

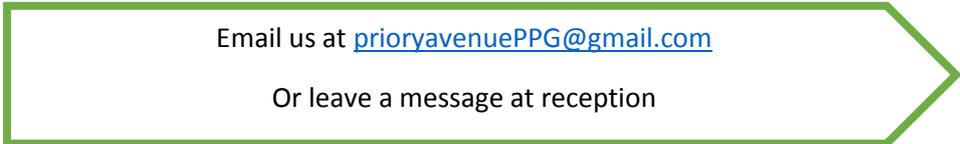
Tuesday 7th July 2015		
ZAMAN, Ashraf (Dr) (General Medical Practitioner) AZ AM SESSION PRIORY AVENUE SURGERY 09:20 11:40	ZAMAN, Ashraf (Dr) (General Medical Practitioner) AZ PM SESSION PRIORY AVENUE SURGERY 16:00	FORD, Keiron (Dr) (General Medical Practitioner) GP LOCUM TIMES AM PRIORY AVENUE SURGERY 09:30 09:40 09:50
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Optimism at Priory Avenue Surgery

The Priory Avenue Surgery is now being run by Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, as an Interim Provider. The contract to provide primary care services runs to the end of May next year. BHFT have announced that they will in due course bid to be the long term provider. All the permanent staff are staying.

There is a shortage of GP doctors in England and the previous provider was just unable to attract and retain them. BHFT are in a much better position. They are local, well connected and employ over 4000 staff in West Berkshire. It is relevant to note that amongst many other activities they run the emergency out of hours service, WestCall, as well as the Walk In Centre in Slough (not to be confused with the Walk In Centre in Reading). In addition they are the interim provider for the Circuit Lane surgery in Southcote. They have appointed Dr Rod Smith, who recently retired as a senior partner at the nearby Balmore Park surgery, as the clinical lead. He is also a Care Quality Commission inspector. New male and female doctors are being interviewed. As chairman of the Patients Group, I am optimistic that the recruitment process will be successful and that in a few months' time we will have a full complement of doctors and no longer be in the CQC's Special Measures category.

Francis Brown, Patient Group Chair



Continuity of care

The concern that is most often mentioned in the ongoing surveys is to do with continuity of care. Patients who have to attend frequently want to see the same doctor on most occasions. Until more new permanent doctors are appointed, BHFT have arranged longer term contracts with 3 of the locum doctors who have been working at the surgery for the past few months.

WEEKENDS and EVENINGS

The Patients Group are not pressing for the resumption of 7 day working 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. It did not work out well. Working more hours spread the doctors too thinly through the week and reduced the resilience to unexpected events. We are pressing though for the reintroduction of Saturday morning and some evening sessions, as permanent doctors are successfully recruited.

What happens to your answers to:

Would you recommend this surgery to your friends and family?

1. Each month, the Patients Group and the surgery use the results to assess whether the services are improving.
2. The overall results are passed on the NHS who publish them.

How to take part:

- Fill in the form in reception and put it in the box
- Or if you receive appointment text alerts, respond to the text question after your appointment.