

Whangamata Medical Services 2010 Ltd trading as

WHANGAMATA MEDICAL CENTRE



Dr Michael Miller Dr Donna Berry Dr Tasha Robertson Dr Jon Elliott

Dr Mark Vaughan Dr Fiona Bolden

103 Lincoln Road Whangamata 3620 Ph: (07) 865 8032 Fax: (07) 865 7235 Email: admin@wmcentre.co.nz

Check List for New Enrolment

**Please be aware that your forms need to be returned at least 24 hours before your first appointment. If forms are returned on the same day as your appointment, you will be charged as a casual patient.

•	Please tick the boxes to confirm the following:
	<u>Both</u> sides of the enrolment form have <u>all</u> boxes completed. Ensure town and country of birth are filled in.
	Eligibility that applies, is ticked
	Sign and date form (Legal guardian must sign and complete authority for children under 16 at bottom of form).
	Complete "Request for Notes" form. Remember to sign it.
	Bring in your Passport; OR, Driver's License AND 18+ card OR Birth Certificate These must accompany the enrolment form so we can take a copy. This is a legal requirement to prove NZ Citizenship / eligibility.
	Book "new patient appointment" within 2 weeks of enrolment date (1/2 hr with nurse). There will be a \$35 fee for this appointment which will need to be paid at time of appointment. Failure to attend will still incur a \$35 admin fee. You may be required to see a doctor as well – standard consultation fees will apply to this consultation. New patient fee is \$60.00.

PLEASE understand that:

- Failure to provide <u>all of the above</u> will result in you remaining a casual patient (and charged accordingly) until the enrolment process is fully completed.
- We do not run accounts, so payment is required at time of appointments.

PLEASE ask your receptionist about the following:

- 1. MyIndici (online access) see attached flier.
- 2. Authority to Divulge See attached information
- 3. Terms and Conditions of enrolment with the Whangamata Medical Centre

Documents that prove eligibility:

New Zealand Passport

OR

NZ Birth Certificate (or Cook Island, Niue or Tokelau birth certificate) **AND** two (2) forms of proof that you are the person on the birth certificate

OR

Your NZ Certificate of Citizenship **AND** two (2) forms of supporting identity documentation (one needs to have a photograph of you)

OR

Your Descent Registration Certificate **AND** two (2) forms of supporting identity documentation (one needs to have a photograph of you)

OR

Your valid passport with a NZ Resident VISA (or Residence Permit if issued before 29 November 2010) or Permanent Resident Visa

OR

Your Certificate of Identity issued under the Immigration Act 2009 NZ

OR

Evidence you are currently getting a social security benefit (except emergency benefit) **AND** two (2) forms of supporting identity documentation (one needs to have a photograph of you).

Examples of identity documents include:

- a driver's license
- an 18+ card
- a community services card or SuperGold Card
- a school / tertiary ID card
- · an employment contract, a rental agreement, or
- letters addressed to you at your current address

Requirements for these documents are waived for children.

NOTE: Children aged 17 years or younger, in the care and control of a parent or legal guardian who is a New Zealand resident, are eligible for the same publicly funded health and disability services as that parent or guardian. The same applies if the adult is applying to be their adopted parent or legal guardian.

Except for maternity services (/new-zealand-healthsystem/publicly-funded-health-and-disability-services/pregnancy-services), partners of people eligible for publicly funded health services must themselves meet the eligibility criteria.



