# A guide to **mindfulness**.

We asked four doctors to explain how you can improve your health by becoming more mindful.

#### Introducing...

#### Dr Katie Amelia @drkatieamelia

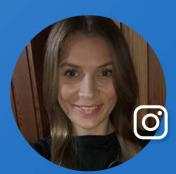
#### Dr Helen Garr **@thewellbeinggp**

#### Dr Katie Joyce @drkatiejoyce

#### Dr Faiza Khalid @thelifestylemedic

## What is mindfulness?

"I like to define mindfulness as an awareness of your current self. Essentially focusing on your present you, including your thoughts, feelings and breath."



Dr Katie Joyce

🖸 @drkatiejoyce

"Mindfulness is a form of attention and awareness training that helps you relate more effectively to your experiences and change the way they think and feel about them."



Dr Faiza Khalid

@thelifestylemedic

"Being mindful means bringing your awareness to the present moment, both to yourself and to what is going on around you."



Dr Katie Amelia

@drkatieamelia

"By doing this consciously and non-judgmentally, it helps us **view our** thoughts, feelings and situation with more clarity. We're not clouded by the past or worrying about the future."



Dr Katie Amelia

@drkatieamelia

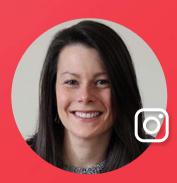
How can **mindfulness** help you? "People who practice mindfulness sleep better, are happier, less worried, more positive, have better focus and **overall improved wellbeing**."



Dr Helen Garr

@thewellbeinggp

"A busy life is very stimulating for your brain, and this in itself can be anxiety provoking. By just stopping and practising mindfulness you can halt some of these thoughts."



Dr Katie Amelia

@drkatieamelia

"There are huge benefits of practicing mindfulness, from a reduction in symptoms of anxiety, to lowering of blood pressure and reducing the body's immune response to stress."



Dr Faiza Khalid

🕥 @thelifestylemedic

## How can someone practice **mindfulness?**

#### "It's as simple as ABC."



Dr Faiza Khalid

Thelifestylemedic

**"A** is for awareness of what you're thinking and doing, and what's going on in your mind and body."



Dr Faiza Khalid

@thelifestylemedic

# **"B** is for just being with your experience."



Dr Faiza Khalid

@thelifestylemedic

"C is for seeing things and responding more wisely.

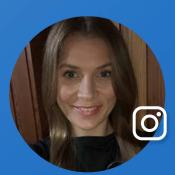
By creating a gap between the experience and our reaction to it, we can make wiser choices."



Dr Faiza Khalid

🕥 @thelifestylemedic

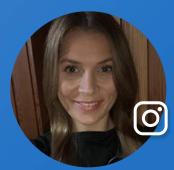
"The most simple and effective way is a breathing exercise. Find yourself a quiet place, set a timer for 10 minutes, sit down and get comfortable, close your eyes, and breathe in and out."



Dr Katie Joyce

**O**@drkatiejoyce

"You'll be aware of vour thoughts, feelings and also the world around. Naturally some of these will grab your attention. Bringing your attention back to your breath allows you to focus on the here and now."



Dr Katie Joyce

How has **mindfulness** helped you or your patients?

"I prescribe mindfulness every day and often do a 2-minute mindful practice with patients. People with anxiety, low mood and stress benefit as well as those with pain and chronic conditions."



Dr Helen Garr

@thewellbeinggp

"But you don't have to be experiencing an illness to benefit from mindfulness, **we can all benefit** from increased well-being from practising regular mindfulness."



Dr Helen Garr

@thewellbeinggp

"I use mindfulness when I'm eating. It's about developing awareness of your experience. **No** smartphones are present, which helps focus, appreciation and listening to my body when i'm full."



Dr Faiza Khalid @thelifestylem<u>edic</u>

"It's a great help managing anxiety for students by bringing awareness back to the present to help put things in perspective and give more control over unhelpful thoughts and feelings."



Dr Katie Amelia

@drkatieamelia

## Live in the moment & be well.

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