

THE ARLINGTON ROAD MEDICAL PRACTICE NEWSLETTER



September 2012

The 2012 'Flu Vaccination Campaign...

We will soon be starting our Flu Vaccinations at the surgery. The clinics will be held on the following Saturdays:

Saturday 29 September; Saturday 6 October; Saturday 13 October & Saturday 20 October.

We will be booking appointments from 10 September 2012. To book an appointment please phone the Surgery on 727531 after 11.30am Monday to Friday (the Surgery is closed between 1-2pm for lunch).

The flu vaccination will be available for patients in the following At Risk groups:

- * All patients aged 65 and older (this is defined by the Dept of Health as patients born on or before 31 March 1948)
- * Pregnant Women
- * Patients aged 6 months and over with the following conditions:
 - * Asthmatics who require continuous use of inhaled or systemic steroids
 - * COPD including chronic bronchitis & emphysema
 - * Cystic Fibrosis
 - * Chronic Heart Disease
 - * Chronic Kidney Disease
 - * Chronic Liver Disease
 - * Chronic Neurological Disease including Stroke & TIA
 - * Diabetes
- * Immunosuppression including patients without a spleen, those undergoing chemotherapy & patients on a high regular dose of steroids (20mg daily)



Other patients eligible for flu vaccination are:

- * Patients in long stay residential and nursing homes
- * Carers - those who are in receipt of a Carer's allowance or who are the main carer for an elderly or disabled person who may be at risk if the carer falls ill and immediate relatives of patients undergoing chemotherapy.

There has been an article on the news recently regarding nasal flu vaccination for children aged 2-17 years. This programme is currently not due to start until 2014, so for this flu season we will be vaccinating the children just in the At Risk groups listed above.

Congratulations and Welcome Dr Ahmad

Dr Ahmad completed his training with us at the end of August and we are pleased to announce that he is joining the Surgery team as a Salaried GP from September. He will be working on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursday and Fridays. We are sure that those of you who have consulted him will agree he will be an asset to the Surgery.

Our Trainee Doctors...

We currently have three trainee Doctors working in the Practice who are all at different stages of their training, they all started with us at the beginning of August.

Dr Priti Varsani is in her final year of GP Specialist Training (ST3) and will be with us for 12 months.

Dr Jenny Katsoni is in the first of three years of GP Specialist Training (ST1) and will be with us for four months.

Dr Claudia Sellers is an FY2 Doctor and will also be with us for four months.

New Healthcare Assistant

We are pleased to welcome Mary Attoe to our Nursing Team as an additional Healthcare Assistant. Mary has been working as a Healthcare Assistant for a number of years in one of the other Eastbourne practices.

Missed Appointments

Missed appointments continue to be a big problem. You may have seen our posters around the surgery which give an idea of the impact this has on the number of appointments we have available to offer.

For example between January and June this year there were **360 missed appointments** which is equivalent to **24 surgeries in 6 months**. These figures only include appointments with the Doctors, missed appointments with the Practice Nurses are in addition to this.

Please, do cancel your appointment if you no longer need it or have been able to book an earlier appointment.

Save Our Stripes

Shirley would like to thank you for your generous donations to the Save Our Stripes campaign.

The campaign has received fantastic support of late, including a donation of £2000 from Eddie Izzard, a £1000 donation from the Duke of Devonshire and Griff Rhys Jones is now on board supporting the campaign.

Shirley is pleased to say that only a further £6000 is needed to 'save our stripes'.

www.keepthebeachyheadlighthousestripes.org.uk

NHS Medical Cards

With effect from 16 July 2012, the PCSS are ceasing to routinely issue NHS medical cards to patients who change their registered GP, previously when you changed your registration with a GP you were sent a new NHS medical card from the Primary Care Support Service (PCSS) but this will now be stopping.

If you require written confirmation of your registration with a GP or your NHS number you can obtain this by:

visiting the PCSS website:

www.pcss.nhs.uk/your-information/medical-card-requests where there is advice on how to request a medical card/NHS number.

or by phoning the PCSS offices on:
01903 756800

If you are a new patient about to register with the surgery and you do not have your previous NHS medical card, we would be grateful if you could please contact your previous GP surgery to obtain your NHS number as this is very helpful to us when registering new patients at the surgery.

Plans for the Surgery

We are delighted to announce we have now been granted planning permission to convert the two flats adjoining the Surgery in Old Orchard Road into additional surgery space. We now have to apply for building regulations permission so nothing dramatic will happen for a little while!

This conversion will give us more consulting and treatment rooms and enable us to install a lift, improving disabled access to our first floor. We will keep you updated in forthcoming newsletters of the progress of this project.