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PRACTICE PROFILE

This is a rural, dispensing practice covering approximately 200 square miles of countryside at the foot of the Mendip hills, 12 miles south of Bristol, in a designated area of outstanding beauty. The surgery is situated a scenic 25 minute drive from the centre of Bristol.

The practice population of 6,500 is spread evenly throughout the area in several small villages. The demographic profile of the practice is mixed, with established Mendip families and more recent newcomers, many of whom commute to Bristol or Bath.



Harptree Surgery

The original practice, centred on West Harptree, expanded following the acquisition of a neighbouring practice, and is now run from two sites, one in West Harptree and one in Temple Cloud. Approximately 3,500 patients are registered at Harptree Surgery and 3,000 at Cameley Surgery, Temple Cloud.

Harptree Surgery was purpose built in 1987 and Cameley Surgery was converted from a stable around 30 years ago. Both sites have full staff cover and are comprehensively equipped, and there is a designated registrar's consulting room at each surgery. We are a paperless practice, with all patient records, dispensing and laboratory results actioned on the computer. We also use the clinical system for internal e-mails. There is a practice intranet.

We have an excellent relationship with all members of the Primary Health Care Team. We also have close links with the dental practice on the Harptree site. Our loyal practice staff include a practice manager, dispensers, receptionists, medical record summariser, treatment room nurses and a health care assistant. The community midwife, physiotherapist and mental health counselors also work from the surgery. The three partners all work full time and there are also two part-time assistants.

We have been a training practice since 1990 during which time eighteen registrars have completed their training, one of whom is now a partner. We became a PMS (Personal Medical Services) practice in April 2001 and score highly for QOF. We employ a specialist nurse who runs clinics for CHD, diabetes and asthma. The doctors perform child health surveillance, a wide range of minor surgery and casualty work. One partner is an experienced fitter of IUCDs and one participates in the PCT minor ops service provision. As a training practice we are associated with the Bristol Vocational Training Scheme. Registrars are encouraged to participate in all aspects of practice activities. Specific time is assigned for personal study or external visits, and swaps with registrars in contrasting practices are arranged as required.

Out of hours calls are routed through to the local Primary Care Emergency Centre at Paulton Hospital. Registrars may gain out of hours experience by working sessions at the Bath & North East Somerset Emergency Medical Service at Paulton with supervisory back-up by a partner.



Countryside surrounding Harptree Surgery

We enjoy a good quality of life in lovely surroundings, with good sports and leisure facilities (Chew Valley lake and 3 local sports centres). The area has a reputation for its musical and theatrical events and a wide range of shopping and leisure facilities are available within half an hour, in Wells, Bristol, Bath and Weston-super-Mare.

We think our practice is a happy and stimulating place to work, and ideal place to see all the best that General Practice has to offer, and we offer a training post which we hope will infect you with our enthusiasm for family medicine.



View of Harptree Surgery from car park