

## **JUNE 2013 NEWSLETTER**

### **MMR Catch Up Vaccinations**

In the light of the measles epidemic in Wales and the increase in mumps cases, we are currently inviting all patients under the age of 16 who have not had two MMR jabs to the surgery to be vaccinated. We are starting with those who have not had any MMR vaccination before moving on to those with a record of one dose. If you think this applies to you or your family members and have not been contacted by the end of June, please speak to reception and we can check your MMR status. Vaccination is available to those over 16 who have not had two doses and who consider themselves potentially vulnerable – we just have to protect the kids first.

### **GP Bashing**

So, the rise in A+E attendance is due to GPs giving up 24 hour responsibility in 2004? St.Helens GPs did not give up responsibility, yet A+E attendance at Whiston has still risen. GP consultation rates per patient have also risen considerably but that fact is ignored. (I am just pointing it out).

### **Chronic Disease Management Clinics**

Our aim to get all patients seen in the month of their birth is currently exceeding our expectations – to the extent there is a short wait for nurse appointments now. Thank you very much for your cooperation with this. We have been overwhelmed by the response. Please do not wait until the month of your birth if you think you are due a check up – book in anyway – it will take a couple of years to get everyone into the month of their birth and some of you do need to be seen more than once a year.

### **New Child Immunisation Schedules**

Starting June 2013, there will be changes made to the childhood vaccination programme. One of the primary doses of meningitis C is to be removed and given instead in year 9 at school with the usual diphtheria/tetanus and polio booster (currently given in year 10).

Immunisation against rotavirus (common cause of severe diarrhoea in children) is starting in July – we are awaiting further details.

Immunisation against shingles is starting in September – again we have no information as yet.

We will let you know more when we know more.

### **Holiday Vaccinations**

Please note you should plan to have completed any immunisations required for trips abroad two weeks before your departure date. You should also have malarial prophylaxis, if required, sorted in advance as this needs to be started two days before departure – please do not wait until the last minute before remembering!

### **June 27<sup>th</sup> 2013**

The practice will be closed on the afternoon of 27<sup>th</sup> June for Protected Learning Time. Any complicated patients should wait until after that date in the hope we will have learned something!