

Important Dates

The surgery will be closed for the bank holiday on Monday 25th August 2025

Child Vaccine Clinics

We hold a child vaccination clinic at the surgery every Tuesday & Friday.

When your child is due a vaccine or booster we will contact you via text or letter.

Ask to speak with one of our Practice Nurses if you have any vaccination queries.

Alternatively, you can find further info on vaccines at www.nhs.uk/conditions/ vaccinations/nhsvaccinations-and-when-tohave-them

Surgery Hours

08:00-18:30 Monday to Friday

08:00-12:00 Saturday (*Pre-booked appts only*)

Tel: 01772 376 777

Berry Lane Medical Centre **NEWSLETTER**

July 2025

A warm welcome to the Summer edition of the Berry Lane Medical Centre Newsletter. I hope

you are all well and enjoying the ever-changeable British weather!

for prescription medication or referral to a specialist.

We do seem to be having our fair share of hot, sunny days this year, and with this, comes a range of health challenges. Hay fever seems to be a very common problem currently with many people experiencing troublesome symptoms, including sneezing, runny nose and itchy eyes. When the pollen count is high, a number of things can help reduce exposure. This could include keeping windows shut, vacuuming regularly, avoiding drying clothes/bedding outside and using Vaseline around the nostrils to trap pollen. If these simple things don't help our local pharmacists will be able to advise on over the counter treatments, such as non-drowsy antihistamine tablets, nasal sprays and eye drops. When symptoms are severe or not Improving with treatment, please consider booking an appointment here at the surgery to review the need

It is currently 28°C outside whilst writing this introduction and it would only be right to remind people of the importance of not spending too much time in the sun, wearing sun cream (of at least SPF 30 with 4-star UVA protection) and keeping well-hydrated on these hot days.

Here at the surgery, there have been some staff changes in the last few months. We have said goodbye to nurses Tanya Papius and Naimat Jan, who were highly skilled and valued members of the clinical team. Also leaving, Lisa Dowthwaite in the administration team, and receptionist Mandy Coupe, who were both part of the Berry Lane family for a long time. Claire Foster has left her role as pharmacy technician and Assistant Practice Manager, Amanda Price, has also moved on to new challenges. We are also sorry to be losing Dr Matthew Deeley who has done a great job looking after Dr Prosser's patients during her maternity leave. We wish them all the best of look with their futures!

New staff recently starting at the surgery include nurses Harry Goodall and Chloe Horby, who are both settling in well to their nursing roles. We are also pleased to welcome the addition of Sarah Hayhurst to the nursing team. Lucia Walmsley and Sally Counsel have recently joined the reception team and Maya Luke has taken on the roll of Assistant Practice Manager. We are pleased that Dr Oliver Wade, who has been working here as a GP trainee doctor, has now finished his training and will be joining the team as a fully qualified GP from August. It also won't be long until we welcome back Dr Olivia Prosser following her maternity leave, and we are very much looking forward to doing so.

As many of you may already know, this year there has been deep sorrow with the death of Dr Metcalf's beloved husband. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family during this time of grief. Dr Metcalf is going to be running the London Marathon in April 2026 in memory of Tom and raising money for the Samaritans charity. If anyone would like to donate, please follow the link on our practice Facebook post <u>https://www.facebook.com/BerryLaneMedicalCentre/</u> <u>posts/1311585054307790/</u>

As a Surgery that offers "personal lists", we feel that we can offer better continuity of care for patients. This does however mean that over the next few weeks, as a lot of the GPs are taking time off to be with our families, there may be a slightly longer waiting time to see your own GP. Please contact our reception staff to discuss other options if you feel you need to be seen more urgently.

I hope you all have a lovely summer.

Kind Regards Dr Richard Smirk

🕀 berrylanemedicalcentre.co.uk 🦳 berrylanemedicalcentre@nhs.net

facebook.com/BerryLaneMedicalCentre

Lung Cancer Screening Programme

Supporting earlier diagnosis of lung cancer

Lung Cancer Screening is an NHSE initiative currently being rolled out across England.

