

Meadowbridge

SURGERY

JUNE 2024

FEATURES

Sign Up to Receive Monthly Bulletin

How to receive the bulletin each month to your email address for all the latest surgery information.

Pharmacy First Services

Patient information on conditions that can be treated via local pharmacies.

Practice Statistics

Practice figures on workload generated throughout the month of May

Extreme Pressures in Primary Care

A message in regard to pressures facing GP surgeries throughout NI.



HOLIDAY VACCINES

Patient are required to attend a specialised travel clinic (none available within MBS).

Any vaccines available on NHS will be advised by the clinic and the patient should receive a written copy of same.

Documentary proof of NHS vaccines is required and this should be left into reception. Please allow 72 hours for completion of script.

Once a prescription has been issued, this should be taken to the pharmacy.

After the prescription has been fulfilled, patients should contact the surgery to arrange an appointment with our Advanced Nurse Practitioner to administer the vaccines.

URINE SAMPLES

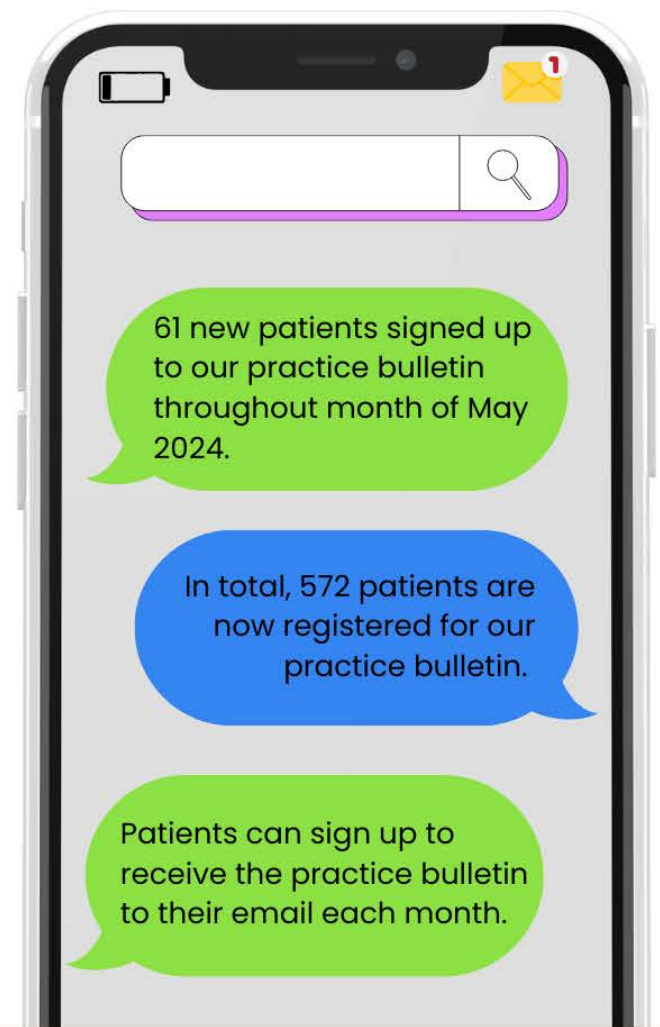
Patients are asked to contact the practice by Triage and to only leave urine samples in for testing if instructed to do so by a clinician. Where a urine sample is left in without prior instruction the patient will receive an SMS message to contact reception & provide appropriate triage information. Samples will only be held until the end of the working day.

PRACTICE CLOSURE

The practice will be closed on Friday 12th July 2024 and will run an emergency only service on Monday 15th July 2024. The practice will reopen on Tuesday 16th July 2024.

Please ensure medications are ordered in a timely manner and please allow 72 hours for prescriptions to be delivered to the chemist.





SIGN UP FOR OUR BULLETIN

www.meadowbridgesurgery.co.uk

Go to the home page and select Surgery News. Scroll to the bottom of the page, where you will be asked to provide an email address.

Meadowbridge Surgery now have a Facebook page! Link to this page available on our website.