Whangamata Medical Centre PATIENT ENROLMENT FORM



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Fields with * are compulsory Anyone over age of own of							rs mu ent foi		lete theil	139500 063	office use only)	
Title *		mily * First * Name/s										
Preferred Name: Other Name/s: (eg: Maiden Name)												
Gender (please tick)	*	you v Male	would like t	o be identif emale	ied as	Diverse		Sex at (if differ		☐ Male	☐ Female	
Ethnicity Deta Which ethnic grou you belong to? Tick the space of which apply to you	p(s) do r space		☐ 31 Sa ☐ 32 Ca ☐ 34 N	amoan ook Island uean	nd Europear Maori Dutch, Japan		kelauai	□ 3 □ 4 □ 4	21 Maori - 33 Tongar 42 Chine 43 Indian ase state:	se		
Date of Birth	*	age out	1,259		*			01000000		*	(191) (A200)	
	Day / I	Month	/ Year		Place of B	irth				Country	of birth	
Permanent Address	X Link (Harris					*					
	Unit /	Hous	e no.				Stre	et Name	(
	Subu	rb					Tow	n City				
Cell Phone	*					□ Er	mail	*				
Number						6.000.00	ddres					
		ent to es	receive t	ext messa	iges.	-1	I consent to received emails ☐ Yes ☐ No					
Home Phone	*	es	□ NO			\dashv_{w}	Work *					
Number						N	umbe	r				
Community Services Card	l	∟ Yes	s _ No	Expiry	Day / Mo	Card onth / Year Number						
High User Health Card	Į	∐ Yes	s _ No	Expiry	Day / Mo	Card onth / Year Number						
Postal Address	s:	Un	it / House /	PO Box no	0	Street Name						
Permanent Addre	ss	Su	burb			Town / City						
Emergency C	ontac	t/NO	K		F	Relatio	nship	*				
Name *						Contac	t No:	*				
* Alcohol		11 6.				* Sm	nokina	is an i	mportant	factor	Currently smoke	
Consumption Do you drink Alc				No influend If you are			imoking is an important fac uencing health u are aged 15 and over, please tick tl e that applies for you		-	Recently quit		
If Yes, what is your average intake?		1	1 – 5 units per week					gative on y	our good	Never smoked		
		-	6 – 10	ınits per v	veek	health	n. In mo	st cases,	you will ex	xperience	Ex-smoker (over 1 year)	
**A unit is one sta drink	ndard	-		units per	realizer .					-30	Yes	
15 or more units per week						If you currently smoke, would you like some help to quit?						
Occupation	Г	*	•									
Employer Na	me	*						Conta	act No:	*		
Address	-	*										
•	L	-			of				akan u dala A	Au India: Di	la a a a completo de la distribución	
My Indici			•			_	_				lease supply your individual on purposes.	

I wish to join My Indici (please tick)

Email for My Indici:

Preferred Pl	narmacy:								
Residential Status:	* If <u>not</u> be	orn in NZ are you a NZ resident?	?	* Are you on a working visa? Yes No Expiry Date:		* Are yo	ou a Refugee?		
****	1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1								
	A sold of realing a	entitlement and eligibil	_						
		ecause I am residing permai anently in NZ is that you intend to be		tly in New Zealand. dent in New Zealand for at least 183 days in th	e next 12	months			
*I am eligible	I am eligible to enrol because:								
a laman	lew Zealar	nd citizen (If yes, tick box and pro	осее	d to I confirm that, if requested, I can provid	le proof o	f my eligibility	below)		
*If you are <u>no</u>	*If you are <u>not</u> a New Zealand citizen please tick which eligibility criteria applies to you (b–j) below:								
b I hold a	resident vis	sa or a permanent resident v	risa	(or a residence permit if issued before D	ecember	2010)			
		citizen or Australian perman ew Zealand for at least 2 con		resident AND able to show I have be cutive years	een in N	lew Zealand	or		
	work visa/ included)	permit and can show that I a	am a	able to be in New Zealand for at leas	t 2 year	s (previous			
e I am an	interim visa	a holder who was eligible im	med	diately before my interim visa started	Ĕ		, 31		
		protected person OR in the proceed victim of people traffic		ess of applying for, or appealing refu ig	gee or p	protection st	atus,		
g I am un criterion	der 18 year in clauses	s and in the care and contro a–f above OR in the control	ol of	a parent/legal guardian/adopting pa the Chief Executive of the Ministry o	rent who	o meets one Developme	nt		
		gramme student studying in I der 18 years old)	NZ :	and receiving Official Development A	Assistan	ce funding (or their		
			ore	ign Language Teaching Assistantsh	ip scher	me			
		alth Scholarship holder stud		g in NZ and receiving funding from a ship Fund	New Ze	ealand unive	ersity		
* I confirm	that, if requ	uested, I can provide proof of	f m	/ eligibility Evidence sig	ahted (Off	ice use only)			
	arad, a respe	and the second s		t to the enrolment proces	3-1	ac ucc ciny)	270		
		NB. Parent or Ca	reg	iver to sign if you are under 16 ye	ars				
				g provider of general practice / GP /					
	k Charitab	le Trust, and my name addr		Centre I will be included in the enrol and other identification details will					
I understand	that if I visit	t another health care provide	er w	here I am not enrolled I may be cha	rged a h	igher fee.			
		mation about the benefits a ne and contact details.	nd	implications of enrolment and the se	ervices t	this practice	and PHO provides		
be used to det	I have read and I agree with the Use of Health Information Statement. The information I have provided on the Enrolment Form will be used to determine eligibility to receive publicly-funded services. Information may be compared with other government agencies but only when permitted under the Privacy Act.								
I understand that the Practice participates in a national survey about people's health care experience and how their overall care is managed. Taking part is voluntary and all responses will be anonymous. I can decline the survey or opt out of the survey by informing the Practice. The survey provides important information that is used to improve health services.									
I agree to inform the practice of any changes in my contact details and entitlement and/or eligibility to be enrolled. I agree that this Practice is entitled to charge a fee for health services provided and that those fees are expected to be paid on the day the service is provided. Any arrangement to defer payment must be authorised by the Office Manager.									
Signatory D	etails	* Signature	*	Day / Month / Year	Self	Signing	 Authority		
An authority ha	s the legal	right to sign for another perso	on i	for some reason they are unable to c	onsent	on their own	behalf.		
Authority De	aloretain 1 Till								
(where signator	is not the	Full Name		Relationship	2	Contact Pho	ne		
enrolling person		Bada seasan are r		hild and an decade					
	Basis of authority (e.g. parent of a child under 16 years of age)								