Invitations will be sent from June 2025. We estimate that it will take 10 months to invite all eligible residents in the Preston area.

In Preston, there are 19,697 people identified as smokers and former smokers aged 55-74.

Why it's important

- Lung cancer is the most common cause of death from cancer in the UK. •
- 70% 90% of lung cancers are undetected during the early stages due to the lack symptoms.
- 80% of people diagnosed with a stage 1 (NSCLC) lung cancer can expect to . survive for 5 years or more.
- < 20% of people diagnosed with a stage 3 and 4 lung cancer survive for 5 ears or more.
- Lung cancer screening has a proven track record of detecting lung cancer . at an early stage.
- To date, 73% of all lung cancers found by lung cancer screening in Lancashire have been at stage 1 or stage 2, compared to 30% without this kind of intervention.
- To date, over 330 lung cancers have been diagnosed through the • Lancashire programme.

How the lung cancer screening team will support you

- . We complete all the administrative tasks around the issuing of invitations and booking of appointments.
- We take responsibility for all referrals into secondary care as required. •
- We will inform you by letter re patient outcomes. •

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Our nursing team will personally contact patients requiring further . investigations.

Web: Lung cancer screening in Lancashire and South Cumbria - roycastle.org Web: www.lancashireandsouthcumbria.icb.nhs.uk/lungchecks

For general enquiries from patients, please contact lscicb.lungscreening.enquiries@nhs.net



vnload the free

- NHS Quit Smoking app. The app allows you to: Track your progress See how much money

- you're saving Get daily support Keep on top of your cravings Nominate a Quit Buddy





Make 2025 the year you quit smoking for good

When you quit smoking, good things start to happen. You'll begin to see almost immediate improvements to your health.

It's never too late to quit and it's easier to stop smoking with the right support. Why not start by downloading the free NHS Quit Smoking app to track your progress and get daily motivation?

You don't need to imagine a life without smoking, you can live it!

What happens when you quit?

The sooner you quit, the sooner you'll notice changes to your body and health.

After 20 minutes

Check your pulse rate, it will already be starting to return to normal.

After 8 hours

Your oxygen levels are recovering, and the harmful carbon monoxide level in your blood will have reduced by half

After 48 hours

Your carbon monoxide levels have dropped to that of a non-smoker. Your lungs are clearing out mucus and your senses of taste and smell are improving

After 72 hours

If you notice that breathing feels • easier, it's because your bronchial tubes have started to relax. Also your energy will be increasing.

After 2 to 12 weeks

Blood will be pumping through to your heart and muscles much better because your circulation will have improved.

After 3 to 9 month

Any coughs, wheezing or breathing problems will be improving as your lung function increases by up to 10%.

After 1 year

Great news! Your risk of heart attack will have halved compared with a smoker's.

After 10 years

More great news! Your risk of death • from lung cancer will have halved

Smokefree Lancashire provides faceto-face smoking support across Lancashire.

Visit

www.smokefreelancashire.org.uk to find out more.

Staff Spotlight



Assistant Manager

I joined Berry Lane Medical Centre as Assistant Manager in December 2024 from another GP Practice. I have worked in GP practice for 10 years, with a variety of roles, including administration, secretarial and management. I am really enjoying my time here, and all staff have made me feel very welcome.

As Assistant Manager, my role is to support the Practice Director and contribute to the smooth running of the practice.

My role is very varied, which involves assisting in a range of administrative, staff HR and financial functions, ensuring premises and equipment checks are up to date and complying with Health & Safety regulations. I also make sure all of our stock levels are maintained and vaccines are available for your appointments.

Outside of work, I enjoy socialising with friends and family, watching my local football team & travelling.



Help build a health service fit for the future

Changing the NHS is going to involve everyone. The government wants to hear people's views, experiences and ideas as part of this engagement to help shape the 10 Year Health Plan for England.