Pharmacy First Services



Emergency Hormonal Contraception:

This service provides Sexual Health Advice including risks of STIs and how to get tested, emergency contraception and if clinically appropriate 3 months' supply of desogestrel bridging contraception, safe-guarding, and signposting. The service is available to women and young people aged 13 years and above. Further details are available at [Pharmacy First : Emergency Hormonal Contraception – Business Services Organisation \(BSO\) Website \(hscni.net\)](https://www.hscni.net/pharmacy-first/emergency-hormonal-contraception).



UTI service for female patients aged 16 to 64 years: This service facilitates the assessment and treatment of women aged 16-64 years presenting with symptoms of uncomplicated LUTI. Further details are available at [Pharmacy First: Service – Uncomplicated Urinary Tract Infections \(UTI\) in women aged 16-64 years](https://www.hscni.net/pharmacy-first/uti)



Everyday Health Conditions: The box below outlines the conditions which you can speak to your local pharmacist about and receive free treatment for.

<u>Conditions</u>		Acne	Athlete's Foot	Diarrhoea
Ear Wax	Groin Area Infection	Haemorrhoids	Head Lice	Mouth Ulcers
Oral Thrush	Scabies	Threadworms	Vaginal Thrush	Verruca
Further details are available at; Pharmacy First: Everyday Health Conditions – Business Services Organisation Website				

PRACTICE STATISTICS



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11,524

Incoming Telephone
Calls to the Practice

6,500

Prescription Items
Requested

16,444

General Administration
Tasks

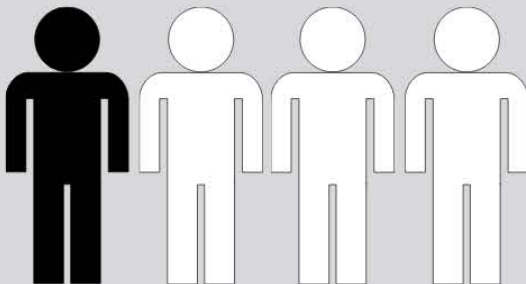
3,092

Patient results
reviewed



**4 minutes
51 seconds**

Average waiting time
on Incoming
Telephone Lines



150

Appointments booked, not
attended and wasting the
opportunity of being offered to
another patient.

PRACTICE STATISTICS



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3,371

Face to Face Surgery
consultations

830

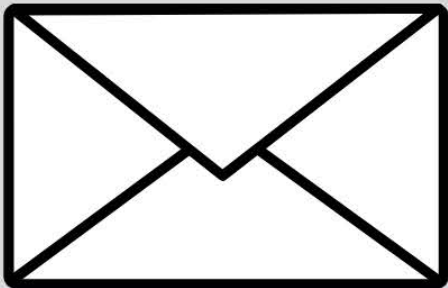
Triage Telephone
calls to Patients

1,213

Appointments booked in
the Treatment Room

2,338

Daily Triage Slots actioned
by a Clinician



2,265

Hospital letters
actioned by Practice
staff



Home Visits by a GP



Whooping Cough

A HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS AND SOMETIMES SERIOUS BACTERIAL INFECTION

The Public Health Agency (PHA) is urging pregnant women and the parents of young children to book an appointment for the pertussis vaccine to help protect their children after a significant rise in cases of whooping cough.

There have been 769 confirmed cases of whooping cough (pertussis) so far this year in Northern Ireland compared with just two between 2021 and 2023.

Whooping cough can spread very easily. It is best to call your GP practice or GP Out of Hours service before you go in person. This will help to reduce it spreading to others. In an emergency, dial 999.

WWW.PHASITE/WHOOPING-COUGH

WWW.NIDIRECT.GO.UK/CONDITIONS/WHOOPING-COUGH

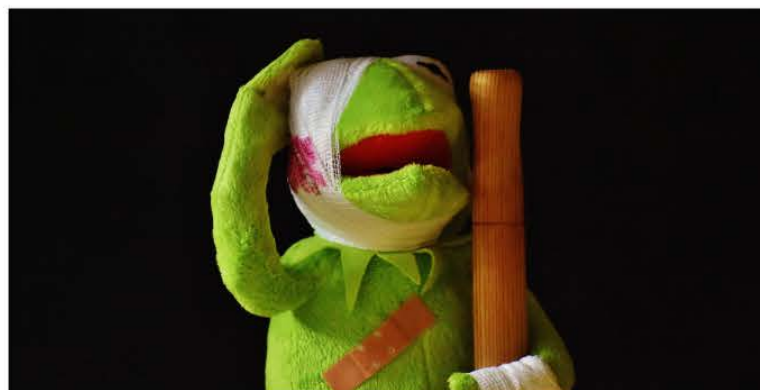


Patient Advice and Support

FURTHER INFORMATION TAB

Find all kinds of advice and patient support available on the further information tab, located on our website, covering a range of conditions.