Patient health information privacy statement

We respect your privacy and confidentiality. This fact sheet sets out why we collect your information and how it will be used.

To learn what a primary health organisation is and how this practice is connected, the role of primary care and the benefits of enrolling, see our website www.pinnacle.health.nz.

The Midlands Regional Health Network Charitable Trust (Trust) is a primary health organisation (PHO), of which this practice is a member. It is made up of community, iwi and clinical representatives and is the entity that contracts with Te Whatu Ora (Health New Zealand) or Te Aka Whai Ora (Māori Health Authority) for funding to provide health services.

You directly consent to your health information being collected when you sign an enrolment form to register with a practice.

Overview

Maintaining your trust and privacy is important to us.

- We only collect what we need to help you and your whānau.
- We only use what we know to improve your health and the health of the community.
- We don't sell anything we know to anyone, ever.
- We only share what we know with people in the health system who we know will look after your information the way we do.
- We look after what we know and keep it secure.
- Your health record is YOUR health record you can see it, correct it, and know what we have done with it - just ask.

What information is collected?

- Information about you (such as your name, date of birth, gender, address, ethnicity, citizenship, NHI number).
- · Information about your health.
- Information about health services that are being provided to you.
- Information about the financial transactions around consultation charges.
- We're required to keep your information accurate, up-to-date and relevant for your treatment and care.

Patient enrolment information

The information provided on the enrolment form will be:

- held by the practice
- used by Te Whatu Ora to give you a National Health Index (NHI) number or update any changes
- sent to the Trust and to Te Whatu Ora to obtain subsidised funding on your behalf

 used to determine eligibility to receive publicly funded services. Information may be compared with other government agencies but only when permitted under the Privacy Act.

Other uses of your health information

Your health information may also be used by health organisations such as Te Whatu Ora, Te Aka Whai Ora or the Trust for the following purposes:

- health service planning and reporting
- monitoring and improving service quality
- · payment.

This information will not be used or published in a way that can identify you.

Confidentiality and information sharing

Your privacy and the confidentiality of your information is important to us.

- Your health professional may record relevant information from your consultation and use it to provide you with appropriate care.
- When you enrol you give consent to sharing relevant health information with other health professionals who are directly involved in your care*
- Your health information may also be shared with other government agencies but only when permitted under the Privacy Act. It may also be shared if authorised by law.
- Your health information may be reviewed by an auditor either checking on health matters or as part of a financial audit, but only according to the terms and conditions of Section 22G of the Health Act or any subsequent applicable Act.
- You don't have to share your health information, however, withholding it may affect the
 quality of care you receive. Talk to your health practitioner if you have any concerns.
- Your privacy is our priority. We will keep your information secure and prevent unauthorised
 access. We work with a range of data sources and platforms, and we constantly evaluate our
 systems and processes to ensure we are using the latest technologies to increase security.

*Health professionals can include, but are not limited to, doctors, nurses, Māori health workers, health promoters, dietitians, pharmacists, physiotherapists, mental health workers and midwives.

