**Newsletter**

**Headstone Lane Medical Centre**

**May 2023**

This is a patient newsletter that will be published on our practice website and sent out via text message to all patients with a mobile number recorded at the surgery. The aim of the newsletter is to update our patients on changes to how the surgery is operating and the current situation in the NHS.

Bank Holidays

Please be aware that the surgery is closed during bank holidays. Upcoming bank holiday dates are as follows:  
  
Monday 1st May  
Monday 8th May

Monday 29th May

Practice Website Update

**If patients have been on our practice website recently, they will have noticed that it looks different. We have updated our practice website so it may take some time to get used to the new layout. The website address is the same and can be accessed on the link below.**

[Headstone Lane Medical Centre](https://headstonelanemedicalcentre.nhs.uk/)

**We have kept information we feel is relevant and helpful to patients in addition to new sections. On the website you will be able to access our online consultation service PATCHS, previous newsletters, links to other NHS services, information and services we provide and the ability to submit feedback to the surgery.**

**We welcome patient input and feedback so please let us know if there is anything you feel would be helpful to be added to the website.**

**Changes to registering a death**

**In April 2023, new legislation came into effect under the Health and Care Act 2022, that requires a medical examiner system to be in place before a death can be registered. This covers all aspects of the NHS where a patient may pass away including hospitals and in a community setting.**

**If a patient passes away in the community that is expected, once the GP is notified they will send a referral to the local medical examiner team*.*** Medical examiners are senior medical doctors who provide independent scrutiny of the causes of death. They are trained in the legal and clinical elements of death certification processes.

Please find below a link to further information regarding this. Please go to the public information section of the page for relevant information.

[NEW: Medical examiner process :: North West London ICS (nwlondonicb.nhs.uk)](https://www.nwlondonicb.nhs.uk/professionals/primary-care-workforce/medical-examiner-process)

**If patients have any queries or concerns regarding this, please contact the surgery and we will point you to further information. We are aware that losing a loved one is a very difficult time and the aim of this service is to run as smooth as possible for bereaved family members. This is national legislation and GPs are unable to provide a death certificate without completing this process first.**