



UNSUSTAINABLE. UNSAFE. UNPRECEDENTED.
Across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough,
GPs and practices are under unprecedented pressure:

Key Facts – April 2021* published 17 June by NHS Digital

Number of appointments: **410,323**

Number of Face-to-Face appointments: **233,789 (57%)**

Patients seen on the same day: **53%**

Patients seen within 7 days: **81%**

Patients seen in within 14 days: **90.5%**

Only **2.77%** Non-attendance rate - **97.2%** appointments attended

In addition, **over 90,000 Covid vaccinations** were delivered by Cambridgeshire & Peterborough GPs & their Practice teams in April – **in total over HALF A MILLION patient appointments that month**

Don't believe the Anti-GP media spin.

*NHS Digital <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/appointments-in-general-practice/march-2021> May data to be published July 2021

Key Messages

- **GPs and their practice teams are delivering a far greater number of consultations now than they did in the winter peak of January 2020 – and they have been working hard throughout the pandemic**
- **This not just due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, but also the major NHS backlog of patients waiting for treatment, combined with the lowest numbers of GPs per capita in decades**
- **This is on top of the GP-led COVID vaccination programme which has been hugely successful**
- **It is unsustainable, unsafe, and unfair for GPs and their teams, whether in practices, urgent care centres or other services, to be working such excessive hours at such intensity**
- **This is putting patient care at risk**
- **GPs are breaking - at the expense of their own physical, mental, social and families' health**

Face-to-Face appointments:

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough GP practices saw **233,789 patients face to face in April**. A doctor's first duty is to do no harm. Practices must, therefore, take all steps possible to deliver care that is safe for their patients and protects their staff. Social distancing, infection protection and control measures are still applicable, **so patients should only receive a face-to-face appointment if they NEED one, not simply because they demand one**. Many surgeries have restricted and unventilated reception areas – these are not yet safe for patients to walk-in without an assessment. Everyone must be triaged.

Patient Safety:

Practices are already working well beyond their safe daily limits – the impact of this on patient care is not yet fully appreciated or recognised. GPs and their practices, with the support of GPC England, and Cambs LMC, should continue to deliver care to their patients in the way they determine that best protects and cares for their population.

Cases of the B.1.617.2 variant in the UK, are rising exponentially, lockdown restrictions have been delayed. It is this clinical context, that should determine the key priorities for General Practice in the coming days and weeks, not false and dangerous politically-driven, media-fuelled edicts.

Please be patient with your GP and practice team at this difficult time.
There will be a Zero Tolerance approach to abuse of our staff.