

Keith Marshall

From: Barnabas PPG <barnabas.ppg@gmail.com>
Sent: 13 March 2020 12:27
To: Barnabas PPG
Subject: Barnabas PPG and Coronavirus

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

Apologies for an extra email, but I need to give you a quick update on PPG activity which is being affected by the current Coronavirus situation.

1. Book Exchange & Magazines

The Practice have been advised that all books and magazines should be removed from the waiting area until further notice. While this feels like overkill it may not be as there are indications from research that the Coronavirus can survive on cardboard (and thus probably paper) for several days.

We have to comply, so the books and magazines are being removed, and notices are being put up explaining why. The books will be stored; we will start over with a completely fresh set of magazines. The books and magazines will return as soon as it is considered safe to do so.

Meanwhile if you have books or magazines suitable for the waiting area, please hold onto them for the time being: once we can replace them we will definitely appreciate any fresh magazines.

2. Meet the Patients

I am suspending the monthly "Meet the Patients" sessions until further notice. It seems sensible for us not to be around the waiting area any more than necessary – especially those of us who may be considered at particularly high risk. Again we will restart these sessions when it seems safe.

3. PPG Meetings ****PLEASE RESPOND****

I have yet to decide whether or not to cancel the April (and possibly June) PPG meetings. I shall decide in the next week or two; my current thinking is that at least the April meeting will be cancelled.

If we decide not to have face-to-face meetings, what do you all feel about replacing them with either telephone conference calls or videoconference (using Skype or Zoom)? Would you join such a meeting?

An alternative might be to have an email discussion group. (This is where group members email their comments to a central address which then distributes them to all subscribers by email.) While this would not be kind to the few of us without email, it would at least enable us to continue discussion. It would also mean that those who dislike Facebook don't have to find us there.

Please drop me a note to let me know what you would prefer.

That's all for now. Watch this space for further updates.

Best ...

Keith

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