

## DRS WEBSTER AND TWOMEY

### Health Service Re-Organisation

Patients' have been asking for our views on the sweeping changes in the NHS. Of course this subject is very politically charged, and we all have our individual views.

There are enthusiasts for the changes amongst GPs, but I suspect that they are a dwindling number as the scale of the changes becomes clear. We warn patients' that restrictions in some services previously available under the NHS are inevitable due to cuts in the funding.

Those who are interested can find a **personal** statement on the changes, written by Dr Webster, on the practice notice board, and there may be some copies in the waiting room.

### FY2 Doctors

Our present junior doctors are Dr Sean Abrathat and Dr Shalini Kunasegaran who have now been with us for about 2 months. Sadly Dr Kunasegaran is to leave us very shortly, having received a job offer from Auckland, New Zealand (and who can blame her!)

We would like to pass on our thanks and best wishes for the future to Dr Helen Piercy, who left us just before Christmas.

### **VERY IMPORTANT – BLOOD TESTS**

On the subject of blood tests, could we request that all patients who have had a blood test should contact the surgery to enquire about the results. This is best done by ringing Reception about a week after the test has been done, unless you have a review appointment with a doctor or nurse already arranged. The doctors should have attached a message to your result to inform you whether any action is needed, and the receptionists will inform you of this.

### Blood Tests

Also our attention has been drawn to the fact that a small number of patients have been ringing Reception to order forms for blood tests, even though no blood tests have been requested by the Doctors or Nurses. We wish to make it clear that these will not be forthcoming. If you think that you need a blood test please make an appointment to discuss the matter with one of the doctors or the practice nurse.

## [Dr Webster](#)

It seems that there are many rumors of Dr Webster's impending departure sweeping Rainford. (We should be so lucky !!!) The actual situation is, that from the beginning of July of this year, Dr Webster will be reducing his hours and working part-time, and so will not be leaving us all just yet !!! .

We will publish further details of the re-organisation within the practice, to take account of this, in the next few months.

# Welcome to Rainford Health Centre

We now have our own Practice Website, please take some time to have a look at it you will find it packed with useful information, and any current news and relevant information for you. You can also book appointments and request your repeat medication here.

[www.rainfordhealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.rainfordhealthcentre.co.uk)

## Free NHS Health Check

Helping you prevent heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease.

We are now offering NHS Health Checks to people aged between 40 and 74 once every five years. The check is to assess your risk of developing heart disease, stroke, kidney disease or diabetes. By taking early action, you can improve your health and prevent the onset of these conditions. There is good evidence for this. These checks will be offered to patients who do not already have a diagnosis of Diabetes, Heart Disease or previous strokes.

The check should take about 20–30 minutes and is based on straightforward questions and measurements such as age, sex, family history, height, weight and blood pressure. There will also be a simple blood test to measure your cholesterol level. Following the check, you will receive free personalised advice about what you can do to stay healthy.

You will be receiving an invitation in the post over the coming months, alternatively if you feel you fall into the above category you can make an appointment at reception for your HEALTHCHECK PLUS. You will, however, need to attend for a cholesterol blood test about a week before your appointment if you have not already had one in the last 12 months.

Currently our Healthchecks are being carried out by Hayley our Healthcare Assistant.