the past weeks giving the Covid vaccine. Well done all of you on your mammoth task."



#### PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

In order to improve our services to you and how you perceive the surgery and its staff, Probus Surgery has a Virtual Patient Participation Group.

As part of this group you will be emailed by the practice asking for your views regarding issues from cleanliness of the Practice to services provided by our GPs and staff, and new service proposals being discussed at commissioning level.

You may also have the opportunity to attend a meeting at the surgery.

If you are interested in becoming part of this group please download the form from our website or complete the form available from reception.

(probussurgery.co.uk)

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

You can also download a

A Guide for Working Together for a copy of the Care

Quality Commission and Patient Participation Groups

booklet.

HOW TO... Page 5

#### **BOOK AN APPOINTMENT WITH LIVI:**

#### What is Livi?

Livi is a free NHS online service offering GP appointments from home, work, or on the go. Get medical advice, referrals and prescriptions.

#### Step 1: Download the Livi App

Sign up and select your existing GP practice.

#### Step 2: Book an appointment at a time that suits you.

See a GP online the same day, or book up to 5 days ahead.

You will receive a call through the app from your GP to start your appointment.

#### Step 3: Receive medical advice, prescriptions and referrals.

Livi GPs can offer medical advice, arrange for prescriptions to be delivered to a pharmacy near you, and make referrals to a specialist when necessary.

#### Farewell to long waits and clashing commitments!

When you need an appointment quickly and conveniently, Livi is there to help.

Accessible 7 days a week, including evenings and weekends, with same day appointments available.

With over 3,000,000 online appointments available – book your appointment with Livi today.

For more information please visit the LIVI website – www.livi.co.uk

You can download the app via the apple or android store on your compatible device.

#### **USE THE ECONSULT SERVICE:**

eConsult is an online service for non-urgent queries whereby you

e consult

can complete an online consultation regarding advice about specific conditions, general symptoms, your child's common health problems, or administrative requests for sick notes, GP letters, and recent test results.

Whilst we endeavour to respond within 48 working hours, please note that more urgent cases will take precedence and we will respond to your request as soon as is humanly possible. For urgent queries please do not use this service.

#### **KEEPING YOUR DETAILS UP TO DATE:**

If your GP is referring you to see a specialist it is important that we have the correct contact details for you. You can ensure that your

contact details are up-to-date by submitting a form via the website, or coming into the surgery to fill out a form.

Please note it is also a requirement to have your height, weight and blood pressure so we may also ask you for these details to complete a referral on your behalf.

#### See a GP by video. In minutes.

- GP appointments from home, work, or on the go
- Get medical advice, referrals and prescriptions
- Free NHS service in eligible areas







#### **DATA SHARING:**

#### **UPDATE REGARDING DATA SHARING WITH NHS DIGITAL** 04/08/2021

Originally from 1 July 2021 it was announced data may be shared from the GP medical records about:

- any living patient registered at a GP practice in England when the collection started - this includes children and adults
- any patient who died after this data sharing started, and was previously registered at a GP practice in England when the data collection

This was then pushed back to September 2021 before being postponed imminently.

The NHS will not share your name or where you live. Any other data that could directly identify you, for example your NHS number, General Practice Local Patient Number, full postcode and date of birth, is replaced with unique codes which are produced by de-identification software before the data is shared with NHS Digital.

This process is called pseudonymisation and means that no one will be able to directly identify you in the data.

The NHS needs data about the patients it treats in order to plan and deliver its services and to ensure that care and treatment provided is safe and effective. The General Practice Data for Planning and Research data collection will help the NHS to improve health and care services for everyone by collecting patient data that can be used to do this.

Please search the link below for more information:

https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-collectionsand-data-sets/data-collections/general-practice-data-for-<u>planning-and-research/gp-privacy-notice</u>

You can opt-out of Data Sharing at any point by requesting a Type 1 Opt-out form from reception.

**SERVICES INFORMATION** Page 6





#### **LONELINESS**



Together we can combat loneliness and look after each other's mental wellbeing. Take on the #PhoneAFriend challenge. Pick up the phone, call someone who might be lonely and then tag 3 friends and challenge them to do the same.

#### **ALCOHOL CHANGE**

If you are at all concerned about your drinking, know that your concerns are valid, and you deserve support. Find out more about the support available here: <a href="https://">https://</a> alcoholchange.org.uk/ help-and-support/get-





#### **BETTER HEALTH**

There are loads of different ways to feel fitter and healthier and now is a great time to make a change.

Visit nhs.uk/betterhealth for support and tools to help with losing weight and getting active.

#### **HEALTH VISITORS**





### **Your Health Visiting Service**

Pregnancy and their first 5 years is an important time for your child, when the foundations of their future health and wellbeing are laid down.

#### What can you expect?

- Antenatal New birth visit 6-8 week review
- 2 2<sup>1/2</sup> year review Family wellbeing
- 9 -12 month review
- Maternal mental health
  - Child health clinics
    - Signposting and access to additional support

We want to work in partnership with you to ensure your child gets the best start



NHS

Cornwall Partnership

Find out more. Call **01872 322779** 

Email hvsnadvice@cornwall.gov.uk ollow us @tffcornwall 📑 🗾 🎯

#### **MENTAL HEALTH**



If you need help with anxiety or depression, self-refer to the Outlook South West IAPT service today.

#### Supporting Men's Mental Health in Cornwall

MAN Man down is a Cornwall based group offer-DOWN ing safe spaces to meet the current emotional and mental health needs of men who are struggling to cope with the everyday pressures facing them in our modern society. For more information please visit their website https:// www.mandown-cornwall.co.uk/

#### Need urgent help with your mental health?

Patients will now benefit from guaranteed 24/7 access moving easily between services, receiving the right care at the right time



0800 038 5300

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www.cornwallft.nhs.uk/i-need-help-now





**SERVICES INFORMATION** Page 7



The emergency department and 999 are for serious and life threatening conditions



When you think you need A&E on holiday, think NHS 111 first.

