Q&A WITH A CLINICAL PHARMACIST AT

THE SUNBURY HEALTH CENTRE

With increased demand on medical staff at Sunbury Health Centre, Clinical Pharmacists form an important role as part of the Practice’s multi-disciplinary team.

Here we learn what they do and how they can support you …

Q. What is the purpose of the Clinical Pharmacist role?

A. It is to help manage long term health conditions, such as Asthma, Diabetes and High Blood Pressure. We can amend medication, provide advice and request blood tests.

Q. How does this differ from a High Street Pharmacist?

A. We undergo an additional eighteen months of training specifically about pharmacy in Primary Care. High Street Pharmacists are able to advise to make recommendations, but are unable to make changes to medications. We have full access to patient notes and work closely with the GPs.

Q. Wy did you become a Pharmacist in a GP Practice?

A. I used to be a Pharmacist in a community setting. Whilst I loved this role, I felt that I was not using my clinical skills. Moving into a surgery has given me the challenge I required, alongside further developing my knowledge.

Q. Do you have appointments with patients?

A. There are two Pharmacists and three Prescription Clerks, with a third Pharmacist due to start mid-January. Pharmacists have a minimum of fifteen telephone appointments per day and are available on Monday to Friday. Pharmacists are full-time, whilst Prescription Clerks are part-time.

Q. Why should I have an appointment with you, instead of with a GP?

A. Pharmacists have a focused specialist knowledge of medicines and their availability to provide support, and advice releases GPs to address more complex medical issues.

Q. What work di you have to do outside of appointments?

A. Our work makes prescribing more cost effective. We also deal with queries from local Pharmacies to help to generate new prescriptions when items are out of stock, and help GPs with any medication queries that they may have.