



Auchtermuchty Health Centre

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NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2015

STAFF UPDATE:

As you will have undoubtedly been aware, the past few months have been challenging for Auchtermuchty Health Centre. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience during this period.

We are delighted to announce that from October, we have recruited an Advanced Nurse Practitioner 8 sessions per week (over 4 days). This additional role will complement our existing Nursing Team, which already includes a part-time Nurse Practitioner (Mrs Nicola Anderson).

We can also confirm that we currently have Dr Arnott working as a locum 8 sessions per week, with a view to making this a more permanent arrangement.

WHAT IS A NURSE PRACTITIONER?

The Nurse Practitioner role combines advanced nursing skills with clinical, diagnostic and treatment skills. The role provides an alternative and complimentary source of primary healthcare, alongside services traditionally provided by a General Practitioner.

It is planned that we will offer a Nurse Practitioner Triage Service in addition to an already very successful Minor Ailment Clinic. The aim of these triage appointments is to deliver a safe, appropriate and timely consultation.

Both Nurse Practitioners are qualified prescribers, and as such can offer required prescriptions when appropriate, without the need to see a GP.

HOME VISITS:

Home visiting is unique to the UK. No other country in the world has such a service, and the absence of such has not been shown to be harmful to patients.

Too many patients are requesting home visits that are inappropriate and unnecessary. This is having a damaging impact upon other aspects of our service.

If patients are seen at the practice, rather than their own homes, then quite simply more patients can be attended to by a given number of Clinicians.

We are responsible for assessing requests for visits on the basis of **clinical needs only.**

Social reasons, lack of transport or money are not appropriate reasons to request a home visit.