



Downs Way Medical Practice
Istead Rise Surgery



Worcester Close
Istead Rise
Gravesend
Kent DA13 9LB

Tel: 0844 8151 333

Fax: 0844 8151 334

Shorne Village Surgery



Crown Lane
Shorne
Gravesend
Kent DA12 3DY

Tel: 0844 8151 333

Fax: 0844 8151 336

Welcome

PRACTICE HISTORY

The surgeries at Istead Rise and Shorne were opened in the late 1960s and the current practice formed in 2000 after separating from a larger four surgery practice. A new surgery at Shorne was opened in 2002, and at Istead Rise in 2007, so we now have two of the best facilities in Kent. We currently look after about 7500 patients in rural Gravesham. The practice started post-graduate GP training in 2003, and the team of four doctors was joined by a First Contact Nurse Practitioner in 2006. In 2008 the team of doctors expanded to five. In April 2009, the partnership expanded to seven, with the five doctors being joined as partners by the practice manager and the nurse practitioner.

THE PARTNERS

Dr Jayesh Patel, Dr Catherine Handy, Dr David Payne, Dr Devinder Mahil, Dr Tariq Hussain, Keith Fuller and Zara Williamson.

THE GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

Name	Qualifications	Date of Registration
Dr Jayesh R A Patel	(M) MB, ChB	1982
Dr Catherine F Handy	(F) MB, BAO, BCh, MRCGP, DCh, DRCOG	1983
Dr David J Payne	(M) MBBS, DRCOG, MRCGP	1988
Dr Devinder Mahil	(M) MBBS, BSc, MRCGP, DRCOG	2003
Dr Tariq Hussain	(M) MBBS, BSc, DCh, DFFP, MRGCP, MSc	2000

THE PRACTICE STAFF

Management, Reception and Administration

Managing Partner/Practice Manager	Keith Fuller		
Finance Manager	Angela Hooker		
Reception Manager	Brenda Clark		
Receptionists	Anne Smidmore	Dawn Walters	Asha Rathore
	Valerie Martin	Karen Brown	Beverley Stevens
	Priscilla Light		
Secretaries	Jane Henshall	Julie Hutchinson	

NURSING STAFF

First Contact Nurse Practitioner/ Nurse Partner	Zara Williamson		
Practice Nurses	Sally Hulme	Sarah Steadman	
Health Care Assistant/Phlebotomist	Katy Gullu		

DISPENSARY

Dispensary Manager	Linda Barnett		
Dispensers	Suzanne Luker	Elizabeth Ramage	
	Jane Cooper		

ATTACHED STAFF

District Nurses	Varies		
Midwife	Istead Rise - Anne Levitt		
	Shorne - Varies		
Health Visitors	Carol Banks	Alison Ward	

GENERAL PRACTITIONER REGISTRAR AND STUDENTS

Our practice is a training/teaching practice. Our GP registrars are fully qualified and have a great deal of hospital experience. GP registrars are usually attached to our practice for 12 months. They are at all times encouraged to seek advice when required from the practice partners.

We are also fortunate to have medical students attached to our practice for short periods. If you do not wish to have the student present during your consultation please inform the reception staff prior to seeing the doctor. When booking an appointment you may be offered an appointment with one of our GP registrars.

SURGERY TIMES - ISTEAD RISE

Appointment system operated

Reception hours: 8.30am-6.30pm

Emergency appointments after 10.30am. To see either a doctor or the first contact practitioner, book on the day from 8.30-11.00am. You will be asked to see the next available practitioner during the morning sessions.

