

## DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

### Flu Vaccination

Would those eligible patients who would still like a flu vaccine this year please make themselves known at the front desk? We will be vaccinating patients on a drop in basis provided there is a suitable clinician in the building at the time!

### E-Consultations

We are looking at opportunities to improve access and one such way would be to offer an e-consultation for those with computer access. We would like to know if this is a service that would be appreciated by patients. It would not be for those patients who KNOW they need to be seen but might be useful for those who are not sure and might just need some advice. We are working on this idea so watch this space!

### Repeat Prescriptions

There is a facility on the back of prescriptions sent electronically where we can add messages for you. We aim to use this facility more in the future and would like to remind patients ALWAYS TO CHECK THE BACK PAGE THAT IS RETURNED WITH YOUR MEDICATION. If there is a message for you, the chemist should highlight it and bring it to your attention.

### Blood and other laboratory results

Please make sure that you contact the practice for the results of any tests performed. We get at least 100 results a day and cannot be responsible for contacting every patient (unless the result is very significantly abnormal and potentially dangerous).

### NHS Sustainability

The NHS is facing mounting pressures over demand and cost. The St.Helens Clinical Commissioning Group has asked its GPs to consider deferring for a period of 6 weeks non-urgent referrals from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 until 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016 - to save money but also to reduce pressure on secondary care. If routine care is reduced, there is more capacity for urgent care which is always very high during this period. A six week delay in referral will only be made with individual patient agreement and only when clinically appropriate. We will NOT be delaying suspected cancer 2 week rule referrals or any patient where a delay would be harmful. We would appreciate your cooperation as if the CCG cannot balance the books by the end of this financial year there will be less money for the next financial year – this apparently makes sense to the politicians.

### Junior Doctors Contract

There has been a lot of political spin in the media. All we can say is that if the juniors' consultants have pledged to back them all the way, to act as junior doctors on the days of industrial action (ie work as junior doctors and not strike with them) so that no patient is harmed, then there has to be something in their stance. They are fighting for the long-term safety of patients and are passionate about their vocations. If 40% of junior doctors do not complete their training after graduating, there has to be a reason. GP recruitment is at an unprecedented low – I wonder why. This practice supports the junior doctors and we hope that you do too.

### Christmas

We wish all our patients a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



