



PEOPLE
AGAINST
CANCER

Finding the Best
Cancer Treatment

Now Doctors Can Offer Alternative Treatments in the UK

May 30, 2005 Western Daily Press via NewsEdge

Many alternative therapies could become available on the NHS in Bristol and Bath for patients who fail to benefit from traditional medicine, it emerged yesterday.

Three quarters of people who attend city surgeries would like holistic health care, yet doctors currently have little they can offer them, Dr Rosy Daniel says.

But now she has launched a directory that will provide doctors with access to complementary, spiritual and self-help practitioners and groups.

The Integrated Medicine Directory has been launched by Dr Daniel, director of the Healthy Bristol charity and former Western Daily Press columnist.

This week she told GPs how they can access the online directory to find local approved practitioners of massage, spiritual healing, yoga and self-help and support groups.

North Bristol Primary Care Trust has agreed to host the directory on its website and the option is now being offered to South Bristol and Bath PCTs.

Dr Daniel said: "We are hoping that, at the touch of a button, a GP may be able to find the appropriate resources to help a patient. For example, if a patient has ME, the doctor may be able to find the ME support group on the directory." Dr Daniel said she hoped it would help doctors to treat the number of patients for whom traditional care does not work.

"Only 75 per cent of what comes into a surgery is medical.

Very little of what doctors see is what they are trained for.

"Doctors also have the 'hard to treat' group, patients with asthma, irritable bowel syndrome and pre-menstrual syndrome where people are on medication for years but don't get better." Patients will have to pay for some services but Dr Daniel hopes that, as demand grows, the PCTs will consider paying for some of the complementary care.

A spokeswoman for the Bristol PCTs could not say whether it would lead to free complementary care on the NHS.

"Some practices already offer a bit of homeopathy. The directory offers a list of the therapies that are available," she said. The directory can be found at www.healthybristol.org.uk