Monday	Dr Patel Dr Hussain Dr Mahil Nurse Practitioner Practice Nurse	8.45-11.30am 8.45-11.30am 9.00-11.00am 8.45-11.00am	3.30-5.50pm 3.30-5.50pm 3.30-5.50pm 3.30-5.30pm 3.00-5.30pm
Tuesday	Dr Patel Dr Handy Dr Patel/Dr Handy (alt weeks) Dr Hussain Dr Payne Practice Nurse	9.00-11.30am 9.00-11.30am 8.45-11.30am 8.45-11.30am 8.45-11.00am	3.30-5.50pm 2.30-4.30pm 3.30-5.50pm
Wednesday	Dr Handy Dr Payne Dr Mahil Nurse Practitioner Practice Nurse	9.00-11.30am 8.45-11.30am 9.00-11.00am 8.45-11.00am	2.30-4.30pm 3.30-5.50pm 3.30-5.50pm 3.00-5.30pm
Thursday	Dr Patel Dr Hussain Dr Payne Nurse Practitioner Practice Nurse	8.45-11.30am 8.45-11.30am (alt weeks) 8.45-11.30am (alt weeks) 9.00-11.00am 8.45-11.00am	3.30-5.50pm 3.30-5.50pm 3.30-5.30pm
Friday	Dr Patel Dr Handy Dr Hussain Dr Mahil Nurse Practitioner Practice Nurse	8.45-11.30am 9.00-11.30am 8.45-11.30am 8.45-11.00am	3.30-5.50pm 3.30-5.50pm 3.30-5.50pm 3.30-5.30pm (alt week) 3.00-5.30pm
Saturday	Closed - but see Shone Surgery opening hours		
Baby Clinic			By appointment
Midwife	Monday	By appointment	

Please note that due to doctors' leave these times are approximate and may vary.

Late night alternate Tuesday and Wednesday evenings 6.30-8.30pm by appointment only.

SURGERY TIMES - SHORNE

Open doctors' surgery in the morning. All patients who attend by 10.30am will be seen by either a doctor or the first contact practitioner. You will be asked to see the next available practitioner during the morning sessions.

Appointments only in the afternoon.

Nurse by appointment only.

Reception hours 8.30am-12 noon 3.30-6.30pm.

The telephone is diverted to Istead Rise during lunchtime closure and Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

Monday	Dr Payne Dr Mahil Practice Nurse	9.00-10.30am 9.00-10.30am 9.00-11.30am	3.30-5.50pm
Tuesday	Dr Patel/Dr Handy (alt weeks) Dr Payne Nurse Practitioner Practice Nurse	9.00-10.30am 9.00-11.00am 9.00-11.00am	3.30-5.50pm 3.30-5.30pm
Wednesday	Dr Payne	9.00-10.30am	Closed*
Thursday	Dr Payne/Dr Hussain (alt weeks) Practice Nurse	9.00-10.30am 9.00-11.00am	3.30-5.50pm 3.30-5.50pm
Friday	Dr Handy/Dr Mahil Nurse Practitioner (alt weeks)	9.00-10.30am 9.00-11.00am	Closed*
Saturday	First Saturday monthly	8.30-11.00am By appointment	
Baby Clinic			By appointment
Midwife	Alt Thursday	9.00-10.00am	By appointment

*When surgery is closed please contact Istead Rise for any enquiries.

Please note that due to doctors' leave the actual duty doctor may vary.

APPOINTMENTS

Appointments may be made by telephoning 0844 8151 333 or by calling at the surgery. Routine appointments may be made in advance (maximum one month), which will enable us to offer you an appointment at a time best suitable to your requirements. If you cannot keep an appointment, please inform us as soon as possible as this will assist in over-subscribed situations. An answerphone option is available to leave a cancellation message.

EMERGENCIES

If you are confronted by a serious problem such as severe chest pain or severe bleeding call an ambulance (tel: 999) before calling the surgery.

TELEPHONE CONSULTATIONS

Patients are able to speak to GPs and nursing staff during the morning. Please be aware, that due to the constraints of surgery time, normally a message will be taken by the receptionist and passed to the relevant medical professional who will return your call within 48 hours.

HOME VISITS

Patients are requested to telephone before 10.00am if a visit is required that day. Emergency visits only will be arranged after that time. Please give the receptionist as much information as possible to enable the doctor to allocate priority to house calls. The doctor may wish to speak to you before attending you at home. Please remember that several patients can be seen at the surgery in the time it takes to do a home visit.

OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

For urgent advice during the day please note our telephones are manned from 8.00am to 6.30pm. Please follow the advice given on the telephone system if your usual surgery is closed. In cases of dire emergency, telephone 999.

For evening and weekend emergencies, telephone the Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Out Of Hours Service, 01322 223361. Your personal details and a brief description of the nature of the emergency will be taken by the receptionist. The duty doctor will ring you back as soon as possible to discuss your problem and decide on what course of action to take. Please ring 999 in cases of dire emergency.

REGISTRATION

We welcome patients who live within the Practice Boundary, but as we are family practitioners we prefer to register whole families. Please contact your nearest surgery. A map of the practice area is contained within this publication.

All new patients are required to fill in a health questionnaire, giving details of medical history and lifestyle, and may be offered an appointment for a new patient medical check with the practice nurse or doctor.

REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

Repeat prescriptions will be issued at the doctor's discretion and are normally for patients on long term treatment. Repeat prescription requests can be made in writing or by calling at the surgery during opening time Monday to Friday. They may also be requested by fax or via the practice website, www.downswaymedicalpractice.co.uk. Sorry, but to avoid mistakes, **we cannot take requests by phone**. We are unable to take orders or issue prescriptions at weekends, public holidays or out of normal surgery hours. Please allow **48 hours** before collection and make allowances for weekends and public holidays. Where possible give exact drug names when ordering. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you want us to post your repeat prescription back to you.

DISPENSING

We have provision to dispense to patients who live more than one mile from a chemist. The Health Service Regulations on this matter are very strict and this service can only be offered to those patients who register as dispensing when they join the practice or move house. For further information, please telephone the surgery and a member of our dispensary staff will be pleased to answer your enquiries. The practice also offers a delivery service for housebound dispensing patients, with deliveries on Tuesdays and Fridays.

DISPENSARY OPENING HOURS

For those patients able to use the practice dispensaries, opening times are as follows:

Istead Rise: Monday to Friday 8.45am-12 noon and 3.00-6.30pm

Shorne: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8.45am-12 noon and 3.00-6.30pm

Wednesday and Friday 8.45am-12 noon

TEST RESULTS

Test results and letters from local hospitals have to be checked by the doctor. Therefore please telephone for results in the afternoon from noon onwards. Some tests take longer than others. Your doctor should be able to give you an idea of how long you are likely to wait.

CLINICS

ANTENATAL CLINIC

Patients are seen by the midwife at the clinics by appointment and also by the doctors during surgery hours.

BABY CLINIC

The baby clinics are run by the practice nurses in conjunction with the doctors, for child development checks and immunisations and allow an opportunity to discuss other problems, eg sleeping, feeding and child health worries, with an appropriate health professional. The reception staff hold the telephone number for the health visiting team if required.

ASTHMA CLINIC

This is run by the practice nurses in conjunction with the nurse practitioner and doctors, by appointment only.

DIABETIC CLINIC

This is run by the nurse practitioner and practice nurses in conjunction with Dr Patel, by appointment only.

FAMILY PLANNING

Contraceptive care is provided by all doctors and nurses during normal surgery hours.

WELL WOMAN CLINICS

This clinic is run by the practice nurses for smears and discussion of women's health issues. Postnatal checks are usually completed by Dr Handy, but can be completed by other doctors as well.

WELL MAN CLINICS

This clinic is run by the practice nurses at Shorne for discussion on both general and specific male health issues.

MINOR SURGERY

Dr Patel, Dr Payne and Dr Mahil carry out minor surgical procedures by appointment and the doctors will be happy to advise you on this. Procedures required are booked by reception in strict rotation of waiting time.

NON-NHS EXAMINATIONS

The doctors are happy to carry out medicals, eg insurance and driving licence, by appointment outside of surgery hours. Please telephone the surgery for an appointment. The fees charged for these services are in line with the BMA recommended charges. Some of these services are subject to VAT.

TRAVEL IMMUNISATION / VACCINATIONS

Prior to making an appointment, please complete the pre-travel questionnaire and return it to the surgery at least eight weeks prior to your holiday to ensure adequate cover. The practice can then advise what cover you will need. A charge will be made for certain immunisations and vaccinations which are not covered by the NHS. A list of these charges is held at reception.

