

Dickenson Road Medical Practice

A review of Dickenson Road Medical
Practice website

1. Introduction

This mini-report aims to present the findings of a review of the Dickenson Road Medical Practice 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: 2 - Minimal and generalized information provided

2. How would you rate the standard of information provided on your GP website regarding Flu jabs?
Rating: 1 - Not evident on website

3. How clear is the GP registration process?
Rating: 2 - Couldn't find this page without using the search bar, many people won't know how to do this. We eventually found this under the 'Site Map' page.

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

(Homepage - Appointments - Get medical advice and treatment from a doctor - Book an appointment online - Patient Access page)

6. Are virtual appointments available to patients?

No. (No rating) - No evidence of this on website

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: 2 - There is a site map but that is hard to find and not informative enough guidance on how to use the system.

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 - Takes you to patient access once after you've found the cancel an appointment page.

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

Rating: 4 - Not enough support provided for 5 points however the Go To Doc service is a good idea

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

a) Colour scheme

Rating: 4

b) Are there other language options available?

No. (No rating) – The site map has different language options with information about covid but that is it.

c) Font

Rating: 5

d) Are there EasyRead versions available?

Yes. (No rating) – This takes 5 working days

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

No. (No rating)

Any comments regarding the previous five questions?

EasyRead taking 5 days to arrive is far too long. No extra audio and visual support is woeful

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

Rating: 4 - Easy to find the page however it takes you to patient access not the GP website

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

Rating: 1 - No evidence of medical records on the website, only medical report

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

Rating: 5 - Good levels of information and not hard to find

16. How would you rate the feedback process on the practice website?
Rating: 3 They have a Friends and Family test is available however people may not know what this is.
17. Is there a complaints procedure? If so, is it clearly visible and easy to find?
Rating 1 - The complaints service on the webpage is both inaccurate out of date. It details St James house which is in Salford not Manchester, this also mentions the CCG's which expired in July 2022.
18. Are there BSL translations of content?
No. (No rating) - No evidence on website
- 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) - They have a signup form however the details say that the next PPG meeting will be in October 2019 so it is clearly out of date.
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?
No. (No rating)

Overall Score 45/75



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