WWW.MEADOWBRIDGESURGERY.CO.UK



Phone First Service

BELFAST HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST

Launch of PHONE FIRST Service for Adult Patients with Minor Injuries. Did you know, we're launching a Phone First service for patients with minor injuries, effective from Tuesday 9 January.

[FIND OUT MORE @ WWW.MEADOWBRIDGESURGERY.CO.UK](http://WWW.MEADOWBRIDGESURGERY.CO.UK)

Extreme Pressures in Primary Care



At present, GP locums are in short supply in N. Ireland but especially at short notice. With support not provided to practices until a GP has been sick for 4 weeks this policy, unfortunately, does not help with short term sickness cover either.

In striving for a permanent solution, Meadowbridge Surgery (MBS) has plans approved for a new Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) extension to our practice and tenders for this build are awaiting return. This planning enables MBS to offer a diversity of clinical services such as physiotherapists, social workers and mental health practitioners as soon as the posts become available to East Antrim Practices, hopefully, next year; thereby facilitating easier access to GPs by patients.

We have also in the past 2 years increased our GP Partners from a total of 4 to 6; employed an experienced permanent Nurse Practitioner who also serves as a prescriber; provided a depression counsellor appointment within a week from triage contact and have this month increased our pharmacist team by another 7 hours per week.

In short, MBS are making every effort to ensure patients receive prompt access to needed services.

In addition, we are a GP training practice with 4 GP trainers providing placements for NIMDTA GP registrars and Queen's 4th & 5th year medical students. We embrace and support these opportunities to help cultivate and nurture permanent locums, salaried GPs and GP Partners for future development and succession planning within primary services delivered by MBS.

Stormont Assembly has recently put on record that it values the enormous contribution of those working in primary care across Northern Ireland; please note that this includes GPs, nurses, health visitors, physiotherapists, social workers and mental health practitioners; recognising that primary care is generally the first point of contact within the health service for those who become unwell; further the recent Northern Ireland Audit Office report on Access to General Practice, which found that almost one in three local practices have sought crisis support in the last four years; regrets the absence of a specific workforce strategy for general practice; believes the failure to train, recruit, retain and reward staff has limited progress toward the rollout of multi-disciplinary teams in local primary care settings; and further calls on the Minister to increase the number of GP training places and invest in an enhanced fellowship programme for newly qualified GPs as part of an ambitious, costed and time-bound plan to grow the primary care workforce.

Please support N Ireland practices by lobbying your MLA in support of future workforce strategy planning to help guarantee a robust Primary Care provision for the future.

Dermatology Photo Triage Referral Pathway

WHAT IS THE DERMATOLOGY PHOTO TRIAGE REFERRAL PATHWAY?

Often GP's diagnose and treat many skin problems themselves. However, on occasion, they may wish to refer your skin problem to a skin specialist (consultant) for their opinion. This pathway uses technology to obtain a rapid diagnosis and treatment plan from a consultant for your skin problem without you having to attend the hospital. The consultants assessment will come back to your GP.

The pathway involves using a camera on a smart device to take high quality pictures of your skin, irregularity or mole at your initial appointment with your GP. You will be asked to give your consent for photos to be taken. The photos are sent electronically to a skin specialist at the hospital with appropriate further information. If your condition is suspected to be possible cancer, your GP will advise you of this at your appointment.

The possible recommendations from a consultant will include;

- No hospital appointment is required
- You will receive an appointment to attend the hospital to have the skin condition looked at
- You will receive an appointment to attend the hospital to have the skin condition biopsied or removed
- You will be referred to a specialist in another area of medicine to assess further or treat the issue

Following your appointment at the hospital, a letter detailing the results of your appointment will be sent to both you and your GP.



If you are required to attend the hospital you will receive a call from may be displayed as an unknown or withheld number. Please answer these calls as it may be a call offering you an appointment.

Scan the QR code to share your experience of the Dermatology Photo Triage Referral Pathway.