YELLOW FEVER VACCINATIONS

Istead Rise Surgery is an authorised Yellow Fever Vaccination Centre. Please note this is a payable private service.

FLU VACCINATION

An influenza vaccination is particularly recommended for patients with heart, lung or kidney disease, diabetes, residents of nursing and rest homes and carers.

Please contact the reception staff in October for details of the vaccination dates and to make an appointment. If you are unable to attend the surgery, a home visit may be arranged to undertake this facility.

PHLEBOTOMY

Our health care assistant is available to take blood for tests each morning. Three mornings are based at Istead Rise, one is based at Shorne and the remaining morning is shared. Please book your blood test via reception who will confirm the days available for your surgery. The HCA can also do other routine observations such as blood pressure checks and height and weight monitoring.

The following additional services are available to our patients instead of referring you to hospital:

WARFARIN MONITORING

Patients who are taking Warfarin are monitored via the anticoagulation clinics run weekly at each surgery by the nursing team. Appointments are booked direct by the team. Patients attending will need to bring their yellow record books with them on each occasion.

24-HOUR AMBULATORY BLOOD PRESSURE MONITORING

Where patients need to have a 24-hour monitoring completed (referral by the GP), this can be arranged via reception. The practice nurse at Istead Rise Surgery runs the service. It involves a 20 minute appointment one day to set up and fit the machine, followed by the return of the machine by the patient 24 hours later. During those 24 hours, the machine will take a reading every so often at set intervals (reduced in number throughout the night). These readings are then uploaded to the computer and analysed by the doctor. A diary has to be kept throughout the 24-hour period to identify any particular stresses.

ECG

The practice nurses carry out echocardiograms (ECGs). These are completed via a 20-minute appointment on referral from your GP.

7-DAY ECG

This service is available, by referral from your GP, at Istead Rise Surgery.

SERAPHIC



BEAUTY SALON



Opening Times

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 9.00pm

Saturday 9.00am - 4.00pm

- Facials
- Massage (Incl Indian Head)
- PhD Waxing
- Eyelash Perming
- Eyelash Tinting
- Manicure
- Pedicure
- Electrolysis



12 The Glades, Singlewell, Gravesend DA12 5ES

Tel: 01474 359528

or 07787 577583

10% off
with this advert

SPOIL YOURSELF - YOU DESERVE IT!

We all deserve to be pampered - and in this busy, stressful world what better way to relax and unwind than a visit to a beauty salon. There is a whole range of beauty treatments available; in short, everything you need to keep you looking and feeling utterly beautiful.

Quite literally a trip to a beauty salon can make you beautiful, from your face right down to the nails on your toes. Why not indulge your hands and feet in the healthy benefits of a manicure and pedicure. Most beauty salons offer a wide selection of affordable, top-to-toe body treatments including body massage, facials, waxing, eye treatments and electrolysis - as well as non-surgical face lifts. The list is endless.

If you are stuck for a gift idea, the majority of hair and beauty salons sell vouchers to be exchanged for treatments or products - young or old, what better gift than being pampered?

Check out the treatments offered by your local beauty salons - it's GREAT therapy! Looking good makes you feel good, and increases self confidence. So go on, spoil yourself - you deserve it!

Advertising Feature

Capturing a moment

WE often comment on how quickly our children grow up, and although we have our memories and our photographs for souvenirs, they can't replace the feeling of holding onto a baby or child when they are small.

That's exactly the reason why Melissa Rousell at Minimoos Hand and Feet Casting launched her successful business.

"I originally had my daughter's hands and feet cast to make a keepsake of them when they were young, and was astonished by the results," she said.

"The high quality casts perfectly captured their likeness for posterity, and I decided to learn the skill for myself to offer to family and friends."

With 12 years' experience as a picture framer, Melissa has a keen eye for design. "I offer a range of finishes and colours, and I mount the finished product in a bespoke, hand-made frame," she said.

