

Dean Medical Practice Newsletter

For Coleford & Brunston Surgeries & Lydbrook Health Centre

Autumn 2026 edition

G DOC- Our Mission, Our Vision, Our Values and Our Pillars:



Our Patients and Our Workload

We currently care for **13402 patients**. Every appointment and call matters—thank you for your patience and kindness as we support our community.

Surgery New Build

Everything is all on track and GDOC have confirmed that the New Build will hopefully be starting in October 2026 and should hopefully be finished around end of Autumn 2027.

Help Us, Help You

- Label any readings or samples with your **name and date of birth and date**
- Drop off **samples before 2:30pm** at Coleford Medical Practice, Railway Drive
- Call **after 11am** for test results—or check anytime on the **NHS app**

Non-NHS work

If you have any inquiries about non-NHS work, e.g. medical reports, please contact reception in-person or by telephone.

Management Queries and Practice Feedback

For matters directed to the Practice Manager—such as complaints, suggestions, or general management queries—please email: glicb.colefordmedicalpractice@nhs.net

We aim to reply within three working days. If you do not receive a response, it is possible that the NHS mail filter has blocked your message. In that case, we ask that you follow up by phone, in person, or by post to ensure that we receive your query.

New Clinicians

We would like to welcome our new Clinicians who have started with the practice this year:

Dr Claire Hawcroft- GP- Started with us in January, 2 days per week

Dr Louise Heath- GP- Started with us in April, 2 days per week

Dr Debbie Frith- GP- Started with us in July, 2 days per week

Claire Vaughan- Pharmacy Technician- Starting with us in September

This is following **Dr Seb Nicholls'** retirement and other GP's, **Dr Barbara Cummins** and **Dr Jack Nicholson** who have reduced their sessions from 3 days to 2 days per week.



Appointment Information

Surgery Appointment Locations

- **Coleford** and **Lydbrook Health Centre** now host most routine appointments.
 - **Brunston Surgery** operates as our urgent care triage hub.

We may ask you to attend a site you have not used before, though many staff work across all three to ensure continuity of care. These changes have improved both efficiency and patient experience.

Availability and Booking

GPs: Mon–Fri, 8:30am – 5:30pm

Nurses: Mon–Fri, 8:45am – 5:30pm

Specialists: By appointment

Booking an Appointment:

- To book an appointment please use our website: deanmedicalpractice.nhs.uk/ (on the main screen click on ‘**appointments**’ and then choose to ‘**request a routine appointment**’ or ‘**get help with any health problem**’. Here this will ask you to complete a form with your appointment request and we will schedule this appointment for you). Our website has recently merged with Blakeney Surgery however, you can still request an appointment the same way. You can select your ‘**Usual Branch Site**’ on the form.
- Call us on **01594 838108** during opening hours.

We will guide you to the most appropriate healthcare professional based on your needs.

Enhanced Access

Evening and Saturday appointments are available across West Forest of Dean PCN practices. These sessions include GPs, nurses, and other clinical staff. We offer these appointments to all registered patients when appropriate.

Missed Appointments (DNA)

In **August**, 4131 minutes of clinical time were lost due to missed appointments—please cancel if you cannot attend. It is quick and easy via **01594 838108**, the **NHS app**, or the cancellation link in your reminder.

Meningitis (MenB) Vaccinations for Young People

The MenB vaccine is now offered, until March 2027, to young people who were born:

- Between 1st September 2007 and 31st August 2008
- On or after 21st July 2001 and are starting university or starting at [some further education colleges \(GOV.UK\)](https://www.gov.uk) for the first time in autumn 2026 and living at further education accommodation.

Eligible patients will be sent a letter from NHSE with booking link for the MenB vaccine. You can also book with pharmacies.

- **First doses can be booked until 30th December 2026 with last appointments on 31st December 2026.**
- **Second doses can be booked until 30th March 2027 with last appointments on 31st March 2027.**

Autumn 2026: Vaccination Clinics: COVID-19 + Flu

As we head into the colder months, our practice is preparing to deliver seasonal COVID-19 and flu vaccinations to eligible patients. These vaccines are key to staying well and reducing the risk of serious illness this winter.

