

Keith Marshall

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From: Barnabas PPG <[barnabas.ppg@gmail.com](mailto:barnabas.ppg@gmail.com)>  
Sent: 01 September 2021 10:43  
To: Barnabas PPG  
Subject: Barnabas Patient Voices Monthly Bulletin, September  
Attachments: PPG\_Minutes\_20210721.pdf; 2021-23\_Action\_Log.pdf; Plan\_2021-23.pdf; eBulletin 169.pdf; Voice; 13Aug.pdf; In\_Touch\_119.pdf; PERC-Newsletter-August-2021.pdf



To All [Barnabas Patient Voices](#) Members ...  
[Printed copies to those 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.]

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Welcome to [Barnabas Patient Voices](#) the new format patient group for Barnabas Medical Centre. And welcome to this September bulletin.

As you'll know we've been working on a new name and a rebrand of the group for some months. As of today (1 September 2021) the Barnabas Medical Centre Patient Participation Group is now [Barnabas Patient Voices](#) – a change which will hopefully make it clearer what the group is about.

Although what we do will essentially be much the same, hopefully as we build the new brand it will become more visible and better understood, with a growing patient membership and increased activity.

What you will see immediately is the new name (please use it, the PPG is no more!) and a new look to our communications. Then over the coming weeks and months our aim is to extend this to:

- new contact email address(es) for the admin team
- an improved web presence for the group
- a new online membership sign-up facility
- updated documents (as & when they are revised)
- a relaunch of the Practice's newsletter *Barnabas Bulletin*
- email and/or text message distribution of information, including *Barnabas Bulletin*, when the Practice is able to undertake this
- completion of a couple of projects which were started before Covid-19 but put on hold
- reinstated noticeboard and other facilities in the waiting area as soon the Covid-19 situation allows
- the resumption of face-to-face group meetings when it is safe to do so

And not forgetting there still needs to be paper processes for those few who don't do email *etc.*

So keep an eye out for new announcements. And please spread the word!

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## Coronavirus

The current situation seems to be:

31/08. Vaccination Status

	% having been Vaccinated with:
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	1 Dose	2 Doses
Ealing	66%	57%
London	67%	59%
England	88%	78%
UK	88%	79%

31/08. Case Rate (per 100,000)

Ealing	280	↓
London	246	↓
England	320	↔
UK	353	↑

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) are reporting that cases are currently 26 times higher than a year ago (see <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/28/covid-cases-in-england-are-26-times-higher-than-a-year-ago>). And yet the government has removed all mandatory restrictions and schools go back in a few days time – no wonder all the epidemiologists are getting very twitchy.

In other bad news, research published recently in *The Lancet* indicates that patients with the current Delta variant are twice as likely to be hospitalised compared with those contracting the Alpha (Kent) variant (BBC report at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-58354342>). Also worryingly there is now real life evidence that immunity is waning by about 6 months after vaccination – see the *Guardian* report at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/25/does-covid-immunity-wane-and-will-vaccine-booster-jabs-be-needed> for more details.

But there is some good news ... At long last the government are now inviting all 16 & 17 year olds, plus the vulnerable 12-15 year olds, to be vaccinated. They also seem to be considering top up vaccinations for many of us who were jabbed late last year and early this year (but I'd say don't hold your breath). It would be good, too, if the government could bring themselves to vaccinate all the over 12s (as most other countries are doing) and indeed all children from as early an age as medically possible.

[Data from <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/>, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-55274833>, <https://covid.joinzoe.com/data>]

## Barnabas Patient Voices News

Our biggest news this month is, of course, our new name and branding – see above. Meanwhile, normal of course service continues ...

## Barnabas Patient Voices Upcoming Meetings

Our next formal meeting is on Wednesday 15 September at 0900hrs. The details for Zoom are:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8490546669?pwd=cENHMUorM1RRMmllbzN6dE01TEFIQT09>

Meeting ID: 849 0546 6669

Passcode: 114620

The agenda for this meeting is likely to be:

1. Introductions & Apologies
2. Approve Minutes of July Meeting [attached]
3. Covid-19 Roundtable Catch-up
4. 2021-23 Activity Plan Update & Actions Review [attached]
5. Practice Updates
6. Other PPG Updates
7. Matters Arising, AOB

I hope we may also be able to have one of the clinicians to talk to us about respiratory conditions – a session which we have been postponing since before Covid-19 took over our lives.

Our next two informal Zoom social calls are on:

- Thursday 2 September, 1000
- Tuesday 28 September, 1400

Zoom Link (for all informal calls): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7279594414?pwd=VmYwODdoWGg2eTFvTlVjVlZyRmhSQ09>

Meeting ID: 727 959 4414.

Passcode: 149417

## 2021-23 plans

The rebranding as [Barnabas Patient Voices](#) is an early product of our 2021-23 plans and very much a part of the desire to make the group more accessible and more meaningful to Barnabas patients. An updated version of our plan is attached.

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## Practice News

### Routine Blood Tests

We have been informed in a text message from the Practice that all routine blood tests cannot be done until further notice. This is due to a global issue with the supply of the plastic vials used for the blood samples. This shortage is affecting GPs and hospitals across England. Urgent blood tests are not affected. There's more information at <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/aug/26/doctors-in-england-ration-blood-tests-due-to-sample-bottle-shortage> and <https://www.medicaldevice-network.com/features/nhs-blood-vial-shortage/>.

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## Local Healthcare News

### Pelvic Health & Maternity

Pelvic health is not something that is talked about often enough, with problems too often ignored as "just one of the consequences of pregnancy". But this should not be so. To help address this the NW London maternity teams want to ensure that all users of midwifery services get access to appropriate education, support and information. In order to better understand how user friendly the current services are, and if they are offering the right support, they are running an online feedback session on Tuesday 7 September, at 1400hrs for anyone who is currently pregnant or recently had a baby in NW London. Register at [https://pelvic\\_health\\_public\\_webinar\\_feedback\\_session.eventbrite.co.uk](https://pelvic_health_public_webinar_feedback_session.eventbrite.co.uk).

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## General NHS News

### Hospital Transport

The NHS has announced that every kidney dialysis patient will benefit from free transport to and from vital hospital appointments, and that new rules will also make it simpler for other patients (including those with long term conditions and mobility problems) to get free transport. It is not clear (at least to me) how this will work and when it will come into force (probably April 2022) as it appears to need Parliamentary approval and local NHS organisations are being left to arrangement the services. There's more at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2021/08/patient-groups-welcome-additional-nhs-support-to-cover-cost-of-hospital-travel/>

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## Newsletters

And finally the usual round-up of newsletters received and which may contain further interesting and useful information.

- NAPP eBulletin #169 – attached
  - Patient Experience Research Centre Newsletter, August 2021 – attached
  - Voice, 13 August, contains a number of opportunities for involvement – also attached
  - NHS In Touch #119 – attached
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That's all for this month, enjoy what's left of the summer and I hope to see you all at the 15 September meeting.

Keith

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