

# NOTICE TO PATIENTS

## APPOINTMENT AVAILABILITY WITH PARTICULAR DOCTORS

The patients of this practice have been blessed with a considerable degree of stability of medical staff over the past 20 years despite there being extreme instability within the Profession as a whole. The age structure of the Partnership is such that Dr Sinnott is retiring imminently and over the coming months to a year or two, both Dr Holden and Dr Emmerson will be amending their working patterns, particularly to take into account the fact that we now staff the Ashover Surgery as well.

As a practice we have fared better than many in giving you stability of choice of doctor, but as the existing partners get older, we will be increasingly handing over to a younger generation and therefore some of the very long waits to see a particular doctor are not solely to do with lack of capacity, but the fact that they are deployed in other areas of the practice's endeavours. We all keep good notes, we all have access to one another's notes and most of us, most of the time, can pick up where a colleague has left off. Therefore we would ask you not to try and wait until the doctor of your choice is next available as this rapidly becomes an impossible scenario where some colleagues have insufficient work to do and others have too much to do. We have to spread the case load out amongst all our doctors and we have been very fortunate to recruit 3 new doctors, a situation that is unique in Derbyshire this year. We would ask for your cooperation in being prepared to see some of our newer and younger colleagues who are as well qualified as the older ones and your cooperation would be much appreciated in this respect.

**Peter J P Holden**  
**For and on behalf of the Partnership**

**PJPH/SW**