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Medical Registrations for new students at Hertford College

Dear Student,

Congratulations on getting your place at Oxford! We hope you have an enjoyable and productive time here.

We are writing to introduce ourselves as the Hertford College doctors. We are based at a surgery in Beaumont Street, located 5 minutes' walk from the College. All our doctors are NHS general practitioners (GPs): we work just like other practices around the country and we are not employees of Hertford or Oxford University.

We operate a strictly confidential service, although if you ask us to talk to tutors or others on the Welfare Committee, we can do so effectively. We have a special interest in students (who make up around a third of our list of patients) and are experienced in dealing with the medical problems commonly encountered by students, including travel medicine, sports injuries, sexual health, stress/mental health, and vaccinations. We understand how illness and injury can impact upon your studies and are familiar with the procedures for certification if you need medical evidence for coursework or exams (and do not charge you for this additional paperwork).

It is very important that you have ready access to coordinated healthcare whilst here in Oxford, and a College Doctor is also well placed to advocate for you within the University on medical matters. The NHS is clear that full time students are "resident" at their university address, not at their parental home, and so the NHS expects you to register with a GP here. The University and Hertford College also strongly recommend that you register with the College Doctor. Remember you can still see your previous GP as a temporary patient during the vacation (if needed) but there are clear advantages to being normally registered in Oxford (we can also send repeat prescription requests electronically/remotely to almost any pharmacy in England now). If you choose to register with a different practice, you must tell the College the name and contact details of your doctor so that they can contact them in an emergency.

Registration with us simply requires you to complete an on-line registration form, a health questionnaire and a consent form for information sharing. Please do this **as soon as possible- the deadline for submission is the 10th September 2018.**

Go to www.campusdoctor.co.uk/oxford and follow the instructions.

Please remember to use your College address (**not** home address) and to complete all sections (including date arrived in UK, previous doctor and NHS number) wherever possible. It may help you to answer the questions if you ask your current practice to print out a summary of your

computer record, including vaccinations (this is usually called a 'brief summary- ie not your entire medical record!). If you prefer to register off-line, this is still possible but will require filling in paper forms available by contacting us directly. Please note that you will be registered under a particular "named doctor" in the practice, but you are free to consult with any of our doctors.

If you are currently registered with another doctor in the UK, once the forms are returned your medical records can be recalled from your home GP, so that they can be accessed by the College doctors when necessary. If you have a significant medical history and are coming from outside the UK, it is helpful to bring copies of recent doctors' letters and important notes (translated to English please).

*A plea for the future: please make sure that over the years that you spend in Oxford, your **contact details remain up to date**. We rely on you to tell us any changes in address, phone number and email contacts and it is vital that we are able to contact you quickly if needed.*

You are invited to a medical registration when you will each have an opportunity to meet with the college nurse or one of the medical team at 28 Beaumont Street for a brief health check and also a discussion of current medical needs, if relevant. We will also be offering MMR and Meningitis vaccinations to any students who have not received these previously, and flu immunisations to anyone eligible. Please see [NHS Choices](#) for details of the UK Immunisation schedule.

If you are on repeat medication, we strongly encourage you to bring sufficient to tide you over the first month *at least*. Prior to setting up any regular prescription with us, you may need to make a standard doctor's appointment at the practice but we can advise you of that at the registration event. If you are coming from outside the UK, please be aware that there are licensing and marketing differences around the world so not all medication/brands may be available. We would aim to switch your prescription to the nearest alternative if this is the case. We also prescribe according to our local commissioning group's recommendations which are based on evidence of efficacy, but also cost. Some medication is only prescribed with secondary care doctors' involvement – for example, ADHD drugs – and requires onward referral.

We encourage you to visit our website if you would like to learn more about the practice and its staff, and look forward to meeting you early in the Michaelmas term.

Yours sincerely

Drs Chloe Borton, Matt Easdale, Rachel Allan and Andy Valentine