

OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Complication upon complication

Your GP surgery is open 8.15am-6pm, Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays and the occasional half day closure for training. We remain 'opted in' (ie. responsible for 24 hour cover) and have chosen St.Helens Rota to provide out-of-hours emergency care when we are closed.

We also offer some evening and weekend appointments, again through St.Helens Rota as part of 'extended hours'.

Rota consultations are either with a doctor or an advanced nurse practitioner. Their clinicians can access your computer-held GP records with your consent at the time of the consultation.

NHS England has now made it compulsory for CCGs (clinical commissioning groups) to provide seven day access to routine primary care despite the shortage of GPs and the struggle to maintain a five day a week service due to manpower and workload. St.Helens CCG has appointed UC24 as the provider for this additional layer of appointments. These 'extended access' appointments will be entirely separate from us though the free use of our receptionists' time is demanded for booking appointments and seeking consent for UC24 staff to have access to your full GP record. UC24 will not see patients unless this consent is forthcoming.

Other areas where this extended access has been piloted report a significant percentage of appointments lying empty through lack of demand.

In addition, there remain walk-in centres and minor injury units as well, of course, as A+E for more serious emergencies.

Are we all clear? Excellent.

Flu Jabs

Where do I start? The flu vaccinations for eligible children and those under 65 have arrived and we are booking clinics. Please contact the practice if this applies to book your flu vaccination.

For the first time this year there is a specific vaccine for the over 65's. Delivery of this has been delayed by the one company who supplies the vaccine and it seems there is little we can do about it. We have enough vaccines on order and have already completed 300 vaccinations. Our next supply is due on 17th October with the final delivery on 7th November.

Your continued support of the practice regarding flu vaccination is much appreciated. We aim to have used them all by mid-November. This will be in plenty of time before the flu season hits so there is no need for alarm.

Revalidation

Thanks to your generosity we both now have sufficient patient feedback to complete our next revalidation schedules. Looks like we are stuck with each other for a bit longer!