Appointments & Clinics

We will start sending out invitations in August via text, email, phone, or letter. Clinics may include Saturday sessions to make access easier. Once invited, please book promptly to secure your slot.

If you have not received an invitation by the end of September and believe you are eligible, contact the practice team.

The COVID-19 vaccine will be offered to:

- Adults aged 75 and over
- Residents in care homes for older adults
- Individuals who are immunosuppressed

The Flu vaccine will be offered to:

- Pregnant women
- Children aged 2–3 years
- Primary and secondary school-aged children
- Children in clinical risk groups aged 6 months to under 18
- Adults aged 65 and over
- Adults aged 18–64 in clinical risk groups
- Carers, close contacts of immunocompromised individuals, and frontline social care workers



Dispensary Services



Opening Hours as below. To learn more, please contact us directly.

Coleford Health Centre:

Mon-Fri: 9:00am-12:45pm & 1:30pm-6pm

Lydbrook Health Centre:

Mon: 8:30am-1pm/ 1:30pm-6pm | **Wed:** 8:45am-12:45pm | **Tues, Thurs & Fri:** 8:30am-1pm

Changes to Lydbrook Reception & Dispensary

We will have a receptionist on site on the above days and times. This also includes when we are holding clinical sessions at Lydbrook. Clinical sessions usually occur on Monday- all day and Tuesday- morning:

This change means:

- All prescriptions are being dispensed from Coleford Surgery and delivered to Lydbrook Health Centre.
- All Lydbrook patients on controlled drugs must collect from Coleford Surgery. They will not be delivered to Lydbrook.
- Any queries not related to dispensed medication, including booking/requesting appointments/changes, test results etc. will need to be dealt with by phone or via our website.
- We will no longer accept medication returns. You can take to any local pharmacy.
- Paper repeat medication requests can still be handed in, although you can order your medication via our website or the NHS App, which we strongly recommend patients sign up to. Using the NHS App helps us process requests more efficiently, whilst providing lots of other benefits including being able to see letters and appointments. Plans to develop it even further are well under way. If you need help to set it up, please contact us. **When ordering prescriptions please allow 7 days (excluding weekends and bank holidays).**

To download the NHS App, please visit: www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/



Pharmacy Information

Pharmacy Services Near You:

Coleford Pharmacy & Day Lewis Pharmacy - Located in Pyart Court, Coleford, GL16 8RG.

Drybrook Pharmacy - Located on Drybrook Road, GL17 9JA.

Day Lewis Pharmacy - Located on 42 Park Road, Berry Hill, GL16 7AG.

Services include prescriptions, health checks, vaccinations, emergency contraception, smoking support, and more.

Urgent Medication

If you run out of medication **Out of Surgery hours:**

- Use the **NHS pharmacy finder** for open pharmacies
- Check the **Community Pharmacy on-call rota** displayed on the window of the surgery
- Contact **NHS 111**
- Bring packaging of previous medication if you can when visiting a pharmacy without a prescription

Pharmacy First

The NHS Pharmacy First scheme lets community pharmacists treat seven common conditions:

Impetigo (aged 1 year and over), infected insect bites (aged 1 year and over), earache (aged 1 to 17 years), sore throat (aged 5 years and over), sinusitis (aged 12 years and over), urinary tract infections (UTIs) (women aged 16 to 64 years) and shingles (aged 18 years and over)

UTIs – Go Straight to the Pharmacy

Females aged 16–65 with UTI symptoms (e.g. burning, frequent urination) can visit a pharmacy directly under **Pharmacy First**- no GP visit or sample needed. **We may not accept any urine samples at any of our surgeries that a Clinician has not requested. Samples that are unlabelled, with no name or in an incorrect bottle will be destroyed.**



West Forest of Dean PCN

Our practice is part of a Primary Care Network (PCN) alongside Blakeney, Lydney, Severnbank, and Yorkley surgeries. Together, we are delivering more connected, patient-focused care through tailored services, flexible appointments, expanded healthcare teams, and shared technology and resources.

