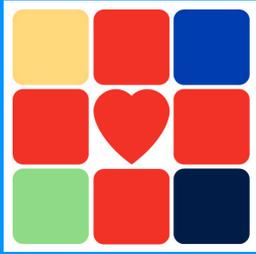


# Charnock Health Newsletter



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## Charnock Health Primary Care Centre

Welcome to our regular newsletter, now available online as well as in surgery.

### Industrial action by hospital doctors and GP's on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June Services at Charnock Health are **not** affected

*In a recent ballot of doctors carried out on behalf of the British Medical Association (BMA) the medical profession voted to take industrial action for the first time in nearly forty years.*

*Doctors are protesting about serious changes to their pensions which mean that they will pay twice as much as other public sector workers for less pension and have a higher retirement age. A recently agreed pension contract which already addressed these issues has been ripped up by the government without proper consultation with doctors and their negotiators.*

*In protest, the BMA have declared a 24 hour industrial action on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June where participating doctors will provide only emergency and urgent care. They propose that all routine and non-urgent procedures and appointments will be cancelled*

#### **How will this affect patients at Charnock Health?**

*The doctors at Charnock health have decided not to take part in industrial action on this occasion. **Patients attending surgery will not be affected in any way.** We have not cancelled or reduced any appointments and our normal quota of doctors will be working as usual on a Thursday to provide you with both routine and urgent care.*

#### **What about my hospital appointment?**

*Some routine hospital clinic appointments and procedures may have been cancelled or postponed. You should have heard from the staff at the hospital clinic if this has happened. If you're not sure then it may be best to phone the hospital clinic before setting off. Accident and Emergency departments will be open as usual.*

#### **What if I get ill when surgery is closed for the night?**

*The Sheffield GP Out of Hours Collaborative is providing urgent medical care as usual during this industrial action.*

#### **Why are you not joining in with this day of action?**

*Whilst we do object to the changes to our pension, we also feel strongly that this dispute should not affect patient care in **any** way. We realise that even routine problems can be stressful for our patients. We are also concerned that some patients with urgent problems may delay getting help if they think we are not available to help them. Also, by delaying routine appointments to another day we may use all our spare appointments and make it difficult for people with urgent problems to get seen.*



#### **How to find out more information about this dispute**

*Reports in the media have often tended to exaggerate and distort the facts surrounding this dispute.*

*To read about this action and the reasons for it in more detail please visit the British Medical Association website at [bma.org.uk](http://bma.org.uk)*

#### **Important!**

**Charnock Health will be open as normal on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June during the 24 hour industrial action**

### Will there be more industrial action in the future?

At this stage we don't know if further action will take place. The BMA will be carefully looking at the impact of this action and deciding on future plans.

Many doctors feel that any industrial action should be aimed more at the administrative and managerial aspects of our work in general practice and should not directly involve our patients.

We will be carefully considering any future action proposed and will make sure that we notify patients if we are taking part, and if so how it will affect them.