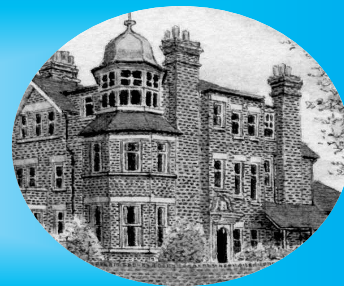


# THE ARLINGTON ROAD MEDICAL PRACTICE NEWSLETTER



September 2014

## *30th and 31st October*

On 30th & 31st October extensive maintenance work will be carried out on our computer system. This will limit the services we are able to offer over the two days.

On Thursday 30th we will be closed in the afternoon from 1.45pm. We will be open from 8.30am as usual on the Friday. However, **we will only be able to book appointments from 10.30am and will not be pre-booking any routine appointments for either day.**

**P**atient Partner, our automated booking service for appointments, will be switched off on Wednesday 29th October in the afternoon and will not be available for use again until some point during the day on Monday 3rd November.

If your **repeat prescription** is due for renewal during the last week of October, please help us, and avoid unnecessary delays for yourself, by requesting your prescription a week early as we will be unable to process any prescriptions requests during the computer downtime.

We appreciate your patience and understanding.



## *Forthcoming Surgery Closure...*

The next Protected Learning Afternoon for all local GP Surgeries is on Wednesday 8th October.

We will therefore be closed from 12 noon and cover will be provided by IC24 - the out of hours GP Service.

If you require urgent medical attention after 12 noon on Wednesday 8th October, please call **0845 14 50 121**

## *Our Current Registrars and Locum*

Dr Saloua Ribani and Dr Saada Radhi are still with us and are both nearing the end of their training.

Recently Dr Ben McFadden joined us for his final year of GP Training. Also Dr Jasmin Malek, who is in the first of her final three years of training.

Dr Laure Berthelot-Cabaret (known as Dr Laure) is a fully qualified GP from France who is currently working with us as a locum.

## *Opening the Surgery*

As you are probably aware our appointments start at 8.30 in the morning. These appointments are usually pre-booked and we aim to open the door between 8.20am & 8.25am.

Our receptionists have received complaints recently from patients who say they are being made to wait 10 minutes to be seen for their 8.30am appointment when we have opened the door at 8.20am.

The reason we open the door 'early' is to allow patients to book-in and be in the correct waiting area in time for their 8.30am appointment, it does not mean that you will be seen by the doctor before 8.30am. For the same reason the receptionist who opens the door will call forward any patients who have got a booked 8.30am appointment.

## Flu Vaccination Campaign 2014

We will be holding our Flu Vaccination Clinics at the surgery on the following days:

Saturday 20th September, Saturday 27th September, Saturday 4 October & Saturday 11 October.

**P**atients Eligible for Flu Vaccinations:

\* Anyone aged 65+ (defined as those born on or before 31.3.1950)

**P**atients aged over 6 months with the following conditions:

\* Chronic Respiratory Disease (asthma requiring repeated use of inhaled steroids) or COPD

\* Chronic Heart Disease

\* Chronic Kidney Disease

\* Chronic Liver Disease

\* Chronic Neurological Disease (including Stroke/TIA)

\* Diabetes

\* Asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen (this includes sickle cell disease and coeliac syndrome)

\* Immunosuppression (due to disease or treatment)

\* Pregnant women

\* People in long-stay residential or nursing homes

\* Carers

**P**lease contact the surgery from Monday 1st September 2014 anytime from 11.30am onwards to book your flu vaccination appointment. Please note, the surgery is closed from 1pm-2pm and we cannot book these appointments on the automated system.

**C**hildren who fall into any of the above at-risk groups will be given Fluenz nasal spray. For those children who are aged between 2 years to less than 9 years, who have not had flu immunisation before, they will need two doses given a month apart. All other children will just need one dose.

### All children aged 2, 3 or 4 years old

All children aged two to less than five years old are eligible for flu immunisation (ie those children born between 2.9.2009-1.9.2012). These children will be given Fluenz nasal spray instead of an injection. Children who are healthy and do not fall into any of the at risk categories will only require one dose of the nasal spray.

**W**e have been advised by the Department of Health, that Fluenz (the nasal spray for children's flu immunisation) will not be available for us to order until mid/end September. Therefore, we will not be booking any of the children's appointments until we know that we have the Fluenz on order. If you would like to contact us mid September, hopefully we will have an idea by then of when we should receive the Fluenz. We apologise for this but as I am sure you will appreciate, this is something beyond our control.

## Shingles Vaccination

We will be once again offering Shingles Vaccination for the eligible age groups from 1 September 2014.

**T**he Department of Health have advised us that the age groups this year that are eligible are patients who are aged either 70, 78 or 79 years old as at 1 September 2014, ie:

Patients born between 2.9.43 - 1.9.44 = Patients who are aged 70 years old as at 1 September 2014

Patients born between 2.9.35 - 1.9.36 = Patients who are aged 78 years old as at 1 September 2014

Patients born between 2.9.34 - 1.9.35 = Patients who are aged 79 years old as at 1 September 2014

**I**f you fall into any of these age groups and would like to book an appointment for the Shingles Vaccination please contact the surgery on 727531 to book your appointment - we will be holding clinics for these vaccinations from 1st September 2014 onwards. Unfortunately we are unable to give these vaccinations in the Flu Clinics, so you will need to book a separate appointment with the Practice Nurses for the Shingles Vaccination.