BEECHNUT MEDICAL ROOMS

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

Gastroenterology Follow Up at Beechnut Medical Rooms

You are a valued patient of Dr Napthali and she will remain central to your ongoing care while you continue to need a Specialist Gastroenterologist.

Following your procedure or as part of longer-term management under a Gastroenterologist you are likely to come back to Beechnut Medical Rooms for a follow up appointment.

Dr Napthali uses a model of shared care alongside our GP with Special Interest Dr Fiona O'Connell.

Shared care - what does that mean?

You might have come across a model of shared care if you, or someone you know, has been looked after through diabetes, obstetrics or cancer care.

While Dr Napthali is your dedicated Gastroenterologist, more complex and long-term patients can be seen more regularly by Dr O'Connell. You may also see Dr O'Connell following your endoscopy investigations.

Dr O'Connell does not replace your regular GP; she is predominantly focused on your Gastroenterology needs alongside Dr Napthali.

Can I see Dr Napthali if I prefer?

Absolutely, yes. Just let the admin team know at the time of booking.

WHO IS DR FIONA O'CONNELL?

Dr Fiona O'Connell is a GP with Special Interest with a well-established practice in Hamilton.

She spent her early career in Hospital Medicine, particularly Gastroenterology & Oncology before retraining as a General Practitioner in Edinburgh UK.

She has a special interest in Holistic and Preventative Health and particularly enjoys helping patients with chronic disease understand and manage their long-term issues.

Dr O'Connell operates as part of a shared care model with Dr Napthali, spending more in-depth time with patients as part of their Gastroenterology referral.

Dr O'Connell often has more time to spend with a patient and her appointment times are slightly longer to reflect this.

What are some of the benefits to me?

Dr O'Connell has shorter wait times, so you can be seen more quickly or even at short notice.

An appointment with Dr O'Connell has a lower fee than the Gastroenterology specialists and still provides a Medicare rebate.

As a highly experienced GP, Dr O'Connell can answer your questions as well as proving broader context from her many years of experience of General Practice.

Dr Napthali remains involved in your care going forward, so you have 2 specialists looking after you.

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AFTER YOUR PROCEDURE

What happens now?

After your procedure, your follow up is important to complete the cycle of care and to ensure your questions and concerns are answered.

- (If taken) Biopsies can take 3-4 weeks to be processed in the lab
- Your gastroenterologist will see you if there are complex issues to discuss
- Dr Fiona O'Connell (GP with Special Interest) will see you for a routine follow up
- For patients having regular colonoscopies for surveillance, you will follow up with your GP
- Dietitian Kerith Duncanson will coordinate care for patients with IBS and food intolerance

DR KERITH DUNCANSON

Dr Kerith Duncanson brings more than 30 years of experience in dietetics and a strong background in digestive health research to our team. She focuses on disorders of gut-brain interaction like irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), functional dyspepsia, and functional constipation.

Kerith also consults with people experiencing conditions such as SIBO, IMO, Crohn's disease, diverticular disease, and issues with gut motility like gastroparesis, dumping syndrome and post-surgery symptoms.

Kerith takes a practical, evidence-based approach to help people manage tricky and long-standing gut symptoms—things like bloating, constipation, diarrhoea, wind, and abdominal pain. She combines expertise and empathy to support clients expand their food choices, enjoy eating again, and meet their nutritional needs—especially when food fear or restriction is limiting quality of life.

Kerith has published widely in her field and is the author of several peer-reviewed publications. She consults with clients in Newcastle and Salamander Bay and also offers Telehealth consultations for people around the world. Book Online or Call Us to set up an appointment.