Have your say at change.nhs.uk

Age extension 50 & 52 year olds Lancashire bowel cancer screening programme

The Lancashire bowel cancer screening programme fully age extended on 21 May 2025 meaning people will now start to be invited for screening once they turn 50 and 52 years of age. This is the final phase of the NHS ambition to offer bowel cancer screening to all eligible people aged 50 to 74 years. Those registered with GP practices in Morecambe Bay are linked to the Cumbria and Morecambe Bay bowel cancer screening programme which completed age extension earlier this year.

Looking after your eyes

Your eyes are affected by your lifestyle and health conditions elsewhere in your body.

In the UK, more than two million people are living with sight loss. Of these, around 340,000 are registered as blind or partially sighted. This campaign provides information on how you can keep your eyes, and your sight, healthy.

Keep your eyes healthy

- Get your eyes tested regularly: You should have an eye test at least once every two years with your local optometrist (optician) - even if you have not experienced any change in your vision.
- Safety first protect your eyes: You should wear sunglasses to protect your eyes from the sun and never look directly at the sun as this can cause irreversible damage to your eyesight and could lead to blindness. You should also protect your eyes when doing DIY to avoid injury, so ensure you wear proper safety goggles or safety glasses.
- Look after your eyes when using a screen such as a computer or iPhone:

Apply the 20-20-20 rule – every 20 minutes look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds. That will give your eye muscles a rest.

• Lead a healthy and active lifestyle:

Did you know that smokers are much more likely than non-smokers to develop certain eye conditions e.g. age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and cataracts. In fact, smoking doubles the risk of AMD which is the UK's most common cause of sight loss.



- Vaccines in pregnancy help protect babies against different diseases as the protection you develop passes through the placenta to the baby
- This protection from birth is important as babies are more likely to be very ill and to need hospital care if they catch these diseases in their first weeks and months of life
- It is important to have your vaccines at the right time in every pregnancy to give you and your baby the best protection, but you can have your vaccines up until you give birth
- Pregnant women and young babies are at higher risk of becoming seriously ill if they catch flu. Getting vaccinated helps protect you and your baby during your pregnancy and continues to protect your baby after they are born
- These vaccines are offered free by the NHS and are thoroughly tested to assess how safe and effective they are
- Common side effects of vaccines don't usually last long and are mild, including an aching arm, feeling tired and a headache

Speak with your midwife, GP or trusted health professional for more information

Search: NHS vaccinations in pregnancy to find out more Vaccinations in pregnancy - NHS



Did you know you can see your GP health record in the NHS App?

You can view your allergies, vaccinations, test results and more!

Find out more: www.nhs.uk/nhs-app

NHS

Over 40? You need to know your blood pressure



Find out more, visit nhs.uk/ bloodpressure



Flu and covid-19 vaccination clinics

We have allocated both flu and COVID vaccines for all our eligible patients, and clinics will be available to book from August.

Appointments will be offered during the week and on Saturdays, providing flexibility to suit your schedule.

Having your vaccinations at your GP surgery ensures a safe, clinical environment with fully trained staff on hand



- Its registered housebo
 - Carers

Appointments are now available to book on the system for eligible patients

Local support groups

Happy & Healthy Men

Connection, conversation and creation – that's what joining a Men's Shed is all about.

Men's Sheds encourage people to come together to make, repair and repurpose, supporting projects in their local communities.

Improving wellbeing, reducing loneliness and combatting social isolation.

"When men come together to connect, converse and create, they stay healthier for longer, both mentally and physically."



Brew, Chat & Build Every Tuesday Evening 5pm-8pm

Warwick Street, Longridge For more information email: longridgemensshed@gmail.com

or vist us on FaceBook: longridge.mens.shed

www.menssheds.org.uk

Shed Support

Fun, helpful, social – Men's Sheds have been called a lot of things and our community of Shedders are to thank for all their success. But what exactly is a Shed? How do they start? Where can you find them?

