

# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF YOUR GP

The Doctors together with our Patient Representative Group thought it might be useful to provide a synopsis of the average day encountered by the GP's. This has been produced on the basis of a typical day, however, there are days when deviation occurs such as, emergencies that can come in at any time and these must take priority over routine work.

**7.30 – 8.00 am** - We start arriving at surgery – start processing pathology results; blood tests, x-rays, swabs etc. These results are sent electronically overnight from the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital. Process Out of Hours reports received from Devon Doctors on Call.

**8.30 am** – Our morning surgery starts, appointments are normally for 10 minutes each through until approximately 11.20 am. There may be times when we cannot control the appointment length due to unexpected complications and ask patients to check with reception if they feel they have been waiting too long.

**11.30 am** – We commence administration; dictate referral letters, complete insurance forms, answer queries from patients, check and action correspondence from the Hospital. Return phone calls to other health professionals, return phone calls to patients.

**12.30 am** – Begin our visits – typically we are each requested 3 - 4 per day. Home visits can be particularly time consuming especially if we are visiting a rural patient. We also visit patients resident in Seaton Hospital. We ask that all visit requests are made by 11.30am so we can prioritise and plan our route effectively.

**2.30 – 3.00 pm** – Our afternoon surgery starts, again appointments are normally for 10 minutes each through to approximately 4.50 – 5.20 pm

**5.20 pm** – We commence administration from our afternoon surgery and process any pathology results received throughout the day.

**6.00 pm** – We visit Seaton Hospital.

**6.30 pm** – We normally visit any chronically sick patients, eg, those dying of cancer.

**Ad-hoc** – Throughout the day:

- urgent queries are received from either patients or consultants that may be complex and cannot wait until surgery has finished.
- Repeat prescriptions are generated by the receptionists and these require signing; can run into well over 200 per day.
- Attendance at meetings is sometimes mandatory and is fitted in between visits and afternoon surgery; this means visits may take place after afternoon surgery.

In addition the Duty Doctor will have an **emergency** sit and wait clinic starting approximately 5 pm with any afternoon visit requests actioned after the clinic has finished.

**7.30 pmish** – Arrive home for supper. Catch up on latest medical journals, plan and co-ordinate study.