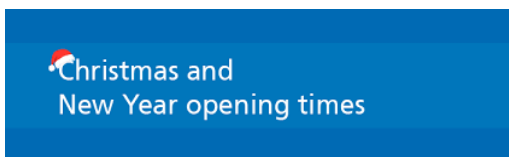




The latest patient news, views and announcements



Over Christmas and New Year, the surgery will be closed on:

- **Wednesday, 25 December 2024**
- **Thursday, 26 December 2024**
- **Wednesday, 1 January 2025**

On all other weekdays over the Christmas and New Year period, we will be open as normal - from 8.30 am – 6.30 pm. We will be closed Saturdays and Sundays as usual. NHS 111 will be available for urgent, non-life-threatening help or advice when we are closed.

We'd like to take this opportunity to wish all our patients and colleagues a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year!

More protection this Winter - RSV, Shingles and Pneumonia Vaccines



We are keen to protect as many of our patients as possible over the Winter months and so are offering all eligible patients the opportunity to book in for an RSV, Shingles and/or Pneumonia Vaccine. So, who is eligible for these vaccines?

RSV vaccine



The new RSV vaccine helps protect against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) - a common virus that can make older adults seriously ill. It's recommended for adults aged 75-79 and those who turn 75 on or after 1 September 2024.

Shingles and/or Pneumonia vaccine

The shingles vaccine helps protect against shingles. It's recommended for all adults turning 65, those aged 70 to 79 and those aged 50 and over with a severely weakened immune system. The pneumococcal vaccine helps protect against serious illnesses like pneumonia and meningitis. It's recommended for people at higher risk of these illnesses, such as adults aged 65 and over.

Vaccine Clinics

We have dedicated RSV, Shingles & Pneumonia vaccine clinics and are sending invites to all eligible patients. If you think you may be eligible and would like to have one, two or all three vaccines, please call us to book yourself in!

Cancer screening programmes



There are 3 national cancer screening programmes in the UK, and it's worth checking to see if you should be receiving a screening invitation.

In England:

- Bowel cancer screening is offered to people from the age of 50-60 up to age 74
- Breast cancer screening is offered to women (including some transgender women), some transgender men and some non-binary people aged 50-70.
- Cervical screening is offered to women, some transgender men and some non-binary people aged 25-64.

You should automatically be invited for screening if you are registered with a GP. If you haven't had a screening invitation when you think you should, please contact us, via [Accurx](#).

Pharmacy First – our stats!



Since it launched in early 2024, the Pharmacy First Service is now well-established as a vital part of our healthcare service in the community.

At Clevedon Medical Centre we are very lucky to partner with our local pharmacies, who offer a personalised service following a referral from ourselves.

Since February 2024, we have made nearly 750 patient referrals, the highest number within our Primary Care Network, with the top 5 reasons for a referral being sore throats, UTIs, coughs, rashes and ear infections – all of which the local pharmacies can help with.

Successful Covid booster and Flu clinics



With over five full day vaccination clinics held at the Surgery during October and November, plus visits to local care homes and housebound patients, our covid & flu clinic teams have vaccinated over **4,500** eligible patients – helping to protect them during the Winter months.

Thanks to our patients and staff for helping the clinics to run so smoothly 😊

Picture: Members of our covid & flu clinic team

Next generation GPs



We are currently hosting medical students from the University of Bristol. They are with us every other Tuesday for most of this academic year. The students will be doing some observing and some consulting under the direct supervision of a qualified GP.

We are very grateful to patients who are kind enough to speak with the students as this helps train our next generation of doctors.

Picture: University Students with Dr. James Cook (far right)

Our new and returning team members!

We're delighted to welcome **Simon Hughes** as our new ACP/Minor Illness team member, who joins us on 2 December, taking over from Marcus Wenner, who retired at the end of November. Also, we say a warm 'welcome back' to **Dr. Alice Monk**, who has returned from her maternity leave.

Prescription request timeline

When ordering your prescription, please see our normal prescription processing times:

Day Patient puts in Prescription request	Day prescription processed at Practice
Monday	Thursday
Tuesday	Friday
Wednesday	Monday
Thursday	Tuesday
Friday	Wednesday

Our processing day is when your prescription will be at the Pharmacy. However, the pharmacy may take longer to prepare your prescription before it is ready for collection/delivery.

You can order your prescription up to two weeks before it is due - except controlled drugs, which can only be requested one week before. Please make sure you have sufficient medications to take you over the Christmas and New Year period.

On very rare occasions our timelines may be extended due to our staffing levels.



At the last PPG meeting there was a demonstration of the EMIS computer system, one of the most comprehensive systems for patient records in the NHS. Using details of a 'dummy' patient, they saw how the system records patients' consultations, past medical history, medications and alerts, such as allergies. This information forms the basis of a patient's record, some of which can be found on the NHS App. Future meetings will include discussions on clinical topics, as well as issues such as practice workloads and patient demand. If you'd like to take a more active role in the PPG, please email the Vice Chair on hime.martin@gmail.com

And finally A fond reflection on 25 Years at our Medical Centre



Dear Patients and Carers,
As I reflect on my 25 years as a GP at our Medical Centre, I feel incredibly fortunate to have been part of such a wonderful community. Over the years, I've had the privilege of working alongside many dedicated staff members and serving our lovely community.

A significant part of my career has been dedicated to the care of adults with learning disabilities, both in secondary care institutions and within our community. As a member of the RCGP Learning Disabilities group, I have had the honour of representing the Royal College of GPs to the Department of Health. Additionally, I have contributed to the Department of Health's Task Force for Valuing People and been the lead investigator in the Bristol University Confidential Inquiry into the deaths of people with learning disabilities.

In my role as a trainer, I have been actively involved in both undergraduate and postgraduate training for doctors, nurses, paramedics, physiotherapists, and physician associates, emphasising the care of people with learning disabilities. Throughout my journey, I have been fortunate to be involved by some truly inspirational individuals, carers, and families in some really difficult times, including the awful Covid-19 pandemic. In partnership with our community, I am proud that the Medical Centre has contributed and continues to produce a significant amount of NHS research over many years, aimed at improving care for all of us.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your lives and for the trust you have placed in me over the years. It has been a rewarding journey, and I look forward to continuing to serve our community.

Warm regards
Dr Matt Hoghton FRCGP FRCP

Dr. Hoghton will retire at the end of March 2025, so there will be plenty of time for us to wish him well for a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Thank you for reading our newsletter. If you would like to hear more about a particular topic, please let us know and we will include in future issues.

Clevedon Medical Centre Team