



Going to a hospital or medical appointment?

If it is not an emergency, you'll normally be expected to make your own way there.

You may be eligible to claim back your travel costs under the Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme.

For how to claim, search 'Travel Costs' at: www.cddft.nhs.uk
Call 0191 333 2851



Link2 - Dial-a-Ride bus service (for journeys up to 5 miles).

For people without a suitable bus service, or unable to access regular bus services due to mobility issues. Call 03000 269 999 or search 'Link2' at: www.durham.gov.uk



Help To Health volunteer driving service can be booked for any healthcare appointment.

Call 0300 330 9424 or visit www.help-to-health.org.uk



Friends of Darlington Memorial Hospital (DMH) free volunteer driver service.

Available for Darlington and Bishop Auckland patients who have difficulty getting to and from DMH. Call 01325 743 866



Car parking is available on site at all CDDFT hospitals.

Allow plenty of time at peak times. For parking costs information search 'car parking' at: www.cddft.nhs.uk



Sniperly Park & Ride bus - every 10 mins to University Hospital North Durham.

All day parking is £2. Use concessionary passes after 9:30am - 50p charge before 9:30am.

Visit: www.durham.gov.uk/parkandride



NHS funded non-emergency patient transport (PTS) is available to those with a clinical need.
To check if you're eligible, call 03000 269 999 or speak to your GP practice.

You may be eligible for NHS PTS after a hospital in-patient discharge.

It may take up to 4 hours for transport to collect you. Speak to the hospital transport coordinator about alternative travel support.

You may be eligible for NHS PTS to attend an outpatient appointment.

This is if you have difficulty walking or need medical supervision whilst travelling.



Supported by: NHS County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

Willington Medical Group

Newsletter August 2020

Staff Training for September 2020

Willington Medical Group will be closed for Staff Training on Thursday 24th September 2020 from 12 noon and re-open 8am on Friday 25th September 2020.

Bank Holiday

The surgery will be closed on the 31st August 2020 and will reopen on the 1st September 2020 at 8am.

GP Registrars

- At the beginning of August GP Registrars Dr Raza & Dr Agbeze left our surgery and we wish them the best of luck.

Willington Medical Group is a GP Training Practice. GP Registrars are fully qualified doctors and during their time in the Practice they undertake specialist training. In this Practice both Dr Cowell and Dr Lunney are GP Trainers. Due to the supervision/training needs of the GP Registrars this does mean these Doctors may have fewer appointments but overall there will be more appointments available as the GP Registrars offer additional appointments.

Dr Rosiji, GP Registrar, joined us on 5th August with Dr Cowell as his Supervisor/Trainer.

Without GPs in training and patients seeing them, there would be no fully qualified GPs in years to come! Thank you for contributing to their training.

T: 01388 742500 Email: willingtonmedical-group@nhs.net

Face Coverings

Doctors do not issue letters for face mask exemptions.

Any patient that has a legitimate reason not to wear a mask on public transport can print off an exemption certificate from the bus company as the link below or by visiting Gov.uk via the links below.

<https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/travel-help-and-accessibility/how-to-obtain-assistance-cards/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own#exemptions-to-wearing-a-face-covering-where-they-are-mandated>

Prescriptions

As a result of Covid-19 we were accepting prescriptions via telephone. However, now that some restrictions have been lifted, we are asking patients if they can go back to how they ordered before lockdown. You may order your prescription by Patient Access, email or posting the request in the grey box in the surgery foyer.

Visiting the surgery

Please telephone the surgery to make your appointment. **Do not visit** the surgery unless you have an appointment. Please wear a face covering.

However, you may come into the foyer to post your prescription request in the grey box in the foyer.

Please telephone the surgery if you have any queries. Alternatively, health advice is also available by completing an eConsult form online on our website; www.willingtonmedicalgroup.org.uk The practice will respond with advice, a prescription or an appointment.

New Arrival



Congratulations to Chloe, Practice Support Worker who had a baby boy in July.

Chronic Disease Review

Following the initial stages of the Covid-19 pandemic we are now returning to non-urgent work including annual reviews of our patients with long term conditions. We are moving to a system of a single appointment during your birthday month for this rather than attending the surgery multiple times for different conditions over the year.

Patients with Chronic Diseases will receive an invitation either by letter or text to make an appointment.

Local Support for New Mums

Facebook support groups run by the local Health Visiting Team.

County Durham Infant Feeding (Durham Dales) including breastfeeding support

Growing Healthy 0-19 - Durham Dales
Virtual Baby Clinics Monday and Thursday 10-11am
(link on above Facebook page)



This newsletter is available on our website and in large print.

Website: www.willingtonmedicalgroup.org.uk