

# BEACON MEDICAL GROUP NEWSLETTER

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## Welcome

Welcome to the March 2021 edition of the Beacon Medical Group Newsletter.

Our aim with this newsletter is to keep our patients informed of the latest news from the Practice.



**BEACON**  
MEDICAL GROUP

# A look back at 2020

2020 was a year like no other. Despite the challenges we faced throughout the year, GP surgery's remained open providing care to patients.

Here at Beacon Medical Group, we wanted to reflect on past 12 months and showcase just some of the great work that our teams have done.



**235,320**

**Calls received to  
the Practice**



**1876**

**Home visits**



**74,167**

**Prescriptions  
issued**



**78,609**

**eConsults processed  
by the Practice**



**133,376**

**Online & Telephone  
appointments**



**6150**

**Sick notes issued**



**4243**

**Chronic Disease  
Management  
appointments**



**39731**

**Nurse  
appointments**



**34910**

**GP & Urgent Care  
Team appointments**

Data recorded between 1st January 2020 - 14th December 2020

# COVID19 Vaccinations

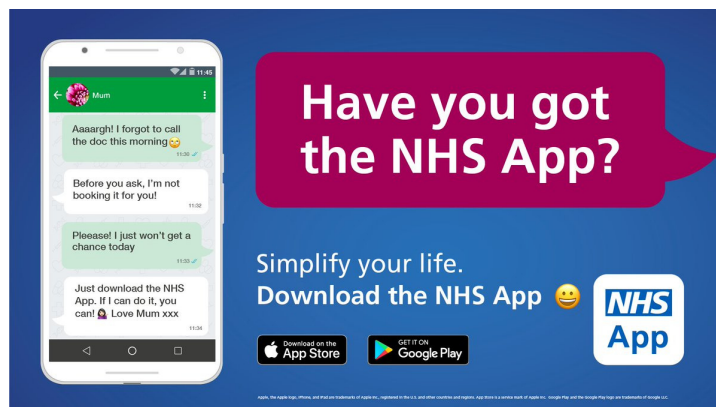
As a reminder to all patients, when it's your turn to get the COVID19 vaccination, the NHS will contact you to book your appointment. You do not have to apply to have the jab and there is no charge for it.

The NHS will never:

- ask for your bank account or card details
- ask for your PIN or banking passwords
- arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ask for documentation to prove your identity, such as a passport or utility bills

## NHS App

Owned and run by the NHS, the NHS App is a simple and secure way to access a range of NHS services on your smartphone or tablet.



You can also now complete an eConsult using the NHS App. eConsult is the first online consultation service to be integrated with the NHS App. Patients can use this service to request GP advice without the need to book an appointment or contact your practice face-to-face or by telephone.

The NHS App is free to download from the App Store and Google Play Store. To use it you must be aged 13 and over and registered with a GP surgery in England.

To find out more information, please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/online-services/nhs-app/>

# Sir Gary Streeter MP Visits Beacon

We recently enjoyed a visit from our local MP, Sir Gary Streeter. After hearing lots of positive feedback from Beacon Medical Group's patients on the delivery of the COVID vaccinations, Sir Gary decided to visit the surgery to see how the vaccine rollout was progressing.



Here's what Sir Gary had to say about his visit to the Practice. "Tasked to do something they have never done before, it was wonderful to see the efficient and smooth process they have put in place. They have now completed every patient in the 80 plus bracket (with the exception of some of the housebound which obviously takes longer but on which they are making good progress.)

I would like to congratulate Dr Andrew Mercer and his team at Beacon for this remarkable success, from which all of us in Plympton and Ivybridge will benefit. Please do not ring the practice to see when you are going to be called. Nobody will be missed, and they have an efficient system in place."



# Ear Syringing Suspended

We know that many patients derive benefit from ear syringing for ear wax removal, however we have been advised to suspend this service. Ear wax removal is not considered an essential service to perform during this pandemic, and additionally it has been classified as an 'aerosol generating procedure' which is a higher risk activity and not appropriate to perform unless essential and wearing the correct PPE. We have attached created a leaflet on how you can safely remove ear wax at home. This is available on our website:

<https://www.beaconmedicalgroup.nhs.uk/ear-syringing-suspended/>

## Fundraisers

Every year Beacon Medical Group staff members nominate a charity of the year to raise money for and this time we have selected St Luke's Hospice Plymouth. In the lead up to Christmas we decided to host a raffle for our teams and their families and we are pleased to announce that the raffle has raised over **£600** for this fantastic charity.

Beacon Medical Group could not have achieved this without the support of the local business in our community who very kindly donated prizes towards the raffle. Thank you.

We would also like to highlight the great work that our Pharmacist Debbie has done over the last couple months. Debbie has been making and selling face masks to help raise money for charity. In total Debbie and raised an incredible **£1200**! The money raised has been donated to the following charities, Rowans Hospice, Royal British Legion, Macmillan Cancer Support, Cornish Seal Sanctuary & Pharmacist Support. Well done Debbie!

# Virtual PPG

Did you know we have a Virtual PPG?

What is a PPG?

A PPG or Patient Participation Group is generally made up of a group of volunteer patients who discuss the services on offer, and how improvements can be made for the benefit of patients and the practice.

The beauty of PPGs is that there is no set way in which they work - the aims and work of each group entirely depends on local needs - but they all have the aim of making sure that their practice puts the patient, and improving health, at the heart of everything it does.

Beacon Medical Group has created a Virtual PPG for patients who want to contribute to improving services in the practice, but cannot attend regular meetings.

To join the Virtual PPG, Please search on Facebook: **Beacon Medical Group PPG.**

## Opening Times

**Chaddlewood Surgery:** Monday – Friday 08:00 – 18:30\*

**Glenside Medical Centre:** Monday – Friday 08:00 – 18:30\*

**Highlands Health Centre:** Monday – Friday 08:00 – 18:30\*

**Ivybridge Medical Centre:** Monday – Friday 08:00 – 18:30\* We also offer pre-booked only appointments from 18:00 – 20:00 on Tuesday and Thursday.

**Plympton Health Centre:** Monday – Friday 08:00 – 18:30\* We also offer pre-booked only appointments from 18:00 – 20:00 on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

**Wotter Surgery:** Monday 08:15 – 15:00 & Thursday 08:15 – 15:00

\*We are open for emergencies between 18:00 and 18:30

