

So who is MY doctor?

The relationship between doctor and patient has always (on the whole) been a good one, and as I have said on several occasions, it's something I feel is vitally important to retain.

It helps you, the patient, feel reassured that the person you are talking to, understands your health needs, or your anxiety, or has a good picture of what has been happening in your life, why you have asked to be seen, what drove you to go to A&E last night etc.

Knowing our patients well also helps us. We get used to how you talk, what you tell us, (as well as what you don't tell us) what pain tolerance you have, how breathless you can get, what will make you go to hospital when we think you should, and when you are worried about something. It's about trusting each other.

I will admit that merging our 3 practices of just over 6000 patients each, into one larger practice of around 20,000 has its challenges, for us as clinicians, there are a lot more people to get to know and try and work out what has been done and what may need to be done.

But for you as patients, I know it can also be frustrating, trying to see YOUR doctor, the one who knows your history, your story.

The demand for appointments is enormous, it has gone up exponentially, and this crisis has changed things again in lots of ways.

We only merged in October last year, so many of you will have had no cause to come and see any of us yet, but when and if you do, you will notice there are lots of new faces, compared to your old red blue and green practices, some long serving GPs have since retired, or moved on, some have been here for years, but you will never have met....

So as mentioned last week, I thought it might be worth giving you a run-down of the who's who of the GPs!

So without further ado... in alphabetical order... (sorry Dr Wilson!)

Dr Philippa Anderton- MBChB Liverpool

GP Partner

Special areas of interest include: contraception, women's health and dermatology

Days of work : tues, thurs, fri

Dr Jemma Crofts- MBChB Liverpool MRCGP, DFSRH DRCOG,

PGCert Medical Education (in progress)

GP Partner

Special areas of interest include: education, (medical student and GP training), child health, joint injection, and dermatology

Days of work: wed, thurs, fri

Dr Caroline Francey-(that's me!) MBChB Liverpool, DFFP, Loc SDI and LOC IUT

GP Partner

Special area of interest: minor surgery, dermatology, contraception/women's health, newborn assessment, joint injections

Days of work: mon, wed, thurs

Dr Ellen Gilchrist- MBBS Newcastle MRCGP, DFFP, Loc SDI, Loc IUT

GP Partner

Special areas of interest: women's health, contraception, menopause

Days of work mon (alt) wed, thurs

Dr Andrew Henton MBChB

Associate GP

Special areas of interest: Men's health and musculoskeletal problems

Days of work: Mon, Tues, wed (am) , Fri

Dr Liz Illing MBBS, MRCS, DOHNS, Dip Pal Med

Associate GP

Special areas of interest: ENT, Palliative Care, Chronic pain/Opioid use and joint injections

Days of work: tues, thurs

Dr Andrew McAlavey MBChB DA DRCOG MRCGP

GP Partner

Special areas of interest: medicine optimisation, joint injections, newborn assessment

Days of work: mon,tues

Dr Connor McVeigh MBChB Lancaster MRCGP

Associate GP

Special areas of interest: joint injection

Days of work: mon, tues, thurs, fri

Dr Clare Merriman MBChB MRCGP Loc MED Loc SDI Loc IUT, Meno (SS)

GP Partner

Special areas of interest: family planning, menopause management, prescribing

Days of work:mon, tues, wed

Dr Monika Raths MRCP

Associate GP

Special areas of interest: respiratory medicine

Days of work: tues

Dr David Thorburn MBChB, BSc (hons) MRCGP

GP Partner

Special areas of interest: orthopaedics, men's health, paediatrics, medical reports, joint injections

Days of work: mon, wed, thurs, fri (am)

Dr Philippa Wilson MBChB MRCGP

Associate GP

Special areas of interest: newborn assessments

Days of work: mon, tues, thurs

So there you have it! It's quite a list now, supported by a large team of other practitioners.

As a patient, you are registered with a named GP (one of the partners) but essentially this is administrative, and you are registered with the 'practice' and are entitled to ask to see any of us.

We are keen on continuity, a second opinion from time to time is useful, and we all bob in and out of each other's rooms and help each other out when times are busy.

We are YOUR doctors and we are ready to see you...! (or in the current climate, I should say ready to talk to you, or video call, text etc etc... ahh modern technology...!)