PCN NEWSLETTER

Autumn Edition 2026



***** Welcome to this edition of The PCN (Primary Care Network) Newsletter (Dudley area) *****

(For LARGER PRINT or an ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE, please advise your Reception).

From THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

Parking for Patients and Visitors – please share this information with family, friends and Carers**.**

Parking concessions: making sure our patients get the support they're entitled to.

As part of our ongoing work to improve the parking experience for patients and visitors, we want to remind all staff about the free and concessionary parking options available and encourage you to help signpost eligible patients and families. Recent feedback has shown that some people are unaware of the support available, so ensuring consistent advice across our services is important.

Free parking for frequent outpatient attenders

Patients who attend outpatient appointments at least three times within a 30-day period, for an overall period of at least three months, may be eligible for free parking. If a patient believes they qualify, please direct them to a member of staff in the relevant ward or department, who can provide a concession form for authorisation.

Free parking for parents and guardians of children staying overnight

Parents or guardians of a child or young person under the age of 18 who is staying in hospital overnight can receive free parking between 7.30pm and 8am while visiting their child. This concession applies to a maximum of two vehicles. Staff on children's wards should provide and authorise the required concession form.

Seven-day value cards for regular visitors

Patients and visitors making multiple trips to the hospital over a short period may benefit from a seven-day value card. These cards provide unlimited parking in visitor car parks for seven consecutive days for a fixed fee of £15, plus a refundable £20 deposit. They can be particularly helpful for people regularly visiting an inpatient or attending a series of appointments.

See our Advanced Nurse Practitioners for the following conditions:

Sore throat	Ear ache	Cold and Flu
Cough	Chest Infection	Thrush
Athlete's foot	Wounds	Conjunctivitis
Infections	Diarrhoea	Vomiting
Headaches	Joint Pain	Minor Injuries
Emergency Contraception		
Musculoskeletal problems		

See our PARAMEDIC for the following conditions:

Eye Infections	Chest Infections	UTI
Tired all the time	Skin Infections	Rashes
Blocked ears	Sinusitis	Ear infections
Constipation	Acid Reflux	Chest Pain
Headaches	Nausea	Vertigo
Anxiety	Depression	Muscular Pain
Dermatitis	Psoriasis	Labyrinthitis
New onset Hypertension		

Dr Irani has sadly passed away following a short illness. He was Ridgeway Surgery's Senior partner for many years, retiring in 2014.

Midland Freewheelers Blood Bike Group (MF for short)

MF is a local group of motorcycle enthusiasts providing a service to support health services across the region. MF operates on a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year round basis. It is staffed entirely with volunteers. The group provides an urgent courier service to Hospitals, Care homes, Midlands Air Ambulance and other medical facilities transporting blood, platelets, breast milk, samples, drugs, equipment etc. using specially adapted motorcycles (plus 3 cars). The service covers the Black Country and Birmingham area and parts of South Staffordshire and North Worcestershire. In addition, MF works with other blood bike groups to relay items, particularly breast milk, blood and drugs, all over the country.

The group has been operating since 2010 and is a registered charity. It is now well established with around 100 volunteers. The group was awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service (the MBE for voluntary organisations) in November 2023. It needs to fundraise to finance all of its activities as it receives no funding from the NHS or Government. Running costs are around £1,500 per week. Not all members are motorcyclists, there are a number of tasks, like coordinator/controller that members carry out without being a rider or driver.

Ridgeway Surgery will be holding their **annual pre-Christmas Coffee morning at the Surgery on Friday 27th November** with this year's collection being shared between Macmillan Cancer, MF Blood Bikers.

Thank you for reading this newsletter.