

Keith Marshall

From: Barnabas PPG <barnabas.ppg@gmail.com>
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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 July bulletin for Barnabas PPG members.

A response to this bulletin is required; see section on PPG Meetings below.

Coronavirus

Just a few general comments from me this month:

1. Don't forget you are now required by law to wear a face-covering in all shops, as well as hospitals and public transport.
2. The news on possible vaccines is generally good with several candidates performing well in the very early trials. There are still many hurdles still to be overcome and there is a long, long way to go; despite all the efforts this is unlikely to be quick.
3. Closely following the science, and talking to Matt (Practice Manager), it is clear that there will be no return to normality until there is an effective vaccine, tested, approved, manufactured, distributed and given to a large percentage of the population. Drawing an optimistic timeline this is not going to be until the end of 2021.

Moral: keep being sensible, follow the rules and stay safe.

PPG News

PPG Video Calls

We have continued with our roughly 2-weekly videoconference meetings. A copy of the brief notes from these meetings is attached. Our next meeting is on Wednesday this week ...

Future Videoconference Dates

- Wednesday 29 July, 1100-1130
- Tuesday 11 August, 1800-1830 **
- Monday 24 August, 1330-1400
- Friday 4 September, 1630-1700
- Thursday 17 September, 1030-1130 **
- Wednesday 30 September, 1300-1330

Join at : <https://join.skype.com/gnjlg1FQs7GA>

** Note that the time of the 11 August meeting is 30 minutes earlier than previously advertised.

** Virtual PPG Meeting

Matt has suggested that we have a full PPG meeting in September by videoconference. This is currently scheduled for the meeting on 17 September (see above).

The NHS preference is that video meetings are held using MS Teams (Skype and Zoom are not liked as they are not considered secure enough). MS Teams can be installed on your smartphone via your app shop, or for PC/Mac users from

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/group-chat-software>; sign up is free but there is the usual irritating registration process (unless you already have a MS Office login).

Please let me know by 7 August if you are NOT OK using MS Teams; if too many can't then we'll need to think of an alternative way. (No response will be assumed to mean you are OK using MS Teams to join the PPG Meeting on 17 September.)

Local Healthcare News

Just one item of local news this month ...

Hillingdon Hospital A&E Closure

On Tuesday 7 July Hillingdon Hospital closed its A&E Department as too many staff were absent due to Covid-19 and safe cover could not be provided. There was a *Guardian* report at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/08/boris-johnsons-local-hospital-closes-to-emergency-admissions-after-covid-19-outbreak>. The A&E Department was reopened on 16 July.

General NHS News

Repeat Prescription Ordering via the NHS Website

Member Harsha Mortmore reminds us that we can now order repeat prescriptions using the NHS website and app. Smartphone users can install the NHS app from their app store. PC/Mac users can create an NHS login to use the facility by starting at <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/pharmacies/the-nhs-website-repeat-prescription-ordering-service/>. Yet again, this requires a convoluted registration process, but once completed it provides an alternative to using the Practice website.

Boris Johnson Plans NHS Shake-up

A couple of weeks ago there were media reports that Prime Minister Boris Johnson was planning a radical shake-up of the NHS in order to regain much of the control which politicians (think they) lost following the 2012 Health & Social Care Act; he has set up a task force to devise plans. The *Guardian* news item is online at <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/jul/10/boris-johnson-plans-radical-shake-up-of-nhs-in-bid-to-regain-more-direct-control>. However much the current system is perceived to not be working, the last thing the NHS needs is more change and more political interference. Why is it that politicians and senior managers can never understand that an organisation which is (perceived to be) out of control cannot magically be brought under control by reorganising it – all the change does it to damage efficiency and morale.

Newsletters

There are no newsletters this month, but no doubt they'll arrive as soon as I send this. I'll circulate anything useful when it arrives.

More next month ...

Keith

Keith Marshall, Chairman, Barnabas PPG
76 Ennismore Avenue, Greenford, UB6 0JW
Phone: 020 8864 7993 Mobile: 07847 149 417
Email: barnabas.ppg@gmail.com or kcm@cix.co.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/barnabas.ppg/

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