

University of Reading Medical Practice

www.readinguniversitymedicalpractice.nhs.uk

Newsletter | February 16



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***"

We are currently working towards Phase 1 of the merger which is the University and Whitley Villa practices merging on the 1st April 2016. You will still be able to see your usual G.P at your usual surgery. Opening times for the practices will remain the same however the extended hours for Whitley Villa patients will be moved to the University Medical Practice and patients will be notified of the dates and times nearer the date of the merger.

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.

As a patient you may be aware of pressure of space in each practice so a Business Case has been submitted to NHS England for a new building as part of the merger plans and we will let you know more information in later newsletters.

The ***University Medical Group*** will continue to provide a monthly newsletter in print and on-line with updates and developments that arise.

Each practice will be holding drop-in sessions in March for patients to find out more about the merger.

Whitley Villa Surgery has an open evening on the 17th March between 18:00 and 19:00

The University Medical Practice will hold their open evening on the 7th March between 19:00 and 20:00

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?

No - the practices will remain open for core opening of 8am till 630pm, Monday to Friday.

However the timings for extended hours (early morning, evenings and Saturday mornings) are likely to change so patients will be able to access a wider range of extended hours appointments which are likely to be at the largest site, the University Medical Practice

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.

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