To learn these answers and more take a look at all things Shed <u>here.</u> <u>https://menssheds.org.uk/sheds/</u>

Parkinson's Walking Football

A slower paced version of the beautiful game for

those with a diagnosis of Parkinson's

Walking Football is designed to help participants maintain a healthy and active lifestyle and to support those who have had to stop playing football get back into the game It doesn't matter what your ability or whether you're male or female, all are welcome to join in!

When

Wednesdays, from 11am to 1pm

Where

PlayFootball, Tag Lane, Ingol, Preston, PR2 3TX

Cost

Free

Cätherine's

Hospice

For further information, please contact healthandwellbeing@pne.com Our Parkinson's Walking Football sessions are aimed at individuals who are living with Parkinson's, providing a supportive and friendly environment to enjoy football at your own pace.

Preston Bereavement Café

It's an informal group where anyone can come and chat, have a brew and talk to others about their loss, whether their loved one has died recently or some time ago.

There's no need to book, and if you would like to bring a friend along for a bit of support then please do.

It's not a counselling group and there's no set structure to it, but anyone who wishes to introduce themselves and tell their story is welcome to; or if you would prefer to sit and listen that's fine too.

The Bereavement Café is supported by St Catherine's Hospice and St Margaret's Church. <u>www.stcatherines.co.uk/events/</u>

When: Second Wednesday of the month 2pm-3.30pm Where: St Margaret's Church, Tag

Lane, Ingol Preston PR2 3ZU

When: First Thursday of the month, 10am-11.30am Where: Rothwell Hall, Farringdon Lane, Ribbleton, Preston, PR2 6LX

For details please email communities@stcatherines.co.uk

or phone 01772 629171



Pharmacy First



'Help Us, Help You'

In May 2023, NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care announced a Delivery plan for recovering access to primary care. Part of the plan includes enabling patients to get certain prescription medications directly from a pharmacy, without a GP appointment.

A referral from your GP practice to the pharmacy is required for you to be able to access this service.

Accessing Pharmacy First services

The following table shows the 7 conditions pharmacists can manage across various age ranges.



Core messaging

- Going to your local pharmacy offers an easy and convenient way to get clinical advice on minor health concerns you don't need an appointment and you can be seen in a private consultation room.
- Your local pharmacist can now offer treatment and provide some prescription medicine for seven conditions, if appropriate, without the need for a GP appointment or prescription (See above table).
- Pharmacists have the right clinical training to make sure you get the help you need and can also signpost you to your general practice team, A&E or other relevant local service, where necessary.

Wider messaging

- Community pharmacies are staffed by highly-skilled and qualified health professionals who are trusted parts of local communities: All pharmacists train for five years in the use of medicines before they qualify and are also trained in clinically assessing and treating minor illnesses and giving health and wellbeing advice to help people stay well. Pharmacy technicians are part of the pharmacy team and are also registered health professionals.
- The new expanded community pharmacy services which also include initiating oral contraception without needing to see a GP first, and providing more blood pressure check services, are part of the NHS' plans to recover and improve access to primary care services. It aims to free up to 10 million GP appointments a year once fully implemented, making it quicker and easier for the public to access healthcare in their local community, and giving them more choice in where and how they access care.
- Over 10,200 pharmacies (95%+) have opted to deliver the service and 80% of people live within 20 minutes of a community pharmacy, making it a convenient and quicker way of accessing care.

Call to Action

- Don't wait for minor health concerns to get worse think pharmacy first and get seen by your local community pharmacy team.
- For more information, visit <u>nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst</u>





Each month we run a survey to allow patients, family and friends to have their say on the service provided by the practice. To participate you can visit out Berry Lane Medical Centre Website and complete the NHS Friends and Family questionnaire.

Thinking about your recent contact/visit to Berry Lane Medical Centre



Awareness campaigns: Dates and events

Alcohol Awareness Week 7—13th July 2025

A chance for the UK to get thinking about drinking. It's a week of awareness-raising, campaigning for change, and more.

