

# Being a Paramedic Practitioner

***GP practices across the Frimley Health and Care area have been welcoming new members of staff into their teams to better support patients' needs.***

Around 400 additional team members have been recruited into healthcare roles at general practices in our area since 2019/2020 - offering patients access to an expanded team of health professionals in addition to their practice GP or nurse. This larger team now includes pharmacists, mental health practitioners, paramedic practitioners and social prescribers, who work together to support patients to get the right care when needed.

## Hear from Karl, Paramedic Practitioner Princes Gardens Surgery, Aldershot.



"I have been a paramedic now for 22 years and held various roles throughout my career. I am currently a Paramedic Practitioner in an Aldershot GP practice, working as part of an integrated team of health professionals ensuring we can provide wrap around care for patients.

"Working at Princes Gardens, I can put all my skills into practice by seeing patients who often have an urgent need but one which may not need a GP. My days are full of variety!

"I love the fact that I can spend more time with patients than the GPs can, answering their questions and understanding their worries. Sometimes our chats highlight other issues that the patient needs support with. That's why the team we have in practice is so valuable, as there is often one of us who can provide support. If you want to know a little more about me here is my story."

# Being a Paramedic Practitioner

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***I'd love for people to better understand that there are specialist paramedics in every setting, from theatres to general practice, right up to the level of consultant paramedic. The days of a paramedic being only responsible for patient transport and responding to emergency calls are far behind us.***

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“I started all those years ago as a Patient Transport Driver, which really helped me develop my communication and listening skills. I loved that element of the work; being able to have a chat with different people throughout the day.

“I moved on to become a technician for the ambulance service and trained on the job to eventually qualify as a Paramedic. For the next 18 years I was based in Surrey as a front line responder.

“Eventually I decided I wanted to learn more and undertook additional training at medical school covering subjects like minor illness, mental health and prescribing. I have developed a particular interest in Dermatology throughout my career and use these additional skills in my current role at the surgery.”

“Patients contact the surgery and the Care Navigators take a look at their need before directing them to the best member of the team to support. My role allows me to see people who have sustained a minor injury and assess them or see patients who are living with a few on going conditions and will need those taking into consideration during assessment and treatment.

“Being part of a wider team, I know there is always a colleague on hand with expertise if I feel the patient needs support with a referral, medication or if I need to seek GP support for more senior clinical overview.”

**To learn more visit:**  
**[www.frimleyhealthandcare/gethelp](http://www.frimleyhealthandcare/gethelp)**



***“I'd like patients to remember, that just because I have the word ‘paramedic’ in my title and that they wouldn’t usually expect to see me in a surgery, it does not mean I am not a highly trained professional and a specialist in what I do.”***