

Hi everyone,

Let me introduce myself. My name is Patricia Irvine but I go by the name of Trish. I am your Patient Reference Group Lead and you can reach me on trishprglead@virginmedia.com. I am married to Robert (Bob) and we have 3 grown up children; Kirstin, Matthew and Andrew. Please send me any questions you may have about 'you and the practice'. I will find out the answers if I do not know them.

I have had a couple of questions recently, namely –

- 1) Why is it that my tablets seem to work one time but the next prescription doesn't work as well? The Practice answered as follows:-

There can be several different manufacturers of a single medicine. Some of these manufacturers will market the medicine as a brand (For example "Lipitor" is a branded version of Atorvastatin). Some patients complain of a change in effect of the medicine if the brand changes. The Practice recommends that patients raise any concerns about a change of effect associated with their tablets with the Dispensing Chemist as they may be able to dispense the preferred brand to the patient. Alternatively telephone the Surgery and ask to speak with the Practice Pharmacist (Ben Griffiths) or one of our prescription clerks, Charlotte or Karen.

- 2) Which chemist will be operating in the new practice?

The practice has no authority to make this decision. The developers, One Medical will be discussing options for leasing premises within the new development with local chemists.

- 3) Will there be a special room for certain things e.g. taking blood? Yes is the answer. For example - the phlebotomist will have his/her own room so that everything required is on hand.

It is hoped that a room will be set aside at the new practice that can be used for educational purposes. I am hoping that I will be able to use this room for meeting you all, possibly on a monthly basis. Would this be acceptable to you?

The Newsletter.

This, with a bit of luck, will be up and running again soon, so any articles you have will be greatly appreciated. Let me start this off by inviting all the gentlemen out there to come along to Tees Valley Barbershop Harmony Club on a Tuesday night at the Acorn Centre, Acklam Grange School, starting at 7.15p.m. until 9.30p.m. Tea and coffee, with biscuits, is available to buy and once a month we have a raffle. You can't sing? Brilliant! You are just who we want. You may think your voice is not good but once you have learnt your part and you are singing with the other chaps, this will not be a problem. We have a great time and

you get to see me once a week! Now there's a good incentive. (LOL) It has been said – but there is no proof whatsoever – that singing is very beneficial. Even the doctors are welcome. We already have one from another practice.

I will sign off for now but hope many of you will get in touch via the surgery (at the moment) with questions and articles. Thank you.