



FREE TO TAKE HOME!



Non-alcoholic fatty liver



Flash burns to the Eye



Post-Traumatic Stress



Heartburn in pregnancy

YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT:

ENJOY THIS FREE NEWSLETTER

Please remember that decisions about medical care should be made in consultation with your health care provider so discuss with your doctor before acting on any of the information.

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JUNE - JULY 2022 EDITION

● PRACTICE DOCTORS

Dr Nerrelie Cann

Dr Debra Chandler

Dr Joanne Chaffey

Dr Justin Chipman

Dr Stefan Delitzsch

Dr Emil Djakic

Dr John Fisher

Dr Margret Oetterli

Dr Elisabeth Robin

Dr Saminda Rubasinghe

Dr Lizzi Shires

Dr Diana Webster

Dr Josephine Woodman

Dr Samuel Brandsema

Dr Frankie Whitwell

● PRACTICE STAFF

Practice Manager: Sheree Snare

Clinical Manager: Breanna Carroll

Business Manager: Katrina Pugh

Reception Staff: Vivienne, Janine, Rhia, Peyton, Maree, Jacqui, Lynissa, Jackie & Kate

Registered Nurses: Roselyn Hendriks, Ann Louise Jones, Sharon Turner, Julie Turner, Sharon Brain, Christina Waddington & Rebecca Knowles

Enrolled Nurses: Kathryn French & Jackie Nash

● SURGERY HOURS

Ulverstone Branch Hours:

Monday to Friday

8.30am – 5.30pm

Weekends & Public Hols – Urgent Clinic

9am – 12noon

Shared with Victoria Street Clinic

Penguin Branch Hours:

Monday to Friday

9am – 5pm

● AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY

Phone **6425 1611**. Listen to voice message and ring the number advised. Please do not try to leave a message. In an emergency, phone **000** for an ambulance.

● SPECIALISTS & ALLIED HEALTH AT PATRICK STREET CLINIC

- Physiotas Physiotherapy
- Launceston Orthotic/Prosthetic Service Prem Anandam
- Mr Gary Kode - Launceston Plastic & Cosmetic Surgery

● FULL FAMILY MEDICINE SERVICES

- Minor Surgery
- Travel Medicine
- Lung Function Tests
- Aged Care
- Workplace Health Care
- Immunisations
- Blood Tests
- Trauma Care
- Antenatal Care
- Desensitisations
- Women's & Men's Health
- Skin Checks & Skin Cancer Treatments
- Diabetic & Asthma Clinics
- Family Planning/Contraception
- Child Health & Baby Checks

● PRACTICE BILLING POLICY

The Patrick St Clinic will not let financial hardship prevent access to medical care where at all possible.

Over many years, both sides of government have not supported the real cost of providing healthcare. Therefore your Medicare rebate has not kept up with inflation. This means that some costs must now be passed on to patients.

Significant discounting down to Medicare's "bulk billing" rate however does occur according to the individual patient circumstances at the doctor's discretion.

The following policy is aimed at being able to maintain our services to the community:

- Patrick St Clinic fees are guided by the Australian Medical Association.
- The first consultation in the financial year for all patients will attract a private fee. The current out of pocket expense for this is \$31.
- Subsequent billing for the remainder of the year will be at the discretion of the doctor.

We hope these measures will help you stay healthy regardless of your financial position.

● BOOKING APPOINTMENTS

We try to make sure patients are seen in a timely manner according to the urgency of the problem. Please let the receptionist know at the time of booking if your problem is routine or urgent.

Please give at least 2 hours' notice if cancelling a booking to allow that space to be made available to another patient in need.