If you're worried that you're drinking too much, there's support available. Find out about your options. Alcohol Awareness Week

Alcohol Awareness Week | Alcohol Change UK

World breastfeeding Awareness week 1—7th August



The global campaign that aims to inform, anchor, engage and galvanise action on breastfeeding and related issues.

World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) - World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action

Cycle to Work Day—7th August 2025

Cycle to Work Day is the UK's biggest cycling commuting event.

This year workers all around the country will be encouraged to get on their bikes and get into work the best way possible – on two wheels (or three for tricyclists!)

It's an event for everyone, from people who haven't hopped on a bike since their school days to committed cycle commuters.



Bike Month 2025

Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month-September 2025



A month raising awareness of the symptoms and need for more research into pulmonary fibrosis.

PF Awareness Month Sep 2024

Organ Donation Week 22-27 September 2025

Encouraging people to join the NHS Organ Donor Register and encourage people to share their donation decision.



Turn the skies pink for Organ Donation Week - NHS Blood and Transplant

Online Services

Did you know that you can order prescriptions, book/cancel appointments, view results and look at aspects of your medical records online? It's simple to register, all you need are login details provided by us and a computer, tablet or smartphone to access the website or app.

To sign up, please visit the surgery in person with a copy of your photographic ID, for example a passport or driving licence, and we will print your unique linkage key & password along with a list of GP online services you can access.

Access to GP Online Services

As from 18th October 2023 NHS England have changed what patients can view in their own medical record online/in an app. You will now have full access to all your medical records after 18th October 2023.

WHAT IS IN YOUR RECORD

- Illnesses or diagnosis
- Operations
- Examinations and screening
- Medicines
- Allergies
- Vaccinations and immunisations
- Test results such as blood and urine tests
- X-rays and scans

• Notes about your appointments with doctors and nurses at the surgery

• Letters from hospitals and other medical staff that look after you

• Lifestyle information, for example whether you smoke and drink alcohol or not, or how much you exercise

- Height and weight
- Contact details

If you are a new patient registering with us after this date, you will only get full access from the day you registered with us NOT any historic date from your last practice.

If you are already registered with us prior to this date, you will be able to view all medical records from 18th October 2023, not anything prior to this date.

For more information go to - <u>https://www.nhs.uk/nhs</u> -services/gps/using-online-services

We are now using a new online service for non clinical requests

It is a great way for you to contact our practice for nonurgent admin requests such as sick notes, repeat prescriptions, referral enquiries, test results or anything else admin related. It is very simple to fill out so please do give it a go if you need to contact us. We really think it is easier for most people than waiting on hold to speak to a receptionist we would love to hear your feedback. If you do not have access to the internet or find it difficult to use a computer or smartphone you can call reception instead or you can use the online form by accessing the link on our website.

Local Pharmacies

Cohens Pharmacy Berry Lane - 01772 782643 Well Pharmacy - 01772 784700 Goosnargh Pharmacy - 01772 865238 Grimsargh Pharmacy - 01772 797351

Useful Numbers

Referral Management Centre - 01772 660011 Longridge Hospital - 01772 777400 Royal Preston Hospital - 01772 716565 Chorley Hospital - 01772 522972 District Nurses - 01772 777323 Health Visitors - 0300 247 0040 MindsMatter - 01772 773437 Urgent Mental Health Line - 0800 953 0110

Useful Links

<u>nhs.111.uk</u>

www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/urgent-and-emergency-careservices

www.whenshouldiworry.com

www.nhs.uk/conditions/

www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/prescriptions-and-pharmacies/

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facebook.com/BerryLaneMedicalCentre





I felt fine... but I still had lung cancer.

That's why the NHS is offering people aged 55-74 who have ever smoked a lung check to make sure everything is ok.

Chances are you'll be ok but if it is cancer, catching it early can make all the difference.

It did for me





