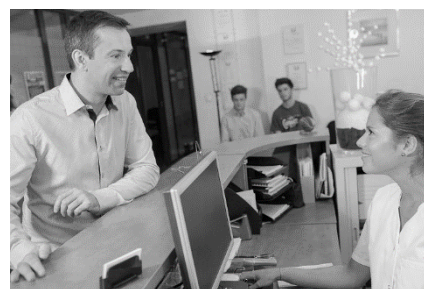


# PCN NEWSLETTER

## First Edition 2024



\*\*\* Welcome to the first edition of The PCN Newsletter \*\*\*

(For this Newsletter in LARGER PRINT or an ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE, please advise Reception).

### What are PCNs?

PCNs (Primary Care Networks) are groups of GP Practices working together as a network, in which they are commissioned to deliver what are known as **Enhanced Services**. These services are provided by practices, over and above the core 8am-6.30pm contract. The GP Practice that you attend is part of the **Sedgley, Coseley and Gornal Primary Care Network** which cares for around 55,000 patients. The PCN practices are:

• Ridgeway Surgery	• Northway Medical Centre
• Lower Gornal Medical Practice	• The Greens Health Centre
• Coseley Medical Centre	• Woodsetton Medical Centre
• Castle Meadows Surgery	• Bath St Medical Centre

Please see the Extended Surgery Hours table later in this Newsletter.

PCNs are led by Clinical Directors who may be a GP, general practice Nurse, clinical Pharmacist or other clinical professional working in general practice.

PCNs are small enough to provide the personal care valued by both patients and GPs, but large enough to have an improved impact by working together with other GP practices and others in the local health and social care system. One immediate change that has been welcomed by patients has been the development of the extended hours provision (see page two) where you may be offered an appointment at another practice outside of the usual opening hours if this suits you. Further developments in patient care and services will come along as the PCN develops.

### Positive People and their Services...first up, Simon Bagley.....

Simon Bagley from The Ridgeway Surgery reflects on the use of IT (**Information Technology**).

“With the help of IT, we can ensure our patients are being reviewed on time and effectively. Electronic hospital referrals reach departments quickly and securely. One of the latest developments in the surgery is electronic dermatology referrals; when a patient sees the GP, photographs are taken and the referral sent immediately. These are reviewed at the hospital and feedback is received quickly. During Flu and Covid vaccination seasons our IT helps us to find and contact eligible patients to call in and keep them protected. It also helps us to search through all of our patients with chronic health conditions and monitor and improve their levels of care”.

Simon’s role within the practice is to implement these systems, ensure they are working properly and to train others in their use. He also helps with IT issues and writes searches to confirm targets as a practice are met.

## Extended Surgery Hours

**To book, patients should phone their own Surgery first.**

MONDAY	Ridgeway Surgery Woodsetton Medical Centre The Greens Health Centre	} } 18:30-20:00 }
TUESDAY	Northway Medical Practice Castle Meadows Surgery Lower Gornal Medical Practice Bath Street Medical Centre ( <i>clinics offered at Coseley Medical Centre</i> )	} } } 18:30-20:00 }
WEDNESDAY	Castle Meadows Surgery	18:30-20:00
THURSDAY	Ridgeway Surgery Lower Gornal Medical Practice	} 18:30-20:00 }
FRIDAY	On rotation across the 8 practices	18:30-20:00
SATURDAY	Coseley Medical Centre	09:00-13.00
SATURDAY	On rotation across the 8 practices – GP/Practice Nurse/Health Care Assistant appointments offered	09:00-17:00

**New NHS Pharmacy First advanced service** was launched on Wednesday 31 January 2024

The new Pharmacy First Service will enable community pharmacists to complete episodes of care for patients without the need for the patient to visit their general practice. This, alongside expansions to the pharmacy blood pressure checking and contraception services Patients will access the new clinical pathway element by walking into the pharmacy directly or where appropriate, by contacting them by video consultation.

The Pharmacy First Service builds on the previous Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) by enabling community pharmacies to manage patients for seven common conditions, following specific clinical pathways. These conditions are:

Clinical pathway	Age range
Acute Otitis Media (ear infection)	1 to 17 years
Impetigo	1 year and over
Infected insect bites	1 year and over
Shingles	18 years and over
Sinusitis	12 years and over
Sore throat	5 years and over
Uncomplicated urinary tract infections	Women 16-64 years