**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.

**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.

Using the website link <https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/m33>. When the forecast 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 Chris Lamb of Lambscapes 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 | Chris Lamb – 07970 205926 |
| Tuesday | 4-6pm | Chris Lamb – 07970 205926 |
| Wednesday | 4-6pm | Chris Lamb – 07970 205926 |
| Thursday | 4-6pm | Chris Lamb – 07970 205926 |
| Friday | 4-6pm | Chris Lamb – 07970 205926 |
| Saturday | 12 noon – 1pm | Chris Lamb – 07970 205926 |
| Sunday | 12 noon – 1pm | Chris Lamb – 07970 205926 |

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 Practice Administrator 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