

# Barlow Medical Centre

A review of Barlow Medical Centre  
website

## 1. Introduction

This mini-report aims to present the findings of a review of the Barlow Medical Centre website conducted by Healthwatch Manchester staff and volunteers.

Healthwatch Manchester is the local citizens' champion for health and care. Part of its remit is to review the standard of provision of health and care information and access to health and care services from the lay-person's perspective. This report should therefore be approached by the reader as a bespoke review of your practice website produced by Healthwatch as your critical friend.

The findings from this report will be combined with those from all Manchester GP practice websites and presented in a full report later in 2023. For this reason, there are no recommendations in this report.

As part of Manchester Integrated Care's on-going improvement work GP practices have been invited this year to a full website audit, using a tool developed by NHS England. This will allow practices to complete a project to ensure that their website is accessible and user friendly for patients and carers. This work is due to be completed by March 2024.

## 2. Background & Rationale

Work of this nature has been previously undertaken by Healthwatch Manchester and other Healthwatch groups in other parts of the country in 2021. This was due to the large volume of complaints and concerns from local people regarding access around GP practice websites.

The report produced by Healthwatch Manchester in 2021: 'Good Practice?' presented the findings and recommendations from the reviews of all GP practices in Manchester. The report was well received locally by system leaders and gained an audience from NHS England and the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

At the February 2023 Health Scrutiny Committee for Manchester City Council, Healthwatch Manchester was requested to repeat this review by the elected members. This was approved by the Healthwatch Manchester board and became an immediate area of focus for the 2023-2024 year plan of activity.

As this report is purely informational and makes no recommendations, the standard requirement by Healthwatch for response from the provider does not apply. This report is to support practices on their ongoing journey in making improvements to their websites and Healthwatch Manchester plans to continue that dialogue with practices and with Manchester Integrated Care.

## 3. Methodology

Staff and volunteers conducted a review of your GP practice website using a series of agreed criteria within a survey. Three people conducted each survey to enable objectivity in the assessment of each GP practice website. As with the 2021 reviews, three devices were used simultaneously: a personal computer, a laptop and a smart phone.

Various assessment criteria were used to provide a score between 1 and 5 for 15 elements of the survey including ease of navigation and accessibility around sensory impairment.

The findings from the review are presented in this report, the audience of which includes GP practice staff and any associated patient group. As this report is purely informational and makes no recommendations, the standard requirement by Healthwatch for response from the provider does not apply.

If it took more than 2 clicks to get to a desired location on the website, a practice could not score a 5 on the question. Moreover, we based our overall scores on the phone score as it is the most common method used by Manchester residents.

## 4. Findings

The following questions were used to conduct the assessment and their results are below. Where there is a rating this is represented as a rating between 1 and 5, where 1 is poor and 5 is very good.

1. How would you rate the standard of information provided on your GP website regarding Covid-19 (including vaccination)?  
**Rating: 5**

2. How would you rate the standard of information provided on your GP website regarding Flu jabs?  
**Rating: 4 - More than 2 clicks away**

3. How clear is the GP registration process?  
**Rating: 4 - - More than 2 clicks away**

4. How clear is the basic practice information for the following?  
a) Opening hours - 5  
b) Address - 5  
c) Staff information - 5

**Overall rating: 5**

5. How easy is it to make an appointment?  
**Rating: 3 (Can only register when the practice is open i.e. before 3:30)**

**(Home - Appointments - Consult a Doctor (Phone Number way)  
(Home - Practice Info - Appointments - Patient Access (Have to be registered)**

6. Are virtual appointments available to patients?

**No. (No rating)**

7. What system does the practice use? (e.g. Patient Access, AskMyGP)

**Patient Access (No rating)**

8. How would you rate the guidance on how to use the system?

**Rating: 1 - No guidance available**

9. Is there contact information for patients who can't access the internet? (e.g. telephone number)

**Yes. (No rating)**

10. How easy is it to cancel an appointment?

**Rating: 3 - Had to search for it in search bar, leads to a form to fill out**

11. How easy is it to access out of hours' service information?

**Rating: 1 - No out of service information available**

12. How accessible is the website, for the following criteria?

a) Colour scheme

**Rating: 5**

b) Are there other language options available?

**No. (No rating)**

c) Font

**Rating: 5**

d) Are there EasyRead versions available?

**No. (No rating)**

e) Is there extra audio and visual support available? (explanatory videos, audio assistance)

**No. (No rating)**

Any comments regarding the previous five questions?

**No alternate language options, easy read materials or extra audio/visual support assistance is woeful**

13. How easy is it for patients to order repeat prescriptions?

**Rating: 2 - Have to be registered with patient access and has to be done before 3:30 on a Thursday**

14. How easy is it for patients to access their medical records?

**Rating: 3 They have a page about this however to get the records, a person has to make an FOI or contact the practice manager**

15. How would you rate the self-care advice provided on the website?

**Rating: 4 - Good information available however not many topics**

16. How would rate the feedback process on the practice website?

**Rating: 3 - Should be made more clear on the home page**

17. Is there a complaints procedure? If so, is it clearly visible and easy to find?  
**No. This is in one from, the same one as the feedback form and so this should be separated to make complaints distinct. Rating: 1**
18. Are there BSL translations of content?  
**No. (No rating)**
- Any comments on the previous three question?
19. Is there access to a patient participation group? If so, is the contact information provided?  
**Yes. (No rating). Tells you how it works but not about when and how often.**
20. Is there a clear link to the support webpage for Young Carers on the Manchester City Council website?  
**Yes. (No rating)**
21. Is there any mention of Healthwatch Manchester?  
**Yes. (No rating)**

**Overall rating 49/75**



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