The process itself is performed in the client's home, where their children are relaxed and at ease, and on average takes about 10 minutes. "It's safe, clean and it takes just seconds for the mould to take," added Melissa.

For more information, please call (01474) 331616.

minimoos

hand & feet casting by melissa



CAPTURED FOREVER
children grow so fast....

Minimoos Hand and Feet casting allows you to capture the memories. Each cast is hand painted to spec and is presented in a custom-made box frame.

To arrange an appointment in the comfort of your own home contact Melissa **01474 331616**

Advertising Feature

Advertising Feature

Generate more business with a Pay - Monthly website from OPG



OPG - HELPING THE SMALL BUSINESS GROW FOR OVER 30 YEARS

We will design and launch a top quality bespoke business-generating website for you, update it regularly at your request and provide on-going advice and support every working day.

from £20 per month

There is no up-front payment and no extras, with an option to choose a pay-as-you-go, stop-when-you-like service.

To find out more simply call
0800 612 1408

or email us at payasyougo@opg.co.uk

Why your business needs a website

WITHOUT a website, your business or practice is *invisible* to the two thirds of prospective clients that use the Internet to locate products and services, and this figure grows daily.

Worse still, if your competitors have a website and you don't, then they are picking up your share of the prospects for your type of business when they search online.

Pay As You Go websites are proving to be a godsend to small and medium-sized businesses across the UK and Ireland.

Introduced by OPG Ltd, who have been building websites for more than eight years, and whose innovative ideas have been helping businesses to grow and prosper for over 30 years, they provide businesses and professional practices with 24/7 access to their targeted market.

A website not only saves you money on brochures and other such material, it greatly increases the effectiveness of your current advertising because, in effect, you are open for business around the clock.

Uniquely, the Pay - Monthly service comes with Web Partner support. This 'phone-a-friend' facility will provide answers to your queries and help you develop your site as your business grows.

So if you don't yet have a website, or are unhappy with the one you have, call today for an informal chat on 0800 612 1408. You'll be glad you did!

To advertise your business in our booklet call 0800 612 1516

To feature your business in our booklet call 0800 612 1516

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The practice endeavours to provide a friendly and efficient service to all our patients. We welcome suggestions on how we can improve our services to you and a suggestion box is provided at each surgery for this purpose.

DISABLED ACCESS

At both surgeries reserved car parking spaces for the disabled are marked near the front door. Wheelchair access to the building is via a ramp to the front entrance. At Istead Rise Surgery a disabled patients' WC is provided near the lift and another is available on the first floor. At Shorne Surgery a disabled patients' WC is provided near the doctors' consulting rooms. If access proves difficult to any of our disabled patients we would be happy to consider any suggestions for improvement.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

We always try to provide the best service possible, but there may be times when you feel this has not happened. The following information explains our in-house complaints procedure, drawn up to respond to patient grievances. Our practice procedure is not able to deal with questions of legal liability or compensation. We hope you will use it to allow us to look into and, if necessary, correct any problems that you have identified, or mistakes that have been made. If you use this procedure it will not affect your right to complain to the Health Service Authority. Please note that we have to respect our duty of confidentiality to patients and a patient's consent will be necessary if a complaint is not made by the patient in person. If you wish to make a complaint, please telephone or write to our practice manager. Full details will be taken and a decision made on how best to undertake the investigation.

We believe it is important to deal with complaints swiftly, so you will be offered an appointment for a meeting to discuss the details within 40 days. Occasionally it may take longer, but we will keep you informed throughout. You may bring a friend or relative with you to the meeting. We will try to address your concerns, provide you with an explanation and discuss any action that may be needed.

CONFIDENTIALITY

We ask you for personal information so that you can receive appropriate care and treatment. This information is recorded on computer and we are registered under the Data Protection Act. The practice will ensure that patient confidentiality is maintained at all times by all members of the practice team, However, for the effective functioning of a multi-disciplinary team it is sometimes necessary that medical information about you is shared between members of the team.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 obliges the practice to produce a Publication Scheme. A Publication Scheme is a guide to the 'classes' of information the practice intends to routinely make available. This scheme is available from reception.