Right to access and correct

- You have the right to access your health information and have it corrected.
- You don't have to explain why you're requesting the information, but you may be required to
 provide proof of your identity. If you request a second copy of that information within 12
 months, you may have to pay an administration fee.
- You have the right to know where your information is kept, who has access rights, and if the system has audit log capability who has viewed or updated your information.
- If asking for your health information to be corrected, practice staff should provide you with reasonable assistance. If your healthcare provider chooses not to change that information, you can have this noted on your file.

Many practices now offer a patient portal, which allows you to view some of your practice health records online. Ask your practice if they're offering a portal so you can register

Health programmes

Health data relevant to a programme in which you are enrolled, such as breast screening, immunisation or diabetes, may be sent to the Trust or the external health organisation managing the programme.

Collecting and storing your health information

Your data is sent securely to the PHO. Robust protocols and processes have been developed for collecting and storing this data. Our processes are fully compliant with the Privacy Act 2020 and Health Information Privacy Code 2020.

Research

Your health information may be used in research approved by an ethics committee or when it has had identifying details removed.

- Research which may directly or indirectly identify you can only be published if the researcher
 has previously obtained your consent and the study has received ethics approval.
- Under the law, you are not required to give consent to the use of your health information if it's for unpublished research or statistical purposes, or if it's published in a way that doesn't identify you.

Consent options

If you do not agree to have any of your information collected, the only option is to register with a practice but not enrol. This means you would not qualify for funding subsidies and a reduced cost of GP visits.

Visiting another practice

If you visit another practice which is not your regular practice, you will be asked for permission to share information from the visit with your regular practice.

If you have a High User Health Card or Community Services Card and you visit another practice which is not your regular practice, they can make a claim for a subsidy, and the practice you are enrolled with will be informed of the date of that visit. The name of the practice you visited and the reason(s) for the visit will not be disclosed unless you give consent.

Complaints

If you're not happy with the way your health information is collected or used, you can talk to your practice about your concerns.



before calling the medical centre

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

SURGERY HOURS

A doctor is available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Office hours 9.00 to 5.00 Monday to Friday *** 9.00 to 1.00pm Saturday (afterhours fees apply to Saturday Clinic). Consultations by appointment but emergencies will be seen at any time. For appointments or after hours care call 07 865 8032.

As we are the only medical centre in Whangamata appointment times are sometimes disturbed. Please check with the receptionist if you are kept waiting for emergencies to be cleared.

SERVICES

We provide comprehensive primary care for acute and chronic illness.

Specific services include:

Cervical smears
Minor surgery
Joint injection
Contraception
Fracture care

Well person checks Sports injury care

Free Services (during office hours) for :

Childhood immunizations
Diabetes annual checks
All children enrolled with this medical centre
under the age of 18 and currently enrolled at
school (during office hours)
Family planning/sexual health for enrolled
patients under 25.

Nurse Consultations

Our nurses are qualified to provide independent services including:

Cervical smears

Sexual health

Smoking cessation

Immunisations

Well child checks

Diabetes screening

Wound care

Chronic disease education

Home visits

Repeat prescriptions require 24 hours notice.

Lab results are usually available within 4 days. View them through our online portal MyIndici.

HOURS

Clinics are held Monday to Friday 9.00 — 12.00 and 2.00 —5.00pm for scheduled appointments.

Acute appointments are by arrangement and emergencies will be seen at

Saturday morning clinic also available (incurs afterhours fee).

any time.

Times alter during Summer

COMPLAINTS

We strive at all times to provide the best possible service but there may be times when you are unhappy with the care you have received. It is important that you let us know your concerns; request a complaint form or speak to any member of staff.

FEES

Consultations and repeat scripts must be paid for on the day. All consultations during weekends and afterhours incur a \$40 fee.

A full schedule of fees is available at the front desk.

If you are having difficulty paying your account please speak to the office. There are several payment options available.

Michael Miller GP Donna Berry Tasha Robertson GP Mark Vaughan GP Gemma Argyle Locum GP Liselotte Stam Locum GP Wouter Schmidt Locum GP Jongbloed Mandy Robinson Nurse Manager Glenda Powell Practice Nurse Linda Day Practice Nurse Glenys McSweeny Practice Nurse Deb Neill Practice Nurse Jenny Scott Practice Nurse Sue Ward Enrolled Nurse Katryna Muir **Enrolled Nurse** Autumn Registered Nurse McCumber Delia Vorster Casual Nurse Rebecca Townsend Practice Manager Office Manager Amy Toroa Debz Petersen HR Manager Kim Clough Senior Receptionist Samantha Rose Receptionist Karen Hughes Concierge / Receptionist Carolyn Robinson Receptionist Hannah Bradley Concierge / Receptionist Lisa Ebbett Conceirge / Receptionist Shannon Sullivan Practice Wellness Co-Ordinator

THE TEAM

TEACHING

We are an accredited teaching practice for doctors training in general practice (registrars) and for students. If you would rather not be involved in a teaching situation please tell the receptionist or your doctor.

