



# Jubilee Medical Group

## Patient Newsletter

*Jubilee Medical Group*

May—June 2016

### Proposed Merger

Jubilee Medical Group are proposing to merge with Dr Baliga's practice at Shildon, however this is subject to consideration of the views of our patients. The reason for the proposed merger is to ensure that both practices continue to offer a safe and efficient service and are in a better position to sustain the decrease in Practice budgets. Our aim is to protect the employment of the staff from both practices. Jubilee Medical Group, is the larger of the two practices with a list size of 8750 patients and has supported Dr Baliga and his staff for many years. Dr Baliga is a singled handed GP practice with a list size of 1391 patients. Dr Baliga has found the support from Jubilee Medical Group to be reassuring in the ever changing times of the NHS. In return Dr Baliga carries out minor surgery clinics for Jubilee Medical Group which I know some of you will be familiar with. We believe that the proposed merger will give considerable benefits to patients from both practices. The government require that we open longer hours for more days of the week and with the additional number of staff we will be able to increase our service to you. It is also our intention to trial a "walk in" service at our surgery in Burke Street, Shildon to offer appointments to those patients who need to be seen urgently on the day and for those who would have attended urgent care centres but without the need to travel out of Shildon.

We would like to invite you to a meeting where representatives from both practices will be able to explain the reasons for the proposed merger. We will also gather your views and answer any questions you may have. Your local MP and councillors will also be invited to attend along with a selection of clinicians from both practices. The meeting will be held on the 6th June 2016 at 6pm at Burke Street Surgery, Shildon. If you feel that you are unable to attend and have any questions please feel free to contact the Practice Manager at Jubilee Medical Group (Gill Johnson) on 01325 311300 or Dr Baliga's surgery (Janet Stephenson) on 01388 772829. Alternatively, you can write to either Practice Manager to give your feedback on this proposal. We look forward to hearing your views. We would be grateful for your feedback by no later than the 9th June 2016 and we will continue to keep you updated with any further developments. We have compiled a frequently asked question and answer sheet on our website, [www.jubileemedical.com](http://www.jubileemedical.com) which we hope you will find useful.

#### Warning—(SCAM) - Telephone Calls

Practices in the area have reported incidents of patients receiving unsolicited calls requesting their bank details in order to purchase vitamins. The caller claims that they work for the NHS before stating that the patient requires vitamins that are to be paid for over the phone, resulting in charges of hundreds of pounds. Durham Constabulary advise that anyone who has been contacted in this way contact their bank as soon as possible to attempt to block the payment, and should report it to Action Fraud (the UK's national fraud and cyber-crime reporting centre) on 0300 123 2040.

#### Urgent Care Reviews - Please visit our website and follow links to Urgent Care information.

**Late night appointments** are now available at Cobblers Hall Surgery. We are also open Saturday mornings for emergencies please present between 9am—11.30am please speak to reception staff for further details.



#### Special points of interest:

- Repeat Prescriptions and Appointments can now be made online at your convenience – See reception for details.
- Please visit [www.jubileemedical.com](http://www.jubileemedical.com) for more useful information.
- If there is anything you would like to see in future issues please e-mail the practice.
- All comments and suggestions are welcome
- **DNA appointments in April 369 (75 hours of clinical time)**