

## Barnabas PPG

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**From:** Barnabas PPG <barnabas.ppg@gmail.com>  
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**Barnabas PPG**  
presents

**Open Forum Session**  
**Understanding Your Medicines:  
What, Why, How**

**Barnabas's Clinical Pharmacist, Paresh Virji**  
will talk about his role in helping you understand your medicines so  
you take them at the right time, in the right dose and in the right way  
to get the maximum benefit



**Wednesday 12 June, 1300 hrs**  
**St Barnabas Church Hall, Raglan Way**  
**ALL WELCOME**

Tea/coffee will be available; bring your brown bag lunch if you wish  
**The Open Forum will be followed by the regular open PPG meeting**

For further information please contact PPG Chairman, Keith Marshall,  
at [barnabas.ppg@gmail.com](mailto:barnabas.ppg@gmail.com) or on 020 8864 7993

To All Barnabas PPG Members ...  
[Printed copies to those PPG members without email]

[If you can't read any of the attached documents, or want printed copies of anything mentioned, please contact me and I'll try to send you a copy.]

Welcome to the June bulletin for Barnabas PPG members. It's a busy month!

### **PPG Meeting – Wednesday 24 April – Minutes**

The minutes of our April meeting are attached.

### **Open Forum & PPG Meeting – Wednesday 12 June**

This month's meeting will be in two parts. First there is the Open Forum with Paresh Virji, our Clinical Pharmacist at 1300 hrs. Following the Open Forum at 1400 will be our normal PPG meeting. As far as I can see at present the agenda will be fairly short:

1. Introductions & Apologies

2. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting (attached)
3. "Local Facilities List" Launch (attached)
4. Priorities & Tasks Update (attached)
5. Practice Updates
6. PPG Updates
7. Matters Arising & AOB

I have attached a copy of the finalised "Local Facilities List" and our Priorities and Tasks Logs (all of which Matt and I reviewed last week).

### **PPG Awareness Week**

This year's PPG Awareness Week runs from 10-15 June. We have a number of activities planned including the Open Forum and our PPG meeting. We will be in the waiting area conducting the Practice's survey on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>, and there will be a "Meet the Patients" session on the morning of Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>. We will also be launching our "Local Facilities List" at the Open Forum/PPG Meeting. It will be a busy week.

### **Practice's Annual Patient Survey**

We will be conducting the Practice's annual patient survey for them again this year and volunteers will be in the waiting area on Wednesday 5, Thursday 13, Friday 21, Monday 24 June and Tuesday 2 July between 0900-1200 and 1400-1700. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help – you should have received your schedule and some instructions; so if you think you volunteered and haven't received your schedule please get in touch. I have attached a copy of the survey questionnaire. Please remember to complete the survey yourself (and encourage others to as well); you can leave completed surveys with Reception or email them to me.

### **Meet the Patients**

As mentioned above, we will be in the waiting area on the morning of Tuesday 11 June for an extra "Meet the Patients" session to support PPG Awareness week. The regular monthly session will be on the afternoon of Wednesday 26 June. Do drop by to have a chat with us, and of course with the other patients. I'm also always looking for volunteers to help run these sessions (you'll find all the dates at the end of the meeting minutes) so if you can spare some time please get in touch.

### **Barnabas Bulletin**

The June issue of the Practice's newsletter *Barnabas Bulletin* should be available in the coming days. I will circulate a copy as soon as possible, or you'll be able to pick one up from the Medical Centre.

And now for a few pieces of healthcare news you may have missed ...

### **Thousands More GP Staff Recruited**

At the end of May NHS England reported that over 7300 additional clinical staff had been recruited to work in GP practices over the last couple of years. This includes the equivalent of over 300 full-time GPs. You can find the details in the announcement at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/05/thousands-more-gp-staff-recruited-across-england/>.

### **GP Surgery Closures**

Against the increase reported above there appear to have been 138 GP practices closed in 2018 compared with just 18 in 2013. However the situation is confused as everyone reports the numbers against different time periods and many of the closures reported actually mask where practices have merged. There is a report at <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/may/31/gp-surgery-closures-in-uk-hit-all-time-high-in-2018>.

### **Type 2 Diabetes Support**

Many of us will have heard about the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme (see <https://www.england.nhs.uk/diabetes/diabetes-prevention/>; I hope to cover this in the September issue of *Barnabas Bulletin*) which has now been rolled out nationally. The NHS is now introducing a scheme of online support for those who already have Type 2 Diabetes. As so often NW London is one of the pilot areas for this initiative. My joy is tempered, however, by the worry that this will amount to yet further bullying of those of us affected – that might work for some, but can be counter-productive for others; proceed at caution. Anyway there is information about the scheme at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/05/online-diabetes-support/>.

### **NHS 111 Prevents Over 12 Million Unnecessary A&E Visits**

Between its foundation in April 2011 and September 2018, NHS 111 received 80 million calls; that's over 40,000 a day. These saved at least an estimated 12 million unnecessary A&E visits (or over 130,000 a month) across England. You can find more at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/05/nhs-111-prevents-unnecessary-ae-visits/>.

### **Using Skype Prevents Thousands of Avoidable Hospital Trips**

In another development – and one we've been talking about for some time – doctors and nurses in Manchester are beginning to use Skype for patient consultations. And again they are seeing a reduction in A&E visits and freeing up GP time. There's an NHS news item at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/05/nhs-skype-doctors-and-nurses-prevent-thousands-of-avoidable-hospital-trips/>.

### **RCGP Wants NHS to be a World Leader in Tech by Getting the Basics Right First**

The Royal College of GPs has told the Health Secretary, Matt Hancock, that a robust and joined-up IT system across the NHS needs to be prioritised before a technological revolution in patient care can truly happen. Genomics, AI, digital medicine and robotics have the potential to revolutionise patient care and improve patient safety. However widespread improvement will only

be possible once robust, secure IT systems are in place for all GP practices, and all areas of the NHS have access to computer networks which seamlessly link up the patient journey. More at <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/about-us/news/2019/april/college-calls-on-health-secretary-to-make-nhs-a-world-leader-in-tech.aspx>.

Moving on from NHS specifics ...

### **200 Boots Stores at Risk of Closure**

Last week the BBC reported that more than 200 Boots stores across the UK could be closed by its American owners Walgreens Boots Alliance (WBA) in a bid to cut costs. The stores, in areas where Boots has multiple outlets, will be reviewed over the coming 12 to 18 months. BBC report at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-48435802>.

And finally ...

### **Newsletters**

I have recently received the following newsletters which are worth passing on. As usual they all contains interesting items I have not covered above.

- **Healthwatch Ealing**'s April newsletter is at <https://healthwatchealing.org.uk/newsletters-v2/>.
- **Ealing CCG**'s newsletter for PPGs is attached.
- The **NAPP** eBulletin for May is also attached.

That's all for this month. Hopefully I'll see you at one of the events in PPG Awareness Week.

Keith

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