

ROSEDEAN HOUSE SURGERY



PATIENT NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023



Your breasts can change throughout your life for many reasons – like the menopause, pregnancy and breastfeeding, or puberty. So, if you check them regularly, you'll be able to spot any new or unusual changes that should be checked out by a GP.

2,300 women under 40 are diagnosed with breast cancer every year. ***Why not make a habit of checking by putting a reminder in your phone or diary?***

Did you know that men can get breast cancer too? Although it's rare, 370 men are diagnosed each year. So, it's important for men to be body aware.

If you notice anything unusual in your breasts, contact your GP. It probably is nothing to worry about but the earlier a problem is identified, the sooner it can be investigated and treated successfully.



Flu and COVID Vaccinations

- ❖ Flu and COVID vaccine appointments are still available.
- ❖ Eligible patients will be contacted via text/letter/phone call to book their appointments.
- ❖ Residents in care homes continue to be vaccinated as well as housebound patients
- ❖ If you would like to book a flu appointment and are eligible to receive one, but have not already been contacted, please call.



Prospective Online Access to Medical Records

Legislation has now been passed so that new health information will be available to patients by 31st October 2023. This change supports the NHS Long Term plan commitments to provide patients with digital access to their health records using approved patient facing services applications such as the NHS App or Patient Access.

Better access to health information enables the patient to become a partner in managing their health, allowing patients to book appointments online, view test results, monitor the status of referrals and to oversee their own record.

We are working very hard to deliver this access in line with the expectations of the GP contract and we hope to have this live very soon. If you already use the apps to access your record, you do not need to do anything more to receive this further access. However, if you wish to make use of this but do not currently have online access arranged then you will need to either download the NHS App on your smartphone and follow the instructions for set up or register for online services. A registration form can be found on our website in the Administration section. This will enable you to access your prospective medical record and order medication. Our website is www.rosedeansurgery.co.uk



PHYSICIAN'S ASSOCIATE

In last month's newsletter we introduced various members of the Practice team that patients will consult and gave some information on their specific clinical roles. We have a Physician's Associate working closely with the GPs in our Practice who is employed by East Cornwall Primary Care Network to work within this Practice. We thought it would be useful for patients to know of her background and what her role entails.

"The standard role definition from the Faculty of Physician's Associates is:

Physician associates are medically trained, generalist healthcare professionals, who work alongside doctors and provide medical care as an integral part of the multidisciplinary team. Physician associates are practitioners working with a dedicated medical supervisor but can work autonomously with appropriate support.

Coming from a biomedical background and because of working with children and young adults with mental health, I have 2 undergraduate degrees and an NVQ level 4.

I trained in Plymouth University, Peninsula Medical School and achieved PgDip (Merit) in Physician Associate Studies.

I then did a 2-year return of service for North Devon District Hospital with a heavy surgical focus but with some respiratory and acute medicine rotations.

I have been a PA in GP since 2020 and am able to:

- take medical histories from patients.
- carry out physical examinations.
- see patients with undifferentiated diagnoses.
- see patients with long-term chronic conditions.
- formulate differential diagnoses and management plans (including suggesting medications)
- perform diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.
- develop and deliver appropriate treatment and management plans.
- request and interpret diagnostic studies.
- provide health promotion and disease prevention advice for patients.

Currently, due to medical legislation and lack of regulation, Physician Associates are not able to:

- prescribe- however as above, can suggest and discuss for a supervisor to sanction.
- request ionising radiation (e.g., chest x-ray or CT scan).

Physician Associates can fit into their teams in many ways- which hopefully is demonstrated above in the list. We are not doctors nor nurses. It is therefore difficult to define in traditional hierarchies or compare as the training, and the end qualified result, is much different to other clinicians. But we are a considered supportive role, not a replacement for any other clinicians in healthcare settings. Progression is more lateral than linear and coming from diverse backgrounds we can be malleable to the needs of the team we settle within creating niche supportive roles for the team.”



NHS APP

Did you know you can manage repeat prescriptions from Rosedean Surgery in the NHS App?

You can also order your prescription at any time that suits you. There’s no need to wait to join a telephone queue or wait until the surgery opens. It’s easy to use, and, if you hit a snag, you can go to ‘Help’ in the top right-hand corner of the app or visit nhs.uk/helpmeapp.

Find out more about the NHS App at: www.nhs.uk/nhsapp

PRACTICE CLOSURE

To ensure we can provide the best possible patient services, our staff must be appropriately trained. Cornwall & Isles of Scilly NHS have agreed that Practices can close for half a day to enable training to be carried out. Rosedean Surgery will be closed on Tuesday October 10th from 13:00 and will re-open again on Wednesday 11th October at 08:00. A message handling service is available to take calls on 01579 343133.

TRAINING



Our Dispensary will be closed during this time.

We will also be closed for staff training on Wednesday, November 8th from 13:00 and will re-open again on Thursday 9th November at 08:00.

In a life-threatening emergency during the time we are closed please dial 999.



Dr Catriona Thornton

We are sorry to report that currently, Dr Thornton is on sick leave due to complications following routine surgery. We have employed a locum GP, Dr Egwim, to support our patient service. Thank you for all the kind messages we have received from patients wishing Dr Thornton well.