Go to 111.nhs.uk or call 111.

NHS



Not sure what

to do when

your child

is unwell?

## We are still here.

Brook are still booking appointments for Please call our team on

0300 303 0714

STI Testing, Contraceptive Pills & Emergency Contraception are all available free online at

sexualhealthcornwall.co.uk



Get expert advice

Download the free

**HANDi Paediatric app** 

for common childhood illnesses

NHS



We love our jam first but not our emergency department jammed fast. Please choose the right service for health advice this summer.



Visit kernowccg.nhs.uk/choosewell for more info

#### **NEED URGENT DENTAL CARE?**

Please contact your usual dentist. If you don't have one, use NHS 111.





NHS



**Visit the Mental Health Hub** 

**Find information** 

and support for your mental

www.nhs.uk/mental-health

# **#YOUARENOTALONE Action Needed Immediately**







## **Make Yourself Heard**

health.





#YouAreNotAlone

women's aid



#### **BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT**

Got questions about breastfeeding, or need some support? The national breastfeeding hotline is just a phone call away. For confidential breastfeeding information

and support,

call the helpline on 0300 100 0212. Lines are open 9.30am to 9.30pm everyday.



#### SUPPORT FOR NEW DADS

As a new dad you will feel excited, but you may also feel left out, unsure or overwhelmed.

Dadpaduk can help by giving you the knowledge and practical skills that you need. The resource will support you and your partner to give your baby the best possible start in life.

https://thedadpad.co.uk/

**COMMUNITY NEWS** Page 8



#### TRURO FOODBANK **New opening hours**

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Mondays	Truro Methodist Church, TR1 1EP	3 - 5 pm
Tuesdays	Closed	
Wednesdays	Truro Methodist Church, TR1 1EP	10am - 12pm
Thursdays	Closed	
Fridays	All Saints Church, Highertown, TR1 3LD.	10am - 12pm

The South West Multiple Sclerosis (SWMS) Network aims to develop greater awareness of clinical trial opportunities that are available for people with MS within all parts of the South West region.

- · Clinical trials test if new treatments are safe and effective and how they improve quality of life
- · Not only may you be one of the first people to benefit from a new treatment, you will be involved in changing the future of
- A number of potential treatments for progressive and relapsing MS and specific MS Symptoms are being, or will soon be, studied within the South West region and there are opportunities to get involved.

If any of the below criteria applies to you then there maybe research opportunities available to you:

- You have advanced MS of any type
  You have Primary Progressive MS and are under the age of 65.
- You have highly active Relapsing MS or you have broken through your current treatment
- You are aged between 18-60, have Secondary Progressive MS and feel you have deteriorated over the past year.
- You have MS of any type and you suffer with Spasticity.

Interested or want more info? Contact the South West MS Network Research Coordinator; charley.evans@nhs.net

#### **COMMUNITY FOOD LARDER**

**PROBUS PARISH** CHURCH



Opening Times:

> Monday 4-5

Wednesday 2:30-3:30

> Friday 9-10

Saturday 9:30 - 10:30 Our local community larder is FREE and

open to EVERYBODY to use in Probus and the surrounding area.

#### JUST DROP IN

Help us, help you & reduce food waste!

NO ONE GOES HUNGRY PROBUS & SURROUNDING AREA.



Isolating or can't get out? Please email nochildgoeshungryprobus@gmail.com to find out about our delivered food parcels.

## **Volunteer** Cornwall

Volunteer Cornwall are a charity dedicated to

South West

Network

developing the wellbeing of individuals and communities in Cornwall. They do this by working with a wide range of organisations to promote and support active citizenship and voluntary action covering emotional, social, environmental and economic needs and opportunities in Cornwall. Some of the services they provide include Macmillan garden & DIY projects, the HOPE programme, social prescribing, stroke befriending service, Early Help

For more information on how you can get involved or how these services may be of help to you please visit

https://www.volunteercornwall.org.uk

#### COULD YOU.







Become an voluntee oxygen chamber







Volunteer in the community



Help us to help others For more information on volunteering please contact our Volunteer Coordinator caroline@merlinmscentre.org.uk









#### Cornwall Carers Service



Adviceline 01736 756655



Hub for children & young people, & Coronavirus support.

www.cornwallcarers.org.uk

Cornwall Carers Service includes three levels of support to carers living in Cornwall. The support includes information, advice and guidance, emotional support, community support, carer specific training, statutory assessment and dedicated services for Young Carers and Young Adult Carers











#### **PROBUS MEMORY CAFÉ Volunteers and Committee Members required**

Due to the Pandemic, the Probus Memory café had to stop having its fortnightly meetings in March 2020. However, it may now be possible to start planning for a resumption of these rewarding, get -togethers for individuals and their carers later this year.

For a variety of reasons, new volunteers and committee members are urgently needed to lead and restart the Café meetings. Anyone wishing to take on a new worthwhile challenge and contribute ideas and enthusiasm, and welcome people with memory loss back for some much missed social engagement please contact Claire for more information.

There are funds and a good stock of equipment already in place. For further information, please contact Claire via email: promemcf@gmail.com

If you have any queries, feedback or suggestions regarding any of the information in this newsletter please let us know - enquiries.probussurgery@nhs.net

or via the "Friend and Family Test" section on our website.

Alternatively, if you would prefer a personable approach and would like to speak to someone in person, please phone in and speak to a member of our dedicated team who are here to help in the best way they can.

Our next newsletter will be the Winter 2021 edition