



NEWSLETTER



New Opening Hours from 1st April 2009

The Poplars will be open from 8am-8pm Mon-Fri.
Telephone access will also be improved from 8am-6.30pm Mon-Fri.
Appointments will be available from 8am-7.30pm

INVESTMENT IN ADDITIONAL GP APPOINTMENTS

You will be aware that Dr Forman is retiring at the end of April. He currently works part-time hours. He will be replaced by a **NEW FULL-TIME FEMALE GP, Dr Pramanik**, who will commence work at The Poplars in May.



-  This will provide a further 4 clinics a week, improving your access to a GP.
-  This will mean the “*patient to doctor ratio*” for this practice will be just 1510 patients per GP, which is far below the government target of 1800 and well below the Salford average.

DR FORMAN'S DEPARTURE

Dr Forman will hold an “**open clinic**” on Wednesday 29th April 2009 between 10am—1pm to allow patients a chance to say “goodbye” after 38 years of dedicated NHS service in Swinton.

A “**retirement book**” will be left on reception at this time to allow patients to leave written retirement wishes to Dr Forman.



NEW PHONE SYSTEM

The implementation of our new phone system will occur on 1st April . This will allow patients to book, cancel or change appointments 24 hours per day, 7 days per week

To use the system patients will have to quote the phone number as documented on their patient record.

PLEASE CHECK WITH RECEPTION THAT WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT PHONE NUMBER ON YOUR PATIENT RECORD.

You will not benefit from the 24/7 phone system if we do not have your current details.

Please be patient with the practice during the introduction of this service

NEW PRACTICE SITED IN PENDLEBURY

The government is planning to open new practices in Salford which you may well see advertised in the coming months .

It is likely these practices will use more nurse time and fewer GPs who will work shifts so patients may have difficulty building relationships with their doctors.. Continuity, which is the mainstay of British General Practice may be lost.

The initial plan was to open a new practice in the Agecroft area to satisfy demand for 2000 new homes that were being built there. There is currently no General Practice sited in Agecroft.

Unfortunately, a suitable site in Agecroft could not be found, and now this practice will be sited at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital once it has closed down.

The Swinton and Pendlebury area is most definitely **NOT** an "under-doctored area" and has left local GPs confused as to whether this is an intelligent and efficient use of NHS resources.

The Poplars was established in Swinton in 1926 and has a proven track record of providing quality health care to the local community.

The new practices in Salford may not have an "on-site" chemist as we do here at The Poplars.

Even if the Children's hospital is more convenient for you to see a GP, if you are given a prescription you may still need to travel to a chemist (probably at an existing, well established practice)

ON-LINE REPEAT PRESCRIPTION REQUESTS

You can now request your repeat medication via our website by clicking on " order repeat medication "

on www.thepoplarsmedicalcentre.co.uk