ZERO TOLERANCE

The practice supports the NHS policy of zero tolerance with regard to violence or abuse to the doctors, staff or others on the practice premises or other locations where treatment may take place. Persons abusing this policy may be reported to the police and removed from the practice list.

For the latest information click to: www.downswaymedicalpractice.co.uk

PRIMARY CARE GROUP

The practice has been included in the new governing arrangements for the NHS and is now part of the West Kent Primary Care Trust (PCT).

PRACTICE CHARTER STANDARD

YOUR DOCTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

To treat you with respect and courtesy at all times.

To treat you as an individual, and to discuss with you the care and treatment we can provide.

To give you full information on the services we offer.

To give you the most appropriate care by suitably qualified staff.

To provide you with emergency care when you need it.

To refer you to a consultant acceptable to you when necessary.

To give you access to your health records, subject to any limitations in the law.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A PATIENT

To treat all staff with respect and courtesy at all times.

To tell us if you are unsure about the treatment we are offering you.

To ask for a home visit only when the patient is unable to attend the medical centre through illness or infirmity.

To request such a visit if at all possible before 10.00am.

To ask for an out of hours visit only when necessary.

To keep your appointments and contact the medical centre in advance if you cannot.

To be punctual for appointments and to make a separate appointment for each member of the family wishing to see the doctor.

Not to expect a prescription from every consultation with a doctor. There may be other options for treatment.

To take medicines according to the instructions and to only ask for a repeat prescription if you need one.

To let us know when you change your address or telephone number.

HELP US TO HELP YOU

Our aim is to offer our patients a fast, efficient and friendly service. However, to enable us to do this we require some help from yourselves.

1. Please do not request home visits unless you are housebound or genuinely too ill to attend the surgery.
2. If you have several problems you wish to discuss with the doctor, please ask for a longer appointment. Hurried consultations are unsatisfactory for both doctor and patient alike.
3. The out of hours service is for emergencies and urgent problems which cannot wait until the following day to be seen. Please do not abuse this service.
4. If you are unable to attend an appointment, please cancel as early as possible, as this frees the appointment for someone else.
5. We always welcome suggestions as to any changes we can make to improve patient care and the services we offer. If you have any suggestions, please let us know by putting your idea in writing to the practice manager.

For 24 hour information click to: www.downswaymedicalpractice.co.uk

SELF TREATMENT OF COMMON ILLNESSES AND ACCIDENTS

Many common aches and pains can be simply treated at home without the need to consult a doctor.

BACK PAIN

Back pain causes 13 million working days to be lost in Britain each year. The spine supports the whole weight of the upper body so it is understandable that it sometimes goes wrong.

Because of the complex nature of the spine it is advisable to consult your doctor if back pain persists for more than a few days. If, as is usual, the pain has been caused by abuse ie lifting too heavy weights etc, be sensible and take things easy. Take care to sit as upright as possible with a support for the small of the back.

Take aspirin or paracetamol which will not only relieve the pain but will help to relieve inflammation. Your doctor may well prescribe stronger drugs, heat treatment, gentle exercise or some kind of supportive corset.

BED SORES

Bed sores are far easier to prevent than cure. They are caused by prolonged pressure to certain parts of the body when lying in bed for long periods. They can be prevented by encouraging the patient to shift position as often as possible. Take care to smooth out creases in the bottom sheet to avoid irritation. If red marks appear at the pressure points such as heels, elbows, buttocks and hips, inform the doctor before they get worse.

BURNS

Apply large quantities of cold water to the affected area as soon as possible and maintain this until the pain subsides. This may take as long as 15 minutes! If the skin is unbroken but blistered, apply a loose, dry dressing.

If the burn is larger than four or five inches in diameter or if the skin is broken, consult your doctor as soon as possible.

COLDS

Even in this day and age there is still no magic cure for the common cold. Go to bed, take plenty of drinks. If you have a headache or are feverish, take aspirin or paracetamol. Do not bother to take antibiotics as these will have no effect!

