



Newsletter December 2018

www.drcounsellandpartners.co.uk

GP Leaving

Dr Robert Walker will shortly be retiring from the practice, his last day will be Monday 31st December 2018. We wish him all the best for the future and thank him for his time spent with the practice.

New GP

Dr Faatima Bala will be joining the practice in the New Year, her first day in the practice will be Friday 4th January 2019.

Dr Bala currently works in the Bolton area.

We hope you will welcome our new GP to the practice.

CCG Workforce

Bolton CCG has employed a clinical workforce to support GP practices to engage in Neighbourhood Working.

The clinicians available to our Neighbourhood are as follows:

- **Musculoskeletal (MSK) Practitioner**—This clinician will see patients with joint pains and aches and muscular pain. They will assess patients; provide advice and exercise, they can also refer to Physiotherapy services. The MSK Practitioner is able to issue prescriptions to patients during their consultations.
- **Mental Health Practitioner**—This clinician will see patients with any mental health matters such as anxiety, depression, stress, suicidal thoughts, panic attacks. If you feel you need someone to talk to about mental health matters please do not be afraid to tell the receptionist why you want the appointment as this helps them to make the correct appointment for you and make sure you are seen as soon as possible.
- **Practice Pharmacist** —This clinician will see patients for medication reviews, they are able to make changes to your medication when needed. They will also assist with any problems arising with prescriptions and will act as a link between the practice and the community pharmacy.

Please note that Reception will triage your request for an appointment by asking for the reason for your appointment. Please do not be offended by them asking for the reason as it is required for them to book you in with the most appropriate clinician and also to inform the clinician in advance for the reason for your appointment.

HEALTH CHECKS

Patients aged 40-74 who do not have chronic diseases are entitled to a free health check every 5 years.



What does the health check involve?

- Measuring your blood pressure
- Measuring your height and weight
- A blood test to measure your Cholesterol, Liver & Kidney function and screen for Diabetes
- Finding out about your family history of heart disease
- Advice on lifestyle changes that can improve your health

Please make an appointment with our Health Care Assistant or Health Improvement Practitioner.

SCREENING PROGRAMMES

Early detection of cancer is vital, there are screening programmes for:

Cervical / Bowel / Breast / Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)

You will be invited to participate if you meet the criteria.

Please do accept this offer of early intervention.

ANNUAL REVIEWS

Do you have any of the following conditions?

AF / Asthma / CVD / COPD / Diabetes / Heart Failure / Hypertension

If yes you will be sent an invite letter by the practice nurse or be contacted by reception to attend for an annual review—we will routinely make contact throughout the year.

Please ensure you take advantage when offered these reviews, as they will benefit your health and wellbeing.

DNA rates

The number of GP appointments missed in November was **52**. Please ensure you cancel appointments, so we can offer it to someone else.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY TEST

The Friends and Family Test is an opportunity for patients to provide feedback on their experience of the practice, these can be good experiences as areas for improvement.

The feedback form is available in the reception area and on the website

www.drcounsellandpartners.co.uk

Please can all patients ensure they notify the practice of any changes to their address and contact details, it is vital that your patient record is kept up-to-date.