

MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

It is with great sadness we say goodbye to Carmel, our practice nurse, after more than 20 years working at the practice. She will be a very hard act to follow and we wish her a wonderful retirement (mixed in with feelings of resentment, gloom and jealousy). We hope to appoint a new practice nurse as quickly as possible – but they are nearly as hard to come by as GPs. Patients who currently see Carmel for B12 injections can be added on as extras to surgeries or come to open surgery. Smears may have to go to sexual health clinics (or be done on Eithne's half day) and travel vaccines may have to go to private travel clinics but we will do our best to fit people in. We will try to keep things going as smoothly as possible and your understanding at this very difficult time would be greatly appreciated. Two nurses from neighbouring practices are very kindly helping out in the interim to provide partial cover.

Free WiFi in the practice

Great to see the politicians are focusing clearly on where money needs to be spent in the NHS! If you choose to view live TV on your portable device and you do not have a licence, this falls on you and not the practice. Neither are we responsible for speed of connection. Can you not just bring a book?

Common Approach to Children's Health – CATCH App

This is a newly launched NHS health app aimed at the 0-5 year olds. It is a useful guide to parents regarding minor illnesses, self-management and when to be concerned. You can create a profile for your child and you will receive timely reminders of immunisation schedules etc. This was presented to GPs at a recent meeting and looks to be worth checking out. It can be downloaded from the Apple App store or from Google Play.

General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR

As from 25th May, new rules come into force regarding the way personal data is managed. We are awaiting guidance from the St.Helens Commissioning Group about what we need to do to be compliant within the new regulations. Please check the website and look for signs in reception nearer the time for further information.

Patient Record Archive

We are looking to get all patient records archived in the next two months so everything is on the computer to facilitate requests for records. During this time your written record will be held securely off-site before being returned to the practice. We hope this will not cause too much disruption and ask you to bear with us.

Revalidation

Every 5 years GPs have to undergo revalidation in order to continue to practise. As part of this we need to gather what is called 360 degree feedback – ie feedback from patients and colleagues. We are looking for patients with email addresses who do not mind being contacted to give feedback. This is done anonymously so you can say what you like! Please let reception staff know or mention during your appointment if you are happy to take part – otherwise we might be forced to retire.... Actually, please refuse to give permission!!

Bank Holidays

There are two bank holidays in May – get prepared regarding script requests.

Mammograms

If you think you may have been overlooked, contact the practice.