Medical Registrations for new students at New College

Dear Student,

Congratulations on getting your place at Oxford! We hope you have an enjoyable and productive time here.

We are writing to introduce ourselves as the New College doctors. We are currently based at a surgery in 28 Beaumont Street, located 5 minutes’ walk from the College and will be moving to a new location opposite the Covered Market in January. All our doctors are NHS general practitioners (GPs): we work just like other practices around the country, and we are not employees of a college or the University.

We operate a strictly confidential service but are able to talk to tutors or others on the Welfare Committee at your request. We have a special interest in students, who make up around a third of our list of patients and are experienced in dealing with the medical problems commonly encountered by students, including travel medicine, sports injuries, sexual health, stress/mental health, and vaccinations. We understand how illness and injury can impact upon your studies and are familiar with the procedures for certification if you need medical evidence for coursework or exams - and do not charge you for this additional paperwork.

It is very important that you have ready access to coordinated healthcare whilst here in Oxford, and a College Doctor is also well placed to advocate for you within the University on medical matters. NHS England is clear that full time students are “resident” at their university address, not at their parental home, and so expects you to register with a GP here. The University and your College also strongly recommend that you register with the College Doctor. Remember you can still see your previous GP as a temporary patient during the vacation but there are clear advantages to being normally registered in Oxford. We can also send repeat prescription requests electronically/remotely to almost any pharmacy in England now. If you choose to register with a different practice, you must tell the College the name and contact details of your doctor so that they can contact them in an emergency.

Registration with us simply requires you to complete an on-line registration form, a health questionnaire and a consent form for information sharing. Please do this as soon as possible- the deadline for submission is the end of September.

Go to www.campusdoctor.co.uk/oxford and follow the instructions.

Please remember to use your College address (not home address) and to complete all sections wherever possible. It may help you to answer the questions if you ask your current practice to
print out a summary of your computer record, including vaccinations (this is usually called a ‘brief summary’ - i.e., not your entire medical record!) or some may be able to access this information via the NHS app. If you prefer to register off-line, this is still possible but will require filling in paper forms available by contacting us directly. Please note that you will be registered under a particular “named doctor” in the practice, but you are free to consult with any of our doctors.

If you are currently registered with another doctor in the UK, once the forms are returned your medical records will be recalled from your home GP, so that they can be accessed by the College doctors when necessary. If you have a significant medical history and are coming from outside the UK, it is helpful to bring copies of recent doctors’ letters and important notes (translated to English please).

A plea for the future: please make sure that over the years that you spend in Oxford, your contact details remain up to date. We rely on you to tell us about any changes in address, phone number and email contacts and it is vital that we are able to contact you quickly if needed.

We also increasingly communicate with patients via phone, text and email, so agreeing to these lines of communication is very helpful.

We will review the medical information received and may contact you to arrange outstanding immunisations, or a telephone or face to face appointment with a GP if you have a long term health condition. Please see NHS Choices for details of the UK Immunisation schedule.

If you are on repeat medication, we strongly encourage you to bring sufficient to tide you over the first month at least. Prior to setting up any regular repeat prescription, you will need to make a standard doctor’s appointment at the practice. If you are coming from outside the UK, please be aware that there are licensing and marketing differences around the world so not all medication/brands may be available. We would aim to switch your prescription to the nearest alternative if this is the case. We also prescribe according to our local commissioning group’s recommendations which are based on evidence of efficacy, but also cost. Some medication is only prescribed with secondary care doctors’ involvement – for example, ADHD drugs – and requires onward referral, so please do bring sufficient medication with you as this can take some time.

We encourage you to visit our website if you would like to learn more about the practice and its staff and look forward to meeting you early in the Michaelmas term.

Yours sincerely,

Drs Matt Easdale, Chloe Borton, Rachel Allan and Adam Prewett