

Date of issue: 21 November 2012

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF COLEORTON SURGERY

Patients in the Coleorton and Belton areas of Leicestershire are being asked to have their say on plans to close a local GP surgery after a doctor's retirement.

Dr John Jolleys will be retiring at the end of March 2013. The branch surgery in Stoney Lane, Coleorton is in the grounds of his home, and he has notified the partnership that the surgery premises will no longer be available following his retirement.

The Manor House Surgery practice is considering how to continue to offer an improved service without their Coleorton surgery.

The practice has been working with NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust (PCT), who pay for GP services, to gain their initial response. They have approved a formal patient consultation on the closure. The results of this consultation will be used by the PCT to help decide if it will approve the branch closure.

The PCT has confirmed that approval would be on the condition that the practice improves patient access and availability in the Belton surgery. The GPs involved have confirmed that following the closure of Coleorton, they intend to increase access at the main surgery at Belton by:

- opening on Wednesday afternoons every week
- moving the 15 GP appointments currently offered at Coleorton each week to Belton on Wednesday afternoons
- providing an additional 12 nurse appointments every Wednesday afternoon
- patients will also be able to contact receptionists to book appointments and order repeat prescriptions while the surgery is open.

The practice points out the other benefits of providing services from the surgery site at Belton. During Belton consultations GPs have electronic and paper access to all patient records, but this is not the case at Coleorton. Belton surgery is fully equipped to perform all necessary tests to help diagnose patients conditions, and this is better from a patient safety aspect and may also reduce the number of appointments required by patients;

Patients will have the support of the whole practice team at Belton, including the practice nurse and other attached clinical staff (midwives, counsellors, chaperones etc) which are not available at Coleorton. Belton surgery also has a fully staffed dispensary;

A practice spokesman said: “We would like to assure you that we have considered the services currently provided at Coleorton branch and have noted that patients have most often used the surgery to order and pick up repeat prescriptions. In this regard we are currently in discussion with the Coleorton Post Office and the medicines management team at the PCT, to see if we can set up a repeat prescription and medicine drop off and collection service.

“It is important that we hear patients’ views on our proposal to close the Coleorton branch surgery and we would also welcome comments on how we can improve services at Belton Surgery.”

There are several ways patients can have their say. Patients can complete the survey online <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/coleortonsurgery> or pick up a hardcopy of the survey from surgery receptions and return it in the freepost envelope provided. Patients can request a copy of the survey form to be posted to them (*Telephone 01530 222368*).

Patients can also have their say at information sessions which are taking place on 6 December, 10-11am at the Coleorton Surgery, Stoney Lane, and on Wednesday 12 December 7-8pm at the Beaumont Social Centre, Nottingham Road, Coleorton.

Ends

For further information please contact Geoff White, External Communications Manager, NHS Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Primary Care Trust Cluster, on 0116 295 1128 or email geoffrey.white@leicestercity.nhs.uk