

# THE REDWELL MEDICAL CENTRE

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## Correcting some misinformation about general practice

*Following the recent media coverage which many of you will have seen, we thought our patients might find it useful to be aware of the following facts:*

- There are approximately 36,000 GPs in the UK
- It takes 6 years to train as a doctor and then a further 3 years to train to become a GP.
- Each patient on average sees their GP 4 times per year – this means, there are over 250,000,000 GP/patient consultations per year; 15% of the entire population see a GP in a two week period.
- The average practice in the UK has about 6,000 registered patients and 3 - 4 GPs. The average full time GP looks after 1,700 – 1,800 patients. We have 12,500 patients with 7 GPs (equivalent to 5.4 full-time GPs) looking after 2,300 patients each.
- The average face to face contact with a GP costs £20, compared to £24 in a Walk in Centre, £27 for a telephone contact with NHS Direct, £75 for an attendance at A&E and between £100 – 300 for each attendance at a hospital Out Patient Department.
- GPs are paid LESS than 20 pence per patient per day to provide all the day to day care that is required. This is less than the cost of a daily newspaper.
- Surgeries are open from 8:30 am to 6.00 pm Monday to Friday.
- Some GPs additionally provide care outside these times, via locally based out of hours services.
- GPs refer about 10% of patients seen to hospital specialities, which means that nearly 90% of all health needs of the British population are managed entirely in general practice.
- In a recent Government survey it was found that patients were more satisfied with their GPs than they were with the hospital service. General Practice in the NHS was the most popular of all public services.
- In a recent Government White Paper, they stated that “by international standards general practice in England is efficient and of high quality. Indeed many countries view with envy our system of list based general practice”.
- GPs are now paid differently in that nearly 50% of their income is via quality performance-related pay.
- The performance-related pay is based on achievements made in the Quality and Outcome Framework (QOF). This consists of over 100 targets of which 76 cover 10 important disease areas, measuring performance against proven standards. This has contributed to the largest and most admired clinical database in the world.
- As a result of this QOF work, GPs will help an additional 7,000 patients avoid suffering heart attacks or strokes EVERY YEAR.
- the Government has transferred all its responsibility for funding part of GPs’ pensions to the GPs and then claimed this was a part of a pay rise.

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