"MYINDICI" ALLOWS YOU TO MANAGE YOUR HEALTH ONLINE. IT'S SIMPLE TO REGISTER, JUST SPEAK TO A RECEPTIONIST OR NURSE.

We invite all our patients who are over the age of 16 to join our online portal

MYINDIGI

This secure system allows patients to access their health information 24/7 from their computer, phone or device.



You can use your patient portal to:

- Book appointments including phone consults.
- Request repeat prescriptions which can be emailed directly to your pharmacy of choice
- View important notifications and guidance
- And more

** must have individual email address and provide photo Identification.



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Email: admin@wmcentre.co.nz

REQUEST TO HAVE MEDICAL RECORDS TRANSFERRED

Each person 16 years or over to complete and sign own form

To:			Fax no:				
Address:			Ph no:				
Please transfe	er the medical record	s for the following peop	ole to:				
		Whangamata Me	edical Centre				
	PLEASI	E SEND ELECTRONIC	FILES VIA GP2GP				
Please sca	n any hard copy fi	les and send via GP	2GP as we <u>do not</u> acce	ept hardcopy files			
		via post					
Dr Donna	Berry	NZMC 69518	EDI: whanmcw	h			
The second of the	Robertson	NZMC 87687					
Dr Mark \	/aughan	NZMC 13566					
transfer in GI	P2GP.	20,007 to 20,000 to 200 to	nange the status of the p				
Family Name		Given Names		Date of Birth			
Current Addre	ss:						
Signed:			Date:				
Fax Back Ackno	wledgement:	Medical Records Receive	ed				
Medical Centre:			Date:				
Signed:							
	I	For All Vour Family's L	Tealthcare Needs				



Whangamatā Medical Centre

01 October 2024

Office Hours Monday - Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Weekend Clinic: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE: After hours fees (in addition to consultation fees) apply to this clinic

NORMAL CONSULTATIONS: (in person or by phone)

	Under 6	6 - 17 (J1/JZ/J3)	18 - 24	25 - 64	65 +	Follow Up	ACC ***	Nurse Consult
Enrolled	FREE *		\$50.00	\$57.00	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
CSC			\$19.50	\$19.50	\$19.50	\$19.50	\$19.50	\$19.50
DCSC							\$13.00	\$13.00
HUHC			\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$35.00	\$35.00

	Under 6	6 - 17	18 - 24	25 - 64	65+	Follow Up	ACC	Nurse
	(Y)	(J1/JZ/J3)			24	**	***	Consult
Non-Enrolled	\$65.00	\$90.00	\$110.00	\$110.00	\$110.00	1	\$65.00	\$65.00
CSC	\$65.00	\$65.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	N/A	\$19.50	\$40.00
DCSC	\$65.00	\$65.00				IN/A	\$13.00	\$40.00
Non-Resident	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$160.00		\$105.00	\$105.00

Extra fees may apply to extended consultations

CSC = Community Services Card (A1)

HUHC = High User Health Card (AZ/JZ)

DCSC = Dependent of Community Services Card holder (J1)

No Card (A3)

^{***} ACC Consultations for ALL patients 13 years and under are free of charge.

Precription	\$20.00	Crutches:	
Urgent / Same Day Prescription	\$30.00	To Purchase	\$100.00
Ultra Sound Co-Payment	\$15.00	Refund	\$50.00
(to be paid on top of consultation fee)		(if returned within 1 year, in	good, reusable order)

Other Services: Please note: These are additional charges that may be added to consultation fees

Non-Enrolled patients will incur a Nurse Consultation fee on top of service fee.

