

University of Reading Medical Practice

www.readinguniversitymedicalpractice.nhs.uk

Newsletter | January 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***"

The University and Whitley Villa practices will merge in April 2016 (phase one of the merger)

This will be followed by the South Reading Surgery in September 16 (phase two of the merger).

For patients in South Reading and Whitley Villa Surgery, it will bring a greater choice of appointments and services, whilst maintaining the personal care they have from their own GP.

For patients at the University Medical Practice, the merger will provide greater resilience against future NHS changes, particularly in light of proposed reduction in NHS funding for practices with a large number of students.

As a patient at the University Medical Practice, Whitley Villa or South Reading 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

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

Each practice will be holding drop-in sessions in March for patients to find out more, with dates being announced nearer the time

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

