

Firsway Health Centre

Adverse weather conditions and gritting policy

Firsway Health Centre has a car park that is available to use by staff, patients and visitors to the practice and a separate staff car park.

Firsway Health Centre recognises that it has a responsibility to provide employees, patients and visitors who enter the premises with a safe environment in which to work. We are committed to complying with the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and other regulations that require, so far as is reasonably practicable, the provision and maintenance of a safe means of access to and egress from the premises.

Hazard

During the winter the risk of injury from slips, trips and falls is increased by the presence of snow and ice, especially at the start of the day, on foot paths and other areas of pedestrian traffic.

Persons affected

All staff, visitors and patients

Risk Rating

Medium - risk of slips and trips resulting in minor injury or occasional risk of major injury

Existing Control measures

Firsway Health Centre has adopted the procedure below in order to control the risk of injury in the presence of ice and snow.

Further action required

The Operations Manager will monitor the effectiveness of these procedures throughout the winter season and amend any aspect of it found to be ineffective.

Winter Gritting Procedure

Firsway Health Centre will take the following steps to ensure safe access and egress during inclement weather, when the risk of injury from slip and trip accidents is increased due to snow and ice.

The overnight temperature will be monitored by the Practice Administrator Monday – Friday each week (backed up by the Operations Manager in the absence of the Practice Administrator). A recognised weather service will be checked (eg BBC Weather or the Meteorological Office) and a log of the temperature will be kept on the shared drive. If the temperature is due to fall to 0 degrees or below during the following 24 hours, or on Friday, for the weekend, the Practice Administrator will instruct a member of non-clinical staff (the Hub Manager for the weekends) to use the grit spreader to grit the paved area from the car park to the entrances of the building, both at the front and from the staff car park.

Day	Time	Person
Monday	4-6pm	Any member of the non-clinical staff
Tuesday	4-6pm	Any member of the non-clinical staff
Wednesday	4-6pm	Any member of the non-clinical staff
Thursday	4-6pm	Any member of the non-clinical staff
Friday	4-6pm	Any member of the non-clinical staff
Saturday	12 noon – 1pm	Firsway Hub Receptionist
Sunday	12 noon – 1pm	Firsway Hub Receptionist

The car park itself will not be gritted as the area is too large and is in constant use by patients, staff and visitors as well as local neighbours which would cause a safety hazard.

The Operations Manager will ensure that there are sufficient stocks of rock salt to last at least one week at a time, local stockists permitting.

Whilst every effort will be made to clear snow and ice it must be remembered that individuals have a responsibility for their own safety and that of others. This means being aware of the potential hazards of walking or driving in icy conditions and acting reasonably in the circumstances.

Firsway Health Centre will review the effectiveness of the winter gritting policy before each winter or if circumstances change.

How this Policy will be communicated to users of the car park

This policy is to be issued to all staff and put on the website

Car park signs have been displayed notifying users of the risk of ice