

# Fernclough Surgery

A review of the Fernclough Surgery  
website

## 1. Introduction

This mini-report aims to present the findings of a review of the Fernclough Surgery 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: 4 - They have a link to the Gov.uk website with covid information on it. They do not provide the information on their website themselves**

2. How would you rate the standard of information provided on your GP website regarding Flu jabs?  
**Rating: 5 - Easy to find and good information provided**

3. How clear is the GP registration process?  
**Rating: 3 - There is a form however this is a word document that you have to print out yourself or scan to give it back to the surgery. This is hard to do for people who are not IT savvy.**

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: 5 - There are options to call the practice, email the practice or use patient access**

**(Homepage - Appointments - \*Scroll down to find the phone number, email address and Patient Access\*)**

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 evidence on website**

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: 2 - The practice just says to 'make the practice aware if you are unable to attend' however doesn't direct users to a phone number. It is assumed you follow the same number and email address as was given to make an appointment.**

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

**Rating: 4 - They have a link to the 'there for you' page however not everyone will know what this actually means**

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

a) Colour scheme

**Rating: 5**

b) Are there other language options available?

**Yes. (No rating)**

c) Font

**Rating: 5**

d) Are there EasyRead versions available?

**Yes. (No rating) – This takes 7 days to obtain**

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

**No. (No rating)**

Any comments regarding the previous five questions?

**No extra audio and visual support is woeful. 7 days is too long for people to wait for EasyRead materials.**

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

**Rating: 5 - You can email them or use patient access to do this.**

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

**Rating: 1 - There is no evidence of this on the practice website**

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

**Rating: 1 - No evidence of this on the website**

16. How would you rate the feedback process on the practice website?  
**Rating: 2 - the feedback section tells you to 'please contact us in person, by calling, by letter or email' however doesn't provide this contact information on that page.**
17. Is there a complaints procedure? If so, is it clearly visible and easy to find?  
**Rating: 1 - No evidence on website.**
18. Are there BSL translations of content?  
**No. (No rating)**
- Any comments on the previous three questions?
19. Is there access to a patient participation group? If so, is the contact information provided?  
**No. (No rating) - No evidence on website**
20. Is there a clear link to the support webpage for Young Carers on the Manchester City Council website?  
**No. (No rating)**
21. Is there any mention of Healthwatch Manchester?  
**No. (No rating)**

**Overall Score 49/75**



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