

PRACTICE NEWSLETTER NO.3

Pilots Medicals:

Dr Shaun McKenzie-Pollock, as you may have read in the last newsletter retired from General Practice on 31st March. However he will continue to do CAA pilot medicals.

A number of pilots think he has retired completely. This is not true, so please spread the word.

In fact he has been joined by Dr Janneke Patterson who is now a designated ME1.

This means we can offer full assessments in-house.

They no longer need to be sent to ChCh, whether it is Shaun or Janneke you see. Shaun has no fixed days at this stage but will work according to demand. Janneke works Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

Omicron:

Although we have passed the peak of Omicron cases, this peak may be broad and the tail long.

Reinfection is certainly possible, even after recent infection. Despite this, Covid vaccination must not be given before 3 months post-infection.

There is a new process to exempt mask use and issue a universally-accepted pass to certify this. Go to the Ministry of Health website for application forms and more detail.



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Staff Updates - Nursing team:

We farewell our two longest-serving nurses, sadly.

Diane Auld is retiring to focus on family and new challenges. She has made an invaluable contribution in the specialised care of patients living with diabetes and as Practice Nurse Team Leader. Jodie Humphries' expertise and caring will make her a valuable new addition to the district nurse team. She may do locums, so won't be lost to us.

Our two new additions to the nursing team are Bridget Wild, whom we mentioned last newsletter and Teresa Lodge.

Bridget is a very experienced nurse with a passion for nursing services in primary care. She has a national role in this regard from which the practice will benefit. Teresa is another nurse with an extensive nursing background, in the UK and more recently, New Zealand. She has already made a valuable contribution to the practice in her new support role.

Staff Updates - Management:

Sharon Brinsdon is stepping down as co-manager. The practice remains in the capable hands of our remaining co-manager Nicky Douglas and new co-manager Karenne Williams.

Karenne was practice manager of Tahunanui Medical Centre until she joined us four years ago as a senior administrator.

Many staff who left recently have long associations with patients. They will miss these, and their colleagues.

It is a privilege to be part of such a fun, skilled and caring team.