



PRACTICE NEWSLETTER NO.2

Medical Staff Changes:

We are extremely sorry to advise that due to family circumstances Dr Jenny Cooper is leaving us (and regular general practice) for an indefinite period. Jenny is, to some extent, irreplaceable. However we have managed to get another superb female doctor, Dr Alannah Stockwell, to take her place. Alannah currently works in Golden Bay and has worked in Nelson and Richmond before. Jenny's last day is Wednesday 17th May. Alannah starts on Thursday 1st June. She will be working Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We will give more information about Alannah on the website and in newsletters closer to her start date. Dr Pippa Harrison will be away on extended leave from the 10th March until the 16th June. We wish Pippa and her husband an enjoyable, well-earned Sabbatical. Pippa's patients can choose to see any of our other permanent doctors or locums.

Admin Staff Changes:

Ros Spence, another valuable staff member leaves on the 31st March to pursue other opportunities. Ros has also been with us for a long time and, like Jenny, will be sorely missed. She will be replaced by Kathryn Moore. Kathryn is another high calibre recruit. She starts 20th March.



Dutch Reach:

Nelson Family Medicine strongly supports cycling for: fitness, health, financial and environmental reasons. Unfortunately though we are also aware of the risk and the lack of cycle safety. That is why we want to draw your attention to “the Dutch reach”. Try to remember this when you next open your car door. If you use the hand furthest from the door, rather than closest, it puts you in a position to see any cyclist you may open your door into.

Portal Update:

Online appointments are increasingly popular with 410 patients now registered for ConnectMed (our portal) and routinely making these. Invariably there are glitches with any new system. Please continue to let us know if you encounter any by emailing: sharon@nelsonfamilymedicine.co.nz. We delayed the next stage of implementation by a month or two. This stage is lab results and prescriptions requests, which was initially scheduled for February. The reason for the delay is the need to be very cautious with clinical information. Our doctors and nurses will be closely managing this next stage so we need everyone fully-prepared and available.

Early Appointments:

Don't forget that Dr Hilary Burbidge has appointments from 8am on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for earlybirds. Hilary tends to run to time so you may be able to fit in an appointment before work or “the school run”. If you happen to arrive before the doors are open just take a seat in the entrance area. Hilary will definitely be waiting for you inside.