

CERNECAR VOLUNTEER DRIVING GROUP

CerneCar is currently a group of currently 10 volunteer drivers who take patients needing transport to and from medical appointments. This is a fulfilling experience for the drivers who can volunteer as much, or as little, as they wish. Most trips are to the Cerne Abbas surgery but some are to Dorchester County Hospital, (for which parking passes are provided), or occasionally further afield. Although many patients live in Cerne, as do most of our drivers, some are in outlying villages within the surgery's catchment area.

We are always open to welcoming new drivers as demand fluctuates and sometimes we cannot fulfil a request. Drivers vary in how many trips they volunteer for. A few drive frequently but some only occasionally, though their contribution is nonetheless very welcome. Normally drives are offered to the whole group by email and drivers volunteer as they wish with no pressure to accept. As well as needing a valid driving licence and a roadworthy vehicle, all drivers need to be checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). There is no age limit and no requirement for drivers to be able to physically assist patients. Drivers are reimbursed for costs by means of a standard mileage charge.

If any drivers would like to join the group, or would just like to know more, please contact the scheme administrator, Eugene Balbinski on 07870316698, or eugenebalbinski@gmail.com . Drivers are welcome both from Cerne or elsewhere, as such drivers may be located conveniently for patients living outside of Cerne.

There are also opportunities to support the scheme which do not involve driving. Although scheme administration is light, there is an opportunity to help with records and accounts. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Eugene as above.