

## **JULY 2016 NEWSLETTER**

### **Holiday Vaccinations**

Please be aware that providing a holiday vaccination service is not part of General Medical Services and is not funded. We currently offer this service free of charge but if you leave it too late for your travel vaccinations and are unable to book an appointment in time for the vaccine to take effect, please do not take it out on reception staff. Expert advice and travel vaccination can be obtained from the 'Well Travelled Clinic' held at the School of Tropical Medicine in Liverpool. This is a service for which you have to pay. If you are booking 'last minute' I would suggest that you should not book anywhere that requires lots of vaccinations. Most vaccinations take two weeks to become effective.

### **CCG Funding**

Historically, St.Helens Primary Care Services (GP practices) have received lower funding than our neighbours for similar numbers of patients. We have a very high over 75 population and very high prevalence of illness but not the additional funding to go with this. Please help support St.Helens GPs by writing to your Member of Parliament to ask for equitable funding and a review of the Carr-Hill formula used to allocate funding.

### **Sick Notes**

We cannot back date sick notes stating we have advised that you are unfit for work when you have not been seen at the practice. If you require a sick note to claim benefits then you need to be seen by a doctor at the practice.

### **Healthy Living Referrals/Forms to sign**

An increasing number of patients are dropping off forms with the message 'it just needs signing' when it does not. Many of these forms require height/weight/blood pressure readings/heart rate and waist measurements. Please read the form before dropping it off and if you need to be examined book with the practice nurse unless it needs to be a doctor.

### **The New Look Website**

We have recently changed the practice website and would welcome your feedback/suggestions. Bear in mind what you suggest might not be possible but we can look at it and discuss. Please note, the new website does not support our original on-line ordering of scripts system. You have to use the icon on the newer system and be registered for this (which most are). Any problems, please ask.

### **Respite Care**

If a patient moves out of the practice area on a temporary basis it is not possible for the practice to continue to look after him/her whilst out of area. They need to register with a local doctor near to whatever facility they have been admitted. Similarly, when patients come into Victoria Care Home on a respite basis, they sign on with a Rainford GP for the duration of their stay. Please do not expect us to travel out of the area to care for your loved one in this situation – to do so would potentially put other patients at risk.

### **Out-of-Hours**

Please make every effort to be seen within opening hours to reduce pressure on the out-of-hours service.