



PRACTICE NEWSLETTER NO.2

Retirement:

It is with enormous regret that we announce the retirement of Dr Hilary Burbidge.

Hilary's last working day is Friday the 17th July. We have been extremely fortunate to have Hilary work here. She is staying on a little longer with Nelson Medical and Injury, and the Assessment and Rehabilitation Unit (AT&R), at the hospital, because they haven't been able to find suitable replacements in time.

We have been fortunate to find a local doctor, Dr Janneke Patterson. She will be taking responsibility for all Hilary's registered patients, at least initially. Hilary has worked with Janneke, and is very pleased she is taking over. However all Hilary's patients are free to register with the doctor of their choice. The only exception is Dr McKenzie-Pollock, whose books are full.

Hilary has made an enormous contribution to this practice and we wish her all the best for a well-deserved retirement.

Changes to Patient Portal:

The patient portal we use is Connectmed. We chose it over its main competitor 'Manage my Health' because it allows same day bookings and access through our own website.

It does not however have an app for smartphones, so there is no perfect system. We are having to upgrade our patient software very soon. Unfortunately that means our portal has to change to Manage my Health also.

There will be pluses and minuses. We hope the pluses will outweigh the minuses and we will do our very best to minimise any disruption or inconvenience.



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Corona Virus:

Our best advice to date is to *“Be aware and alert but not afraid”*. We have been through this type of exercise previously with SARS and other diseases, which have been successfully contained.

Ring Healthline if you have specific questions on 0800 358 5453. This is a dedicated line but you may experience some delays due to the volume of calls. Preventive measures that are effective against other infections are no less effective now.

Again our best advice (available to pick up on a flier at the front desk) is: coughing into the crook of your elbow rather than your hand, taking care with tissues and hankies, and social distancing (maximising the distance between you and potentially infectious people and minimising the length of time you spend with them). Frequent, effective handwashing is essential. Someone has humorously suggested you should wash your hands as if you have just chopped up a load of chillies and you need to get a contact out of your eye. Actually great advice! There is a lot of work going on nationally and internationally to control the spread and develop effective treatment.

We receive constant updates on this.

Extended Leave:

Dr Ed Johnson will be travelling and attending a family celebration in the UK later this year.

He and his family will be away for six months from mid - June. We will be joined while he is away by a highly regarded Irish doctor, Dr Sive (pronounced to rhyme with five) Malone.