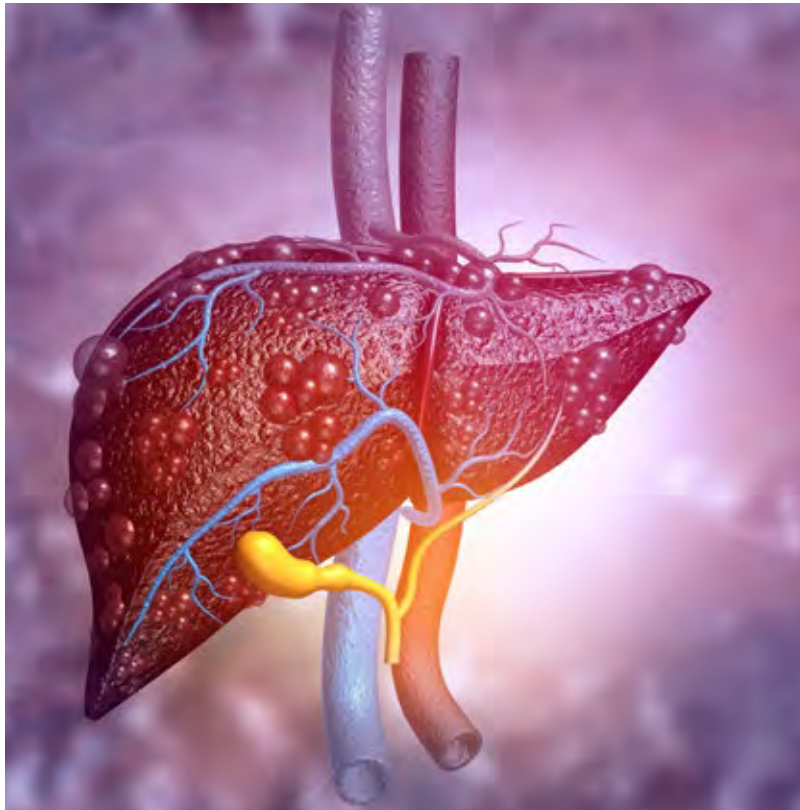
Failure to attend an appointment may attract a fee.


You can also book online via our website: www.patst.com.au or download the HotDoc App.

Booking a longer appointment: If you want an insurance medical, review of complex health problem, travel advice, counselling for emotional difficulties or a second opinion, please book a longer appointment.



▶ Please see the Rear Cover for more practice information.



 <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/nonalcoholic-fatty-liver-disease/basics/prevention/con-20027761>

Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease

This occurs when fat accumulates in the liver of a person who drinks little or no alcohol.

It is common and usually causes no symptoms. It can cause liver inflammation and, in rare instances, liver failure. The exact cause is unknown. It happens when the liver has difficulty breaking down fats, and hence there is a build-up. Risk factors include obesity, high blood cholesterol, type two diabetes, metabolic syndrome, and an underactive thyroid.

Symptoms, if they occur, may include fatigue and pain in the right upper abdomen. Diagnosis is made by blood tests for liver function and imaging (usually ultrasound) of the abdomen focusing on the liver. This will typically show fat deposits in the liver. In severe cases, a liver biopsy may be done.

There is no specific treatment, and for the vast majority, there are no symptoms to treat. Management is directed at treating risk factors. Lifestyle measures like weight loss, eating more vegetables and doing regular exercise are important, as is good control of any underlying condition like diabetes or hypothyroidism. Avoid medications which could strain the liver and, of course, alcohol. Some work suggests Vitamin E may help but do not take this unless recommended by your doctor. Coffee has also been shown to possibly have a beneficial effect on fatty liver but would not be regarded as "treatment".

Eating a healthy diet with adequate fruits and vegetables, maintaining a healthy weight, and doing regular exercise all reduce your chances of getting a non-alcoholic fatty liver.

Flash burns to the Eye

Flash burns occur when a strong light burns the eye's surface (cornea). Causes include welding with sparks flying, skiing without glasses, or using sun lamps. Symptoms include pain and burning in the eye, watery or bloodshot eyes and blurred vision. It can start up to 12 hours after exposure.

