

AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

COVID boosters

We have now completed the housebound over 75 years of age and nursing home boosters. The next booster dose roll out starts in September. We are NOT taking part in this as we have no capacity and need to concentrate on the medical needs of our patients. We will only be offering booster doses to the housebound and care home residents. Please contact 119 for information once the booster programme starts.

Flu Jabs

Gazebo time is nearly upon us. We are due to get our flu jabs in September and if you are over 65 or under 65 in an at risk group and normally get your flu jabs from the practice, one will have been ordered for you. In recent years, healthy over 50's have been included and we have ordered additional vaccine for this cohort. This year, we ordered the additional vaccine only to be told the over 50's were not included, so we then reduced the order. In late July (some 7 months after the flu orders are placed) NHSE has announced the over 50's are to be included after all!! We are probably unable to increase our order at this late stage and will only be able to offer flu vaccine to this cohort if we have any left over. If you are healthy and over 50 you might prefer to book with a pharmacy rather than wait to see if we have any left.

Additional Roles Staff

As many will be aware, we now have an advanced musculoskeletal practitioner in on a Tuesday for those with MSK issues. We also have a mental health nurse, Kate, for both acute and chronic mental health issues. You can book directly with them or if you are not sure, book with a doctor first. We also have two social prescribers, Hollie and Murray, for patients whose issues may be less medical and more practical eg alcohol and drug misuse, loneliness, financial matters etc. If you would like to speak to one of these, please let the practice know so we can refer directly. Finally, we are delighted to welcome Rachel, nursing associate, to the team. She is in on a Tuesday afternoon for BP checks, NHS health checks, ECGs etc.

Surgery Plans

Along with all the additional roles mentioned above, we facilitate the Medicines Management Team and the midwifery team and have no space left in the practice. We are looking into potentially extending the practice into the Doctors' parking area as this is the only space available. It is at a very early stage and might not be feasible. We simply do not know. If this goes ahead, there will inevitably be some disruption but we think this might give us a better chance of survival in the current trend of closing small practices and moving to 'super practices'.

GP Patient Survey

Many thanks to all those who took the time to complete the survey. We were very pleased that the results indicate general satisfaction with services (97%) even in these difficult times. However, notwithstanding the survey results and the current pressures facing the primary care workforce, the politicians are pushing ahead with their plan for the provision of routine primary care everywhere from 8am to 8pm weekdays and 9-5pm on Saturdays from October 1st, despite there being no staff to run it. These appointments have to be bookable by any patient in the network (six local practices) and by 111 so we can no longer provide the service just for our own patients. As a result, we cannot safely continue the in-house provision of late surgeries after the end of September so this service will end.