

Whitstable Health Centre, i.e.:
Echocardiography, Audiology, Urinary Flow Clinic, Physiotherapy Triage, Acupuncture, Chiropractic, Surgery in Primary Care, Sigmoidoscopy, Insulin Initiation etc. The new surgery will allow us to increase the range of these clinics.

Circle

Adjoining the surgery is a separate funded and managed facility provided by Circle which will not be completed until 2010.

This will be known as Whitstable Clinic and will provide the following service for NHS patients: -

- A day surgery unit with the potential for both general and local anaesthetic procedures.
- A surgical out patient department which is likely to include specialities such as: Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology, ENT, General Surgery, Gynaecology, Back Pain Management and Dermatology.
- A diagnostic unit providing x-ray, ultrasound, a range of blood tests, a visiting MRI unit and the potential for other scanning units.

Who is Circle and are they a private provider?

Circle are an independent healthcare provider who will provide a range of outpatient services, diagnostic services, and day case surgery for the NHS through Choose and Book. Patients will be able to choose where they go when a Doctor refers them to a specialist, be it one of the local hospitals or Whitstable Clinic.

Who can I talk to if I want more information?

The Practice Manager will be happy to answer any queries that you may have as will the Practice Patient User Group and the Friends of Whitstable Healthcare and Hospital.

How will patients be informed of progress of this new surgery?

The Practice will endeavour to have a news page on their website www.whitstablemedicalpractice.co.uk. Leaflets will be available in the surgeries and we are hopeful that our local newspapers will take an interest in this project and keep you informed in their weekly publications

Estuary View Pharmacy

An NHS Community Pharmacy will be located on the lower ground floor. This will provide:

- NHS Prescriptions
- Over the counter medications and other health products
- Retail sales
- Home deliveries
- Enhanced services

This pharmacy opens on the 20th March 2009 in temporary accommodation just behind the new building.



Information on the New General Practice Building Community Pharmacy and Circle Clinic At Estuary View

Answers to some of your questions



Why an additional surgery in Whitstable?

Whitstable Medical Practice is currently on two sites at Whitstable Health Centre and Chestfield Medical Centre. There are 18 GPs in the practice, and 15 nurses.

Due to the continued expansion of the population, and also the increase in healthcare services the practice offers, we do not have adequate space within these two buildings. Additional space is essential, and this will be provided by building the new surgery.

What is the name of the new surgery?

The new surgery will be called Estuary View Medical Centre as it is situated on the Estuary View Business Park to the west of Whitstable.

Are either Whitstable Health Centre and/or Chestfield Medical Centre going to close?

No most definitely not. Estuary View Medical Centre is in addition to the current facilities.

Which doctors will work out of the new site?

Six doctors currently working at Whitstable Health Centre will move to the new site. They are Doctors, Hilary Pinnock, David Kanagasooriam, Ronald Pieters, Sally Osborne, Tim Chan and Ned Carabine.

What happens if I am registered with one of these doctors and want to remain at Whitstable?

If your doctor is moving to the new surgery and you wish to remain at Whitstable please discuss your wishes with treatment room reception. They will take a note of your preferred GP and wherever possible move you to their list. We will be managing the movement of patients very carefully and monitoring the Doctors list sizes, some of which will have to be closed to new patients when they reach a certain number.

What do I have to do if my doctor is staying at Whitstable and I wish to be registered at the new surgery?

Please let treatment room reception know you wish to change to the new surgery and they will discuss your options with you.

What if I am registered at Whitstable, my Doctor is moving to the new surgery and I live in Chestfield?

If that is the case then you would probably find it easier to register with a Doctor at Chestfield. Please discuss this with treatment room reception at Whitstable.

When will the new surgery be open?

If the building schedule goes to plan, it should be around July 2009.

Will the new surgery be able to provide the same services currently provided at Whitstable and Chestfield?

Yes all three surgeries will be offering the same services to patients with the exception of the Minor Injuries Unit. (see below)

Will there be a minor injuries unit on all sites?

The Minor Injuries Unit will be moved to the new site so that patients have access to x-ray and other diagnostic services. Patients with minor injuries will not be able to be seen at all three surgeries as we have specialist nurses who run this service. In order to see a nurse at Whitstable Health Centre an appointment will have to be made in future as the flexibility of coming to take a ticket to wait will not be available (that is currently possible because of the additional Nursing which covers the Minor Injuries Unit).

What are the benefits of this new surgery?

We have many patients in west Whitstable and Seasalter, who will benefit from a GP surgery with a co-located pharmacy closer to home. The extra space will also be able to provide additional clinics for patients; a Minor Injuries Unit with additional diagnostics; a minor surgery room for skin surgery and other operations e.g. carpal tunnel decompression. In addition there will be space for expansion of our current GP training programme.

Who is providing additional services that are currently being provided by secondary care at our local hospitals?

It is current Government policy to relocate a lot of outpatient activity, diagnostics and day case surgery out of secondary care into local communities, thereby providing care closer to home. Whitstable Medical Practice are already responding to this initiative by providing additional clinics for patients in Chestfield Medical Centre and