DIARRHOEA

In adults, diarrhoea is usually caused by a viral infection and is therefore unable to be treated directly. The symptoms can usually be eased by the traditional kaolin and morphine mixture or by medicines containing codeine.

Holiday diarrhoea is often due to bacteria. Again, kaolin and morphine can be taken.

Consult your doctor if the symptoms persist for more than a few days.

Diarrhoea in very young children and babies needs careful attention. Most babies have loose bowel action during their first six months due to their predominantly liquid diet. Sudden bouts of unusually watery diarrhoea should be treated by taking the baby off solids and feeding them a cooled solution of boiled water with a teaspoon of sugar and half a teaspoon of salt to the pint. If the symptoms persist for more than 24 hours, or are accompanied by vomiting or weakness, consult your doctor.

GASTROENTERITIS

Gastroenteritis describes a group of diseases affecting the stomach or part of the intestine. Symptoms are often diarrhoea, sickness and stomach ache. Because the lining of the stomach is likely to be inflamed medicines are often immediately vomited up.

Large quantities of water, orange juice, milk or thin soup should be taken to counter the effects of dehydration. Consult your doctor if symptoms persist for more than a day or, in the case of babies or young children, six hours.

STOMACH ACHE

Most attacks are not serious and are usually caused by indigestion or wind. A hot water bottle will often relieve the symptoms and, in the case of indigestion, a teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda in half a glass of water will help.

If the pain lasts for longer than eight hours or increases in intensity you should consult your doctor.

SPRAINS

Treat with a cold compress, containing ice if possible, for 15 to 30 minutes to reduce the swelling.

Then apply, firmly, a crepe bandage and give the sprain plenty of rest until all discomfort has subsided.

Further strain will inevitably lead to further swelling and a longer recovery period.

NOSEBLEEDS

Sit in a chair, lean forward with your mouth open, and pinch your nose just below the bone for approximately 10 minutes, by which time the bleeding should have stopped. Avoid hot drinks or hot food for 24 hours. If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

MINOR CUTS AND GRAZES

Wash the wound thoroughly with water and a little soap. To stop bleeding apply a clean handkerchief or dressing firmly to the wound for about five minutes. Cover with a clean dry dressing.

SUNBURN

Treat as for other burns with cold water to remove the heat. Calamine lotion will relieve the irritation whilst paracetamol will also help.

Children are particularly susceptible to sunburn and great care should be taken to avoid overexposure to the harmful effects of the sun.

INSECT BITES AND STINGS

Antihistamine tablets can be obtained from the chemist without prescription and will usually relieve most symptoms.

Note: bee stings should be scraped away rather than 'plucked' in order to avoid squeezing the contents of the venom sac into the wound.

HEAD LICE

These creatures, contrary to popular belief, prefer clean hair and are, therefore, not a sign of poor personal hygiene. Medicated head lotion can be obtained from the chemist without prescription.

CHICKENPOX

On the first day a rash appears as small red patches about 3-4mm across. Within a few hours of these developing, small blisters appear in the centre of these patches. During the next three or four days further patches will appear and the earlier ones will turn 'crusty' and fall off.

Calamine lotion may be applied to soothe the often severe itching. Cool baths may also help. The most infectious period is from two or three days before the rash appears and up to five days after this date. Children may return to school as soon as the last 'crusts' have dropped off.

GERMAN MEASLES (RUBELLA)

The rash appears during the first day and usually covers the body, arms and legs in small pink patches about 2-4mm across and doesn't itch. No other symptoms are usually present apart from occasional aching joints.

It is infectious from two days before the rash appears, until the rash disappears in about four or five days from that date.

The only danger is to unborn babies and, therefore, it is important that all contacts are informed in order that anyone who may be pregnant can contact their doctor.

Immunisation can prevent this disease.

MEASLES

The rash is blotchy and red and appears on the face and body around the fourth day of illness. It is at its most infectious from two or three days before the rash appears until eight or ten days after that date.

Immunisation can prevent this disease.

MUMPS

Symptoms are swelling of the gland in front of one ear often followed, after a couple of days, by swelling in front of the other ear. It is infectious from two or three days before the swelling appears until eight or ten days after that date. If the pain is severe you should consult your doctor.