Diagnosis is on the history and examination of the eye. Investigations are not needed. Fortunately, most cases are mild and will resolve over a few days with no permanent damage. Treatment can include pain killers, antibiotics and anaesthetic eye drops, dilating drops to relax eye muscles and padding the eye. If you have contact lenses, these will need to be removed. Artificial tear drops can be soothing.

You should not drive or operate machinery whilst being treated. You will be asked to return for an eye check after 24-48 hours.

There is an adage that we only get one set of eyes. This remains true today. If there is any concern about your eyes, seek immediate medical attention either at your GP or an emergency department.

Flash burns can be prevented. Protect your eyes in the snow by wearing dark glasses with UVA and UVB protection. When working, use safety goggles that are made to Australian Standards. Most importantly, remember to wear them.



 http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Eye-injury-corneal-flash-burns

Post-Traumatic Stress

First described in the 1970s in Vietnam War Veterans, PTSD is a reaction that people can develop after being through or witnessing a traumatic event which threatened the life or safety of themselves or others.

This includes war, natural disaster, assault or serious accident. It is estimated that 12% of Australians may experience it during their life. Risk factors aside from trauma include a history of other mental health problems and stress.

Symptoms include feelings of fear, flashbacks, sleep disturbances, anxiety, sweats, heart palpitations, being on high arousal, irritability, anger, emotional numbness, and withdrawal from usual activities. They can start straight away or some weeks after the event and persist for weeks to years. PTSD can co-exist with other mental health issues such as depression or anxiety.

Diagnosis is by history. There are no specific examination findings or diagnostic tests. Bloods may be ordered to rule out other

conditions. Treatments mainly involve psychological counselling, of which there are different forms. Medication may be advised but not in the first four weeks of symptoms and usually not until psychological treatments have been started.


Lifestyle measures which can help include meditation and mindfulness, regular exercise, avoiding alcohol, and getting adequate sleep (have a regular sleep routine). For most, there will be an improvement over time and complete recovery. Some may have relapses and need further treatment. Some will need long term treatment.

If you have been subjected to any trauma or have any concerns talk to your GP.



 <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/anxiety/types-of-anxiety/ptsd>



 <https://www.babycenter.com.au/a242/heartburn-in-pregnancy>

Heartburn in pregnancy

Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD), commonly known as reflux, occurs when acid from the stomach goes up to the base of the oesophagus.

This is due to a laxity of the sphincter, which normally shuts off the upward flow of stomach acid. The stomach lining is designed to cope with acid (which we need to help digest food), but the oesophagus lining is not. The typical symptom is a burning sensation in the low chest or upper abdomen - hence the name heartburn.

The pain can be mild to severe. It can occur in anyone, and most people will experience it at some point in their lives.

Pregnancy can aggravate reflux in those who already have it or bring it about in those who haven't for two reasons. In pregnancy, the hormone relaxin is produced to "relax" joints

and ligaments and ease the delivery, but this hormone can slow digestion and also relax the sphincter. Secondly, as your baby grows, the pressure on the stomach can increase, pushing acid up the oesophagus.

So, what can help?

Not smoking and avoiding alcohol (which are no-no's in pregnancy anyway) helps. Eat smaller meals more frequently. Avoid foods which trigger reflux in you (unfortunately, no one size fits all here). However, carbonated drinks, caffeine, acidic foods, and spicy food are common culprits. Avoid eating for at least three hours before going to bed. Antacids can be used but discuss this with your doctor.

Psychedelics

Mental health remains an area where less progress has been made than we would like. There have been significant amounts of money spent which implies that more than just more dollars are needed.

In North America, there is renewed interest in the use of Psychedelics in mental health illnesses, especially treatment-resistant depression and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Recently a conference on Psychedelic Therapies for Mental Illness was held

virtually in Melbourne. It included the real-life experience of patients and physicians with first-hand experience of their use in highly controlled conditions. Some patients reported significant improvement in symptoms, which was sustained for some time in some cases.

