

# Practice News

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## GP Patient Survey

In January 2009 the Department of Health for Northern Ireland will for the first time be posting a survey to a random selection of patients in Northern Ireland. This will look at a range of GP services.

This is important as the results will influence the way General Practice develops in the province over the next number of years.

If you receive one please complete this carefully and completely. If there is any part of this survey you do not understand or require clarification of please speak to any member of the practice staff.

Please note that appointments in this practice are available up to 2 weeks in advance and additional appointments are released at 48 hours and 24 hours. Appointments are bookable by phone and online. We also operate an open surgery every morning providing same day access to both GPs and Practice Nurses. These arrangements may have to be reviewed depending on the results of the survey.



## Additional Surgeries

We are pleased to announce the recent introduction of additional surgeries both in the evening and during the normal working day to increase the number of appointments available.

It is now possible to have an evening appointment in the surgery, between 6.30pm and 8.30pm, on a Tuesday or Thursday evening once per fortnight.

These appointments are intended for those who are working and unable to attend during the working day.

In addition, Dr McCourt who was previously

available for consultation on Monday and Thursday mornings is now also available on Monday and Thursday afternoons by appointment.



**At this time we would like to inform patients that Dr Hubert Curran will be retiring from the Practice at the end of March 2009. This is to allow him to further his role within the management of the Health Service of Northern Ireland**

## Meet the Staff - the Community Midwife

The midwife who works with this practice is Sheila Kelly.

The midwife works as an important link between GPs, hospitals and other members of the primary healthcare team dealing with obstetric care.

Sheila visits patients in their homes and most booking appointments are now carried out in the community. Within this practice the midwife also runs a clinic once per week on Tuesday afternoons bookable in advance.

To contact Sheila phone 07834 745165.



## Use of the Practice Website

Please visit at [www.dundonaldmedicalcentre.co.uk](http://www.dundonaldmedicalcentre.co.uk)

You can book appointments and order prescriptions online.

If you wish to avail of any of the online booking or ordering facilities you will have to register with reception, please ask for the online registration letter.

At this time we would ask that you do NOT use the online service to cancel Chronic Disease Clinic appointments.

Appointments cancelled online cannot be

traced. If you have to cancel a chronic disease appointment please phone the surgery when an alternative appointment will always be offered.

These clinics are set up by the nursing staff to monitor your health and most are once per year only.



**“Merry  
Christmas  
and a  
Happy New  
Year”**

## Christmas

The Doctors and staff of Dundonald Medical Centre would like to take this opportunity to wish all our patients a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

Over the festive period the practice will be closed on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th December and also on Thursday 1st January.

In the case of a medical emergency please phone South and East Belfast Doctors on Call.

The telephone number for this service is 028 90796220