	HUHC	CSC	NO CARD				
INJECTION	\$16.00		\$35.00	SPIROMETRY	\$50.00	ABPM	\$50.00
N2	\$16.00		\$35.00	AUDIOMETRY	\$35.00	SMEAR	\$35.00
B12	\$16.00	\$19.50	\$35.00	STI CHECK	\$35.00	DEPO	\$35.00
BP	\$16.00	\$19.50	\$35.00	EAR SUCTION	\$60.00	ECG	\$40.00
COD		\$19.50	\$35.00	IV THERAPY	\$50.00	BIOPSY	\$100.00
ROS		\$19.50	\$35.00	DRUG TEST	\$50.00	MEDICAL	\$250.00
NEW PATIEN	T GP CONSU	LT	\$60.00	INGROWN TOENAIL	\$80.00	INFUSION	\$150.00
IUCD/MIRENA / JADELLE		\$80.00	INCISION & DRAINAGE	\$50.00	MINOR OP	\$350 - \$450	

Out of Hours Consultations:

All consultations, either in person or over the phone, outside of office hours including evenings, weekends and Public Holidays will incur a minimum surcharge of \$40.00 over the above fees.

This surcharge may vary depending on the circumstances.

^{*} Free Consultations apply to enrolled patients under the age of 18 who are currently enrolled at school (primary, intermediate, high, area). Once a child leaves school consultation fees apply.

^{**} Follow Up appointment fees apply to enrolled patients only



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WHANGAMATA MEDICAL CENTRE



Dr Jon Elliott Dr Tasha Robertson Dr Mark Vaughan

103 Lincoln Road Whangamata 3620 Ph: (07) 865 8032

Email: admin@wmcentre.co.nz

Terms and Conditions of Payment

It is policy of this practice that payment is required on the day of consultation/service. Please note that if you are unable to pay your account on the day, it is your responsibility to notify a receptionist of this <u>before</u> your appointment or the service is provided (e.g prescription request). A full list of fees is available upon request.

Whangamatā Medical Centre's Terms and Conditions:

- Payment is acceppted by cash, Eftpos, Visa, Mastercard or online banking.
- Appointments are 15 mintues long if you require longer that this, please advise reception
 at the time of booking[WA1]. Additional charges will apply.
- There is a charge for repeat prescriptions. Repeat prescriptions can only be issued for regular medications and require a review with the doctor within the 6 month prior. 48 hours notice is required for this service.
- Whangamatā Medical Centre uses a debt collection agency. Any unpaid accounts plus cost in recovering the unpaid account will be the responsibility of the patient.
- Please advise us of any changes to your contact details or eligibility to recieve funded healthcare in New Zealand (e.g vis status)
- Whangamatā Medical Centre will not accept any verbal or physical abuse towards staff.
 Should an incident occur, it may effect your enrolment with our practice.

acknowledge that have read the above and agree with these terms and conditions.
Signed:
Print Name:

YOUR MEDICAL RECORDS

"Authority to Divulge" – what is this??

An "Authority to Divulge" form gives WMC staff permission to release any medical information, including taking repeat prescription requests and giving out test results, to persons named by the patient. Basically, without this authority, we are prohibited under the Privacy Act to release any information or discuss any patients' medical needs or



history with any person, other than another Health Professional involved in the patient's care. You can request a form from Reception or your Nurse or GP, or download a copy from our <u>website</u>, complete and sign it and have it witnessed by any member of the medical centre staff. It is entirely your choice who you name and it will be scanned into your patient record in case you change medical centres. We encourage all patients to consider this practicality as none of us know when a misfortune may occur that necessitates a family member or close friend's involvement.

An "Authority to Divulge" only gives another person access to your medical records and in no way involves any decision making on their part.

"Advance Directive"....the next step

An "Advance Directive" (also referred to as a Living Will) gives the patient an advanced use of their right to choose or refuse any health care procedure or treatment in the event they are not competent to do so. Information is available at Reception for you to read and you are advised to discuss it with your GP, who will ensure your decisions are informed and workable. They will assist in completing the form and are required to certify your competence to make the decision. A certain peace of mind may be gained by making these sensitive decisions in the absence of any pressures and while you are able to discuss your wishes with family.

"Enduring Power of Attorney" a step further

This requires a conversation with your Solicitor who will advise and draw up legal documents specifying your wishes and naming one or more persons who you want to make decisions about your health care or other personal property situations. Your GP can also assist by discussing options available to you.

All the documents mentioned above are essential to a seamless transition through end-of-life care should disaster strike at any age, and will ensure your family are confident they are complying with your wishes.

These documents must be legally activated by a Doctor and sent to your solicitor before the person named in the EPOA can make decisions on your behalf.

It's the conversation no-one really wants to have, but it can provide peace of mind to yourself and your loved ones.