



# NEW CENTRE puts your **HEALTH** **FIRST**

**The Government has announced health check MOTs for the over 40s and there is concern from GPs and others that it's a waste of resources. I was intrigued to find out what all the fuss is about and why exactly we need to have an MOT.**

A new Diagnostic Screening centre has opened in Altrincham so I thought it a perfect time to find out for myself.

Diagnostic Healthcare has opened a diagnostic screening clinic, at 1-2 Denmark Street, adjacent to Total Fitness. The clinic – comprising a number of bespoke treatment rooms – is equipped with some of the most technologically advanced equipment in the North West.

Clinic Director Liat Karni, showed me around the clinic and explained some of the tests and test packages on offer. These include a full MOT which comprises a comprehensive check up that screens for major diseases and risk factors. There are also tests for heart and lung function, detailed blood analysis for conditions including anaemia, diabetes and raised cholesterol. Sight and hearing tests are also available as well as BMI and lifestyle analysis.

The clinic also provides more specialist tests including Bone Density a DEXA (Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry) method – normally only accessible in certain hospitals. This is particularly helpful in detecting potential problems such as osteoporosis which affects one in every two women over 50.

Ultrasounds are available as well as simple blood tests and comprehensive allergy testing. In addition the clinic also

offers a series of customised packages including the Well Woman package and services to corporate clients, children and sports groups. It costs around £30 for individual blood tests and a full MOT is £290. I also discovered that you can also design your own diagnostic screening tests.

Liat said: "Early detection and prevention are widely acknowledged to be the way forward in healthcare. Diagnostic Healthcare will bring potentially life-saving technology within reach of both private and NHS patients across the North West.

"We work closely with reputable, highly qualified radiologists, cardiologists, audiologists, GPs and other medical professionals and the clinic is led by experts in the field of diagnostics who have accrued many years of experience."

One of the main advantages for patients, it seems to me, is that it operates flexible opening times so you can pop in the evening and at weekends. The results are turned around quickly with patients often receiving a full analysis pack within two - seven days which they can discuss with their own GP or return to the clinic to discuss the report's findings and appropriate follow on treatment.

Liat continued: "By undertaking a comprehensive check up that screens for major diseases and risk factors and analysing these results swiftly, we can reduce the anxiety many patients feel and help them start to take more control of their own health."

In addition to providing diagnostic screening, the clinic's international and regional experts are also able to provide a second opinion service on any diagnostic scan.

The clinic also has a relaxed atmosphere and benefits from its central location. It provides quick access to some of the most technologically advanced equipment and some of the region's highly regarded medical professionals. Its service is entirely tailored to meet patients' needs and timeframe.

Words by Susan Todd

