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Dear Members of the PPG

I thought I would write to you all as due to the current situation of Covid-19 we have been unable to have our planned meeting.

As you can imagine it has been a time of change throughout the last 12 to 14 weeks and we are very grateful that AskmyGP was up and running prior to March so that we have been able to continue to offer a service to all via telephone, email or face to face if appropriate. We are now also using video consultations more and more to support our daily practice and this has proved beneficial.

Several other updates:

- We have a new musculoskeletal practitioner, Phil Richards, who deals with first contact musculoskeletal presentations. He will work 2 days a week. He can assess, diagnose and order diagnostic tests as appropriate. He is also able to prescribe medication.
- We will have an additional pharmacist joining us at the end of June. They will work opposite Nisha Ladva who works 2 days one week and 3 the other.
- It is anticipated that we will have a new GP joining us from July. His name is Dr J Jesus. I shall update you accordingly.
- In relation to medication review, I did advise that I would feedback on a query. I shall not refer to any specific patient but shall update you on our practice. Medication review for simple medications may be updated when you come to see the nurse or health care assistant when they may be doing blood tests, asthma review etc. This process is overseen by a trained clinician. All complex medication reviews will be completed by a pharmacist, ANP or GP. The length of time between reviews is dependent on the medication you take. You may receive notification on your prescription or via text that a medication review is due.
- Many of our monthly meetings such as Gold Standard Framework (Palliative Care) and Safeguarding Team Meetings are done via Microsoft Teams – this is working well.
- We have received continued overall praise for the AskmyGP service.
- We did state that we would arrange a guest speaker and for obvious reasons this is currently on hold.
- I wonder whether you may give some consideration to how we might do future meetings. In the current climate we could try using a platform such as Microsoft Teams or Zoom. Have a think and let me know any suggestions.
- The newsletter will be updated in the near future.

I hope you are all keeping well and hope to hear from you soon.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Sasha McIntosh
First Contact Practitioner
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