

YELVERTON SURGERY

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2009

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our newsletter. Read on for some important information about flu vaccines, PCT services and prescribed drugs...

Swine Flu Immunisations

We have produced information sheets which will be updated when needed. We have been asked to follow national guidance on priority groups for the vaccine. These groups are based on the evidence that swine flu has caused rare but serious reactions in people within these groups. It appears that over 50s have a degree of resistance (probably from previous contact with flu earlier in life).

Our information sheets can be found at reception and in the waiting room.



DON'T FORGET...YOU CAN STILL MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR YOUR NORMAL WINTER FLU VACCINATION TOO DON'T WAIT FOR A LETTER OR A PHONE CALL!

Government priority groups for seasonal flu include **everyone over 65** and patients with:

**Diabetes ~ Asthma ~ COPD ~ Heart Disease ~ a history of Stroke or TIA
~ Kidney or Liver Illness ~ Low Immunity
Carers are also entitled to a flu jab**

Patients in the priority groups may also benefit from a once only vaccination against Pneumonia and this will be offered when they have their flu jab.

If you are unsure if you are eligible we will be happy to check this for you.



The Primary Care Trust for our area is now called NHS Devon. They are responsible for many of the staff who work with us e.g. the district nurses, health visitors, chiropodists and the counselling service. They are also responsible for 'commissioning' (buying) a range of services for you from hospitals and other organisations. The NHS Devon website is www.devonpct.nhs.uk.

There have been some recent changes to services:

1. **Mental Health Services for children and young people** - NHS Devon has changed the provision of this service from Plymouth to a Devon based service. There have been some teething problems but we have worked with them to ensure these are overcome.
2. **Counselling Services** - changes have been imposed upon us. We will wait and see whether these changes are successful. The stated aim of the changes is to make a range of psychological support more widely available.



URINE RESULTS

Please ring the surgery for your urine result 48 hours after handing in your sample.

The results line is open between 2pm - 4pm on 01822 852222



We have recently welcomed some new faces to the surgery...

Dr Tahzid Ahsan joined us in August and will be here for a year whilst he completes his GP training...

...Dr Heidi McDowell and Dr Nick Keysell will be working with us for six months as locums.

And we have sadly said goodbye to...

...Dr Yoshi Hatanaka who left at the end of July after completing her GP Training...

...Physiotherapist, Yvonne Barry who left at the end of September to take up a new post...

...District Nurse, Kate Abbott who retired at the beginning of October...

...Dr David Jones who left at the end of October to work in another practice

...Dr Geetha Geddam, also at the end of October after completing her GP Training.

GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL AND THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AT THE PRACTICE



Prescribed Drugs

1. Please return unwanted drugs to the chemist for safe destruction.
2. It is important that you understand what your medication is for and how to use it - if in doubt, please ask either ourselves or your pharmacist.
3. An increasing number of prescribed drugs become unavailable from manufacturers for periods of several months. We work closely with our pharmacist colleagues to ensure you receive a suitable replacement.
4. Repeat dispensing is a new way to order and collect your prescriptions. The surgery can issue up to 12 months of prescriptions at once which are held in a nominated pharmacy. When patients need their next supply of medications they let the pharmacist know so that they can dispense the medications ready for collection. The pharmacist is on hand to answer any questions about the medication and also review medications from time to time. Not everybody's prescriptions are suitable for repeat dispensing. You will receive a letter if we think you may benefit from the new system.



STOP SMOKING CLINIC

You can book an appointment in the Stop Smoking Clinic for help and advice. Clinics are run every Friday afternoon at the surgery by a PCT