

University of Reading Medical Practice

www.readinguniversitymedicalpractice.nhs.uk

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Practice Merger

In September 2015, the NHS Joint Primary Care Commissioning Committee approved the application from the **University Medical Practice, Whitley Villa and South Reading** GP practices to merge. This combined practice will be called "***The University Medical Group***"

On the 1st April 2016 the University of Reading and Whitley Villa practices began to operate as a merged practice.

Both will essentially continue to run as 2 separate practices until the clinical systems merge on the 15th July. During this interim period we are not able to access the medical records of Whitley Villa patients from the University Medical Practice and vice versa, but this will change after the 15th July.

During the interim period we cannot register patients who wish to switch between either practices, therefore you need to continue to be seen at your own practice.

Once the clinical systems merge all patients currently registered at either site will automatically be registered with the combined clinical system. Patients at this stage will be able to make appointments at the surgery of their choice. However we strongly recommend that patients retain continuity of care with the GP of their choice and therefore location.

Opening times for the practices will remain the same, however the extended hours for Whitley Villa patients will move to the University Medical Practice after the clinical system merges. Patients will be notified of the dates and times nearer in July.

As a patient at the University Medical Practice and Whitley Villa Surgery the priority of the merged practice will be to provide high quality, accessible healthcare. The University Medical Practice has already been awarded "Outstanding" by the CQC, so enlarging the practice will enable sharing and strengthening of high standards of care.

Frequently asked questions

Will I still be able to see my own GP?

Yes - your usual GP will continue to work at their usual site.

Will there be any staff changes?

No – there are no anticipated staff changes in the near future.

Will there be any changes to the surgeries opening hours?

Opening times for the practices will remain the same, however the extended hours for Whitley Villa patients will move to the University Medical Practice after the clinical system merges. Patients will be notified of the dates and times nearer to the time

Will the system for making appointments change?

No - You will still be able to make appointments in the same way as now, in advance on the same day and on-line.

In addition to this, there will be more choice for patients as there will be a wider range of appointment times and choice of sites after the clinical systems have merged.

Will you be cutting any services?

No - existing services will remain the same, however patients will benefit from being able to access extra services at the University Medical Practice such as minor surgery.

If you have further questions relating to this information you can either post your comments on our practice website or via the box in Reception. We will respond to such queries via both regular updates on the web site and patient newsletters