Patient Participation Group



A Patient Participation Group (PPG) is a group of patients, carers and GP practice staff who meet to discuss practice issues and patient experience to help improve the service and to make reasonable efforts for this to be representative of the practice population. The group meets at Coleford Medical Practice every 3 months on a Wednesday afternoon.

If you would like to join our group, please email: colefordppg@yahoo.com



Further Information + Updates

Protected Learning Time

- The practice will be operating reduced afternoon opening hours on the dates below to allow staff to participate in Protected Learning Time (PLT) training sessions. **The surgery will be closed between from 12:30pm until 6:00pm on these dates.**
- During these periods, routine services may be limited.
- Urgent care and essential services will continue to be provided as appropriate at our Duty Hub, Brunston Surgery. Brunston Surgery will have telephone lines open, and the door will be closed but accessible to patients via the doorbell.

PLT Dates

Thursday 10th September

Tuesday 6th October

Wednesday 4th November

Wednesday 2nd December

Telephone System

We upgraded to a digital phone system last Autumn—no more call cutoffs. **You can now hold even during busy times or choose the option to have a call back later. There is also an option for patients to view the current call queue on our website.** This will allow patients to see how many callers are waiting to be answered.

AI Scribe

We have incorporated a new system called AI Scribe. This is a digital assistant that clinicians may use to listen to a consultation and write the clinical notes automatically. This doesn't make decisions or diagnose, it simply turns the spoken conversation into a structured medical note that the GP will then check, edit and approve.

Digital Switch Over

The “digital switchover” refers to traditional analogue phone lines being replaced with digital systems, primarily using internet protocol (IP) for calls. This transition, which will be completed by 2027, affects everyone who uses a landline, including many elderly individuals, particularly those relying on telecare devices like personal alarms. It is crucial for individuals or their caregivers to contact their landline provider to ensure their telecare equipment will work with the new digital system.

You can access more information by copying the link below:

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/ok0hd55p/digital-switchover-easy-read-text.pdf

Forest Compass

The Forest Compass is a physical and online directory listing many of the regular activities, support groups and clubs available in the Forest of Dean.

You can access more information by selecting the link below:

<https://www.fvaf.org.uk/forestcompass>



Important Information + Contacts



Support Contacts

Helpful numbers in the community:

- **GDASS Domestic Violence:** 01452 726570
- **Forest of Dean District Council:** 01594 810000
- **Forest Voluntary Action Forum:** 01594 822073
- **Gloucestershire Carers' Hub:** 0300 1119000
- **Lydcare Transport Services:** 01594 544414
- **Childline free phone number:** 0800 1111

Defibrillator Locations

To access a defibrillator, **call 999** for locations, instructions, and access codes.

Gloucestershire Care Support

If you're looking for social care in Gloucestershire, this Guide is a great introduction to what care services are on offer in your local area.

Gloucestershire Care and Support Guide | Care Choices

As well as useful information on paying for care and help to stay independent, the guide includes lists of home care in Gloucestershire and care homes and nursing homes.

The Gloucestershire Care Services Directory can be obtained free from The Adult Social Care Helpdesk. Call 01452 426868.

Customer Care Hub (0300 422 6360)

To check your referral with Gloucestershire Hospitals, either call the Customer Care Hub directly (see below) or press 2 when calling us and you will be redirected straight to them.

Tracking a referral: Contact the Care Hub for updates on referrals and appointments at Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

This is available: Mon & Wed: 8am–6pm | **Tue, Thu & Fri:** 8am–4pm | **Sat:** 8am–1pm

Thank You

We are grateful to have you as part of our community. We hope this newsletter has been helpful. Your thoughts and suggestions are always welcome—please do share your feedback.

Warm regards,

Coleford & Brunston Surgeries & Lydbrook Health Centre