

JULY /AUGUST 2015 NEWSLETTER

Donor Registration

This applies to all new patients. Up until now, when registering at a practice, on completion of the form Central Operations has added patient details to the donor registry as appropriate. This will no longer happen. If you would like to be an organ donor, please phone 0300 1232323 or visit www.organdonation.nhs.uk.

Over 75 Health Checks

We are over half way through assessing our 500 patients who are aged 75 or over. If you have not yet been invited for a comprehensive health check and are interested, please contact the front desk. The checks last anything from 30-60 minutes and cannot be done in the middle of surgery whilst you are here. If you are in any doubt whether you have had your check or not, please ask and we will let you know (and test you for dementia!).

Repeat Prescriptions

The number of patients demanding same day repeat prescriptions due to running out of medication is increasing. It is especially annoying if we complete the request same day and the scripts are then not collected and patients use the on-call service to obtain the medication out of hours. This is inappropriate use of the out of hours service. We all make mistakes but if you ask for same day medication, please ensure you then collect it the same day.

District Nurse Kaye Burrows takes early retirement in June. She did not ask our permission and will be sorely missed. We wish her all the very best for a happy retirement.

Flu Vaccine Letters

Patient Support Services have let it be known that no flu vaccination invitation letters will be sent out this year or in the future and it is up to the practice to invite patients. All patients who will be 65 by 31.03.16 are eligible for a flu vaccination from the beginning of October – consider yourselves invited!

Baby Clinic

Please note that as from the end of June there will no longer be a baby weighing clinic held at the practice on a Thursday morning – this has moved to Wednesday afternoon at Rainford Health Centre for patients registered at either practice.

Patient Chase

We are investing in a piece of software called 'Patient Chase'. Whilst picturing chasing after patients accompanied by the music from Benny Hill (showing my age, I know) this software will help with the coordination of chronic disease management. Each invitation letter is uniquely adapted to the individual patient and we are, sad to say, quite excited about this. Please feel free to give feedback. Apologies if I have put the Benny Hill theme tune into people's heads.

Seven Day Working

The government is currently trying to push through 7 day routine care within the NHS. This will require a 40% increase in the entire workforce (not just doctors and nurses) for which there is no funding. We are already short of GPs to cover weekday routine care. It would make much more sense for employers to allow time off to attend appointments within the working week – and far cheaper. If you feel a letter to your MP coming on ...

Doing this on a Saturday - #ImInWorkJeremy