

Do I need to see the Doctor or the Nurse Practitioner?

Jody Folds and Michelle Danks are Broughton Gate's Nurse Practitioners. This leaflet explains their role within the practice.

Nurse Practitioners are all trained specialist nurses who have undertaken additional education in order to provide advanced nursing care and prescribe. Nurse Practitioners can provide treatment and advice for many problems for which you may have seen a doctor for in the past. Their main areas of expertise are in the management of common illnesses and long term conditions.

Appointments

Same day Nurse Practitioner appointments are available every weekday for common illnesses. Routine appointments are also available if you prefer to book in advance.

The Nurse Practitioner can assess and examine you, make a diagnosis and provide advice and treatment including a prescription if required. They can make referrals to hospital doctors or other health care professionals, and admit patients into hospital when necessary.

Unfortunately, they are unable legally to sign a sick certificate, so you will need to see your own GP for this.

They work closely with your GP and liaise frequently with her/him about your care.

Same day appointments available for:

- Wounds, scalds, burns, rashes;
- Acute back pain, joint sprains;
- Shingles;
- Oral thrush;
- Acute chest infection;
- Dizziness, giddiness, unusual headache;
- Conjunctivitis, sticky discharging eye, sty;
- Diarrhoea, constipation, piles;
- Vomiting;

- Urinary tract infections, cystitis;
- Vaginal thrush soreness, lump or discharge;
- Tonsillitis, earache, cough, swollen glands, sinusitis, sore throat, colds and flu-like illnesses, raised temperature that shows no improvement after one week of pharmacists' advice and home treatment. Please note that a cough may persist for up to three or four weeks after other cold/flu symptoms have gone.

Routine appointments

Nurse Practitioners also manage many long-term conditions such as asthma, eczema, high blood pressure, coronary heart disease, raised cholesterol levels, diabetes, epilepsy and respiratory disease. Patients with a long-term condition are either seen annually or at their medication review appointment. All patients who receive repeat prescriptions for any medicine need to see their GP or Nurse Practitioner either once or twice a year to have their prescription reviewed.

There are also many other problems that the Nurse Practitioners are able to help you with. For example, menstrual disorders, unexplained weight loss, breast lumps, sexual health advice, change of contraception pill or method, depression.

Some patients, often those with complex and long-standing medical problems, may need an appointment with a doctor. The Nurse Practitioner is usually able to assess the situation and in some cases will organise initial blood tests and other investigations prior to arranging a follow-up appointment with your GP.

We hope that you will find this service will complement and improve the care you already receive, but please be assured that a doctor's appointment will always be available should you prefer.