Immunisation can prevent this disease.

CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

CKD means your blood test results have shown a small reduction in your kidney function. The result may be temporary and kidney function can improve. About 1 in 10 people has some degree of CKD. It becomes more common with increasing age, although it can develop at any time. About half of people aged 75 or more have CKD.

WHAT CAUSES CKD?

The commonest causes of CKD are ageing kidneys and high blood pressure.

IS CKD SERIOUS?

Most people with CKD do not have any symptoms. The clinicians at Downs Way Medical Practice will have looked at your blood result and the surgery will contact you if further action needs to be taken. In most cases there is no further action apart from repeating the blood test in a year. For others it may mean repeating the blood test sooner and sending a urine sample off to the hospital for analysis. If this is the case the surgery will contact you.

WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR CKD?

For the majority of patients we just need to monitor the condition. If you need more tests the surgery will contact you. In some cases the surgery may ask you to have your blood pressure checked or review your medication.

For the latest information click to: www.downswaymedicalpractice.co.uk

WHY HAVEN'T I BEEN TOLD I HAVE CKD?

Most cases of CKD show a very small drop in kidney function and require little more than monitoring. Kidney function can also improve. If the practice feels more needs to be done they will contact you.

WHY HAVE I BEEN INVITED TO HAVE A SWINE FLU VACCINE?

The Department of Health has identified patients at increased risk of complications from Swine Flu. They have included patients with CKD with the aim of vaccinating all of them regardless of whether they have mild or severe forms of the condition. Therefore patients with mild CKD have been included.

Downs Way Medical Practice advises you to have the vaccine even if you have mild CKD.

NOTES

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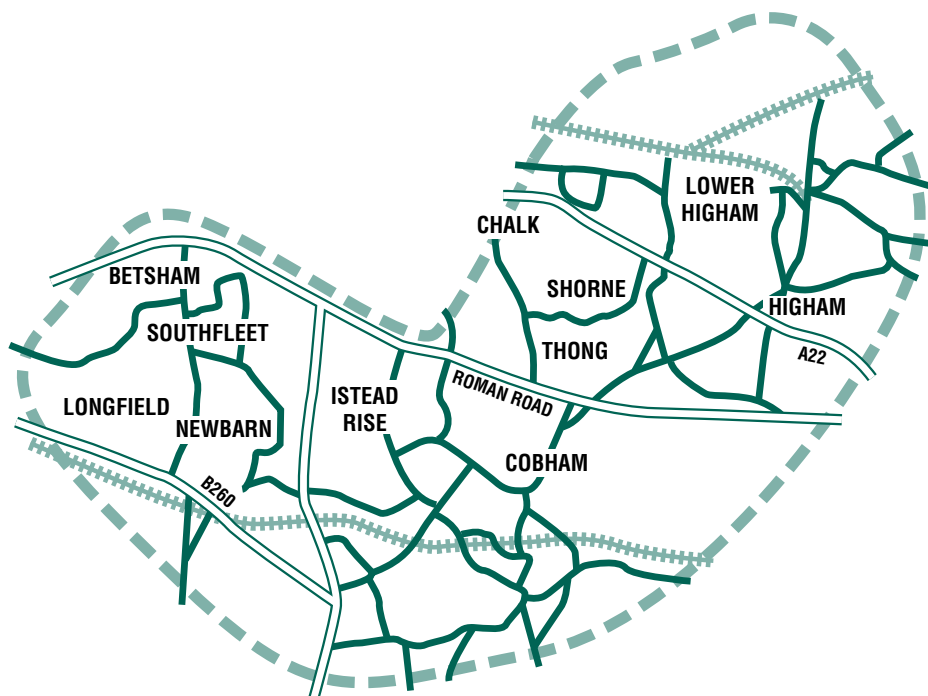
for Drs Patel, Handy, Payne, Mahil & Hussain of Gravesend

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PRACTICE BOUNDARY



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Emergencies.....	999
NHS Direct.....	0845 4647
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