**Pharmacists**

Following the introduction of the new GP contract in 2018 pharmacists are now increasing involved in the care of patients in General Practice.

Here in Polwarth Medical Practice we now have a team of clinical pharmacists who are based in the practice on the following days:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TUESDAY** | **Barry Chapman** |
| **FRIDAY** | **Alison Wallace** |

When you contact the practice about a medication matter you may be offered an appointment with one of our pharmacists. You can also request to speak with the pharmacist yourself. Barry and Alison have extensive training behind them and are very experienced. They are both key members of our team.

The clinical pharmacists work closely with our GP's providing the following:

* expertise on day-to-day medicines
* advice for patients taking multiple medications
* medication reviews and other medicines-related support, including discussing side effects
* Specialist reviews for patients with long term respiratory conditions such as COPD or asthma
* help for patients with their medicines following a stay in hospital, particularly if there has been a change
* medications and prescription related queries
* prescription authorization
* blood test request authorization
* support managing patients’ long-term conditions, such as high blood pressure

Having a pharmacist working in our surgery provides valuable medicines support, a close link with our community pharmacists and allows our GPs to focus their skills and time where they are most needed, for  patients who have more complex needs.

**Medicine and Polypharmacy Reviews**

Often the pharmacists or the doctor will review your medicine and talk about the medicines you are currently taking. In the Practice we like to review your medicine at least once a year. However sometimes your medicine may be reviewed more frequently.

You might also have heard people referring to Polypharmacy. It means lots of medicines. A medicine review is particularly useful for people who take a lot of medicines, for these people their medicines review may be called a Polypharmacy Review.

Information about what a medicine and Polypharmacy review is can be found [here](https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/8937e073/files/uploaded/Polypharmacy-Medicines-Review-Leaflet.pdf)