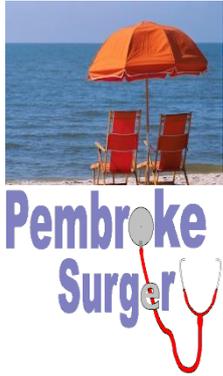


MEET THE PHARMACISTS



Dr D'Cruz comments:

I am pleased to announce that an initiative we introduced is to be rolled out across other GP surgeries in the South Reading CCG. While Doctors and Pharmacists have very different skills, their pre-registration training runs for similar lengths of time but focus on different aspects. We at Pembroke have been among the first to deploy the Clinical Pharmacist in our Multi-disciplinary front line team so that they with HCAs, Nurses, Independent Prescribers and Medics, help to better serve patients.

Are pharmacists qualified to work in GP surgeries? Yes their “competency” as with any clinician, develops with training, experience and supervision. Joining the front line in a GP surgery harnesses their skills to improve the care patients receive. They, as with all our clinicians, never work in isolation and have access to necessary clinical information and support from Medics (GP or Hospital).

Interview with Mr Mohammed Rafiq

What sort of appointments do you deal with?

I am able to deal with chronic conditions such as asthma, COPD, diabetes and hypertension. As a front line clinician at Pembroke I now also deal with acute presentations – patients wanting same day appts. Whenever more clinical experience is needed I can readily ask either of our senior nurses or Dr Gerard to review the case. I have sought guidance from hospital based specialists and initiate referrals if clinically appropriate. I help with medication queries from patients as well as non-clinical and clinical staff colleagues. I also liaise with community pharmacies, knowing a number locally and help with the increasing number of supply issues.

What training have you had for your role in Primary Care?

I graduated from London's School of Pharmacy in 2007 and registered as a pharmacist in 2008 after completing a pre-registration year in community pharmacy. I gained prescribing rights in 2013 since when I've been working in GP practices. I started in Bracknell and moved to Pembroke Surgery in 2014. I continue to develop my clinical portfolio in a variety of ways.

What would you do if you can't deal with a particular problem?

The Prescribing Pharmacist works as part of a multi-Disciplinary Team with GPs and Nurse Practitioners on hand to assist in the more complex cases. Safety is never compromised and all look to secure the best clinical outcome for the patient.

Would you please tell me about the pharmacy bid you have recently been involved in?

Pembroke Surgery has been the lead bidder for a Clinical Pharmacy Pilot offered nationally by NHS England. Competition has been stiff but we are pleased to announce our bid, which covers all practices within the 'Central Cluster', has been successful. The funding enables us to roll out the benefits of Clinical Pharmacists working within GP surgeries, to more patients.

Interview with Mr Jaffer Rashid

What sort of appointments do you deal with?

I am junior to Mr Rafiq but like him am able to help manage a number of long term conditions. My particular interest is within Anxiety and Depression and so I am developing closer links between the GP surgery and other Mental Health Agencies such as Prospect Park Hospital, Reading University, Local Council, Voluntary Sector and Carers. I deliver patient facing services and clinics (which include smoking cessation and flu vaccination) all of which aim to ultimately improve patient outcomes, reflect the needs of the practice population and shift workload from the GPs, allowing them more time to focus on complex cases. With others I will deliver high quality medication reviews and develop bespoke medicine treatment plans for patients, ultimately improving the safety and quality of prescribing. A fundamental aspect of this work is to improve the patient and carer understanding, confidence and compliance with treatment, ultimately achieving agreed care planning with positive health outcomes.

What training have you had for your role In Primary Care?

I actively participated and engaged in Pharmacy Postgraduate Education training for Clinical Pharmacists and completed a four year Masters' degree at UCL. This was followed by a clinical placement which was assessed by GPHC. I have undertaken further training and development in the field of mental health and completed the certificate for Independent Prescribing at Reading University in 2016. I look forward to developing my clinical portfolio and role within the 3 local practices I am based.

What would you do if you can't deal with a particular problem?

I never work alone and have recourse to medics if needed. I aim to always obtain a thorough history and carry out a clinical examination before discussing management plans with a senior colleague. Safety is never compromised and I endeavour to stay closely linked to cases that expand my learning.



Living Well with Arthritis Take Back Control of your Life

A support Service for people with Arthritis in West Berkshire.

If you have arthritis, Arthritis Care understands how it can affect you and your life. We are working closely with GPs and Clinical Commissioning Groups across West Berkshire NHS offering three different services to improve the physical and emotional wellbeing of people with arthritis.

How we can help you?

Understand your condition better; Feel more confident to manage your arthritis including symptoms such as pain; Have access to the information, support and services you need to make informed choices and take control; Have the necessary information to make positive lifestyle changes such as reviewing your diet; Communicate effectively about arthritis and how it affects you; Feel less isolated; Increase your self-confidence.

You must be referred to our service by your GP, so contact them to arrange this for you.

Useful Contact Numbers

Health Visitor	0118 9374457
Community Midwife Helpline	0118 3227199
Out of Hours Services	111
RBBH Switchboard	0118 3225111
Alexandra Road (Main Surgery)	0118 9352121
Eldon Square	0118 9574891

Wasted appointments have reduced since we introduced texting reminders to mobiles, but they do still occur. This is something we take very seriously. You can cancel your appointment in person, or via the telephone, or via the online system. If you change any of your contact details, be sure to tell us AND the hospital if you are in receipt of or expecting any hospital attention.