The US FDA regards MDMA as a "breakthrough" therapy for PTSD, and trials on psilocybin for depression have been very encouraging.

Last year the Federal Government allocated \$15 million for psychedelics trials in Australia,

and some of these will commence soon. The TGA rejected an application to have the scheduling changed from nine to eight (which would enable prescription to patients outside of trials). Whilst this disappointed some, it was probably not a surprise that the TGA would not pre-empt the findings of trials yet to be completed.

Currently, it is not a treatment option in Australia, so do not ask your doctor for a prescription. However, if we tend to follow North America, and somewhere in the foreseeable future, psychedelic therapy may well become a treatment option for certain people in certain circumstances. Watch this space.



SEAFOOD CHOWDER

Ingredients (serves 6)

- 6 Sourdough bread rolls or crusty rolls (about 12 cm diameter)
- 500g scrubbed & cleaned mussels
- 225g waxy potatoes peeled
- 40g unsalted butter
- 100g smoked chorizo
- 1 small onion or banana shallot, finely chopped
- 1 leek, cleaned, halved lengthways and finely chopped
- 2 sticks celery, chopped
- 30g plain flour
- 500ml whole milk
- 200ml double cream
- 1 bay leaf
- 500g seafood mix
- 1 tsp salt
- Pepper to taste
- Small handful flatleaf parsley or chives, chopped to finish

Method

1. Heat 250ml of water in a large shallow pan and add the clams. Put a lid on the pan and allow the clams to steam for 3–4 minutes until they open. Set a

colander over a bowl, drain the opened mussels, and reserve the cooking liquid. When the mussels are cool enough to handle, remove the meat from the shells and set aside.

2. Cut the potatoes into 1.5cm dice and boil them for 5–10 minutes until tender, then drain and set aside.
3. Melt the butter in a separate large pan over a medium heat and fry the chorizo, onion or shallot, leek and celery until soft. Add the plain flour and cook for a minute or so, then add the reserved mussel cooking liquor and stir until thickened. Add the milk, cream, bay leaf, potatoes and seafood mix, then bring to the boil. Turn the heat down and simmer for about 5 minutes until the seafood mix is cooked, then add the mussel meat and season with salt and pepper.
4. Cut the tops off the rolls and scoop out as much of the dough as you can, leaving the crust. Spoon the chowder into the hollowed-out bread rolls or serve in bowls with sourdough on the side. Garnish the chowder with chopped parsley or chives.

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SUDOKO

Patrick Street Clinic

● PRACTICE NEWS

APPOINTMENTS

Currently there are 60 unfilled General Practitioner positions in Tasmania. Not uncommonly, the waiting time for an appointment is 2-3 weeks.

Please be patient. We appreciate your understanding. However our receptionists will try to accommodate your appointment request according to urgency. Please let the receptionist know if you feel that you have a medical problem that needs urgent attention.

Please try to plan ahead regarding your routine prescriptions, so that you do not run out unexpectedly. Also for your ongoing Specialist or Allied Health referrals, please book well ahead.

At times it can also be difficult to reach us by phone. It is often easier to get through later in the morning or early after lunch. We have taken some measures to address the phone issues.

We also encourage you to book your routine appointments on line and well in advance if possible.

FAREWELL NURSE JEANNIE

At the end of June, Patrick Street Clinic will farewell Nurse Jeannie Ansell, who became part of the Patrick Street Clinic family in 1992. Jeannie's work ethic, nursing skill and ability to harmonise the team, has seen her make an incredible contribution ever since.

In recent years, many of you will know her for her wonderful work as our Health Assessment Nurse. Her caring nature has often seen her go above and beyond her expected role, and has benefited many patients and their families.

With an easy going, relaxed personality and great sense of humour, Jeannie will be very missed, but we wish her all the best for her exciting travel adventures! Enjoy your retirement Jeannie!