

Important Message to All our Patients

Belford Medical Practice Staff shortage

We are sorry to have to inform you that the practice will be short of GPs for the foreseeable future this is due to an unplanned GP absence and maternity leave.

Dr Emma Miller is currently on extended sick leave, but we hope to see her back in the practice later in the year

Dr Longster will be going off on Maternity Leave her last working day will be 1st September for a Year we have managed to get some cover with the following staff

- **Carry Horrocks** Our Nurse Practitioner, who will be at Belford on a Monday and Thursday throughout August and September and a Friday from October until the end of the year.

We have a Locum doctor

- **Dr Mike Cannon** (Mike was a registrar with us several years ago so it is lovely to welcome him back) he will be with us all day on a Wednesday.

We are working hard to continue to provide as comprehensive a service as possible with our other GPs having increased their availability where possible. We are informing you of this as you may not be able to get an appointment with your usual doctor or may have to wait longer until an appointment is available. Reception may point you towards alternative available options:

We have recruited a new Practice Nurse to our current team

- **Helen Haugh**, who has a wealth of knowledge.

Our nurses and health care assistant will continue to be available for annuals, advice on smoking cessation, smear clinics, routine vaccinations, as well as diet and exercise advice and referrals.

- **Jenna Moffat** - Care Co-ordinator. Jenna's role at the practice is to work on patient personalised care in line with our PCN mandate. Her priorities are health inequalities/at risk groups of patients. We are currently training her up as a phlebotomist this will help the team with all our blood appointments.

We would also like to remind patients that we have allied health professionals who can deal with a variety of problems:

- **Miles Callum** - first contact physiotherapist. Miles is in the surgery on a Tuesday. He is able to assess, diagnose, treat, and manage musculoskeletal problems.
- **Jack Lees** – pharmacist. Jack deals with medication queries reviews and complex medication use and is available Mondays and Wednesdays.
- **Carol Gunn** - Social Prescriber. Carol will be able to help with issues around stress isolation money worries, housing issues and benefits. She can also refer to a dementia specialist service if support is needed for patients or family members.
- **Health and Wellbeing Coach** – these staff members can help patients who have long term conditions e.g., diabetes, hypertension to work on changing their behaviours and in turn set goals achievable goals to improve your health.
- **Jacqui Spours** – Mental Health Worker

The Local Pharmacy at Belford are also providing urine testing service – if you suspect that you have a simple urine infection and are female aged 16 – 65 please contact Belford Chemist.