

# Oxshott Medical Practice

## January Newsletter

### Retirement of Dr Jackie Pickin

It is with great sadness that the Surgery announces the retirement of Dr Jackie Pickin. Our Surgery has had one of the longest GP partnerships ever in Surrey with no changes for over 20 years! The Surgery is very proud of this achievement. Dr Pickin has retired from the Surgery and we obviously wish her every happiness in her retirement. Dr Pickin informs us that she has many plans to go travelling, have some relaxation time and take up bee keeping. She has promised us supplies of honey in the future!

If any patients would like to show their appreciation by donating to a retirement present from patients to Dr Pickin, please let Anny, Practice Manager know. Anny is collating a collection that will be passed to Dr Pickin on behalf of her patients towards the purchase of a bee hive.



The Practice partnership continues with Dr Down and Dr Draper, Any patients that were registered with Dr Pickin will be transferred to one of the remaining partners but, as known to our patients, you have the accessibility to see any GP of your choosing but have to legally be registered with a partner of the Practice.

### Welcome to Dr Sarah Mackay and Dr Janice Lo

With the retirement of Dr Pickin, the Surgery has employed Dr Sarah Mackay as a salaried GP. She will be running surgeries regularly on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. We are also pleased to announce the arrival of Dr Janice Lo, a qualified doctor who is spending several months at our Surgery on the FY2 scheme.

#### Email & Text SMS reminders

Would you like to receive Surgery updates such as our newsletter by email? Or a reminder of your appointment via text message? If so, please ensure to update your contact details at reception. We are hoping to introduce these schemes later on in the year.

### FLU VACCINATIONS

Our Surgery commences flu vaccination clinic early every September to ensure that patients entitled to this vaccination on the NHS are vaccinated in plenty of time for the flu season. We also contact patients via telephone or letter inviting them to make appointments.

***Current situation - we have no vaccines left suitable for any patient under 18 but we do have supplies for older patients if they are in an at risk group. IF a child is in an 'at risk' group we can currently only offer the Pandermix vaccine.***

Last year, all children under 5 were invited to participate in the Department of Health campaign in regard to pandemic (swine) flu. Many parents decided not to vaccinate their children which is of course their choice. **The DoH is NOT vaccinating ANY CHILDREN this year unless they are in an 'at risk' group e.g. heart condition, diabetes, asthma etc.**

We can not assist parents who wish their child to be vaccinated against swine flu unless the child is in at medical risk groups. There is also currently no vaccine available to be sourced by pharmacies so we are no longer able to issue private prescriptions for the flu vaccine.

**The best advice we can give it to be vigilant. If your child develops a temperature of 38° or higher and any other symptom of flu, contact the Surgery and make an appointment to discuss with a GP.**

## SURREY PRIMARY CARE TRUST (PCT) LOW PRIORITIES

As known to some patients, Surrey PCT introduced a Low Priorities Policy last year. They state that every PCT in the country has one and, apparently, Surrey's has been developed using the latest clinical evidence and advice from local health experts such as Surrey's Optical Committee and Local Medical Committee. **Surrey PCTs priority is to pay for medicines and treatments that are clinically effective, can demonstrate they improve people's health and offer good value for money.**

These priorities mean there are some treatments, referrals and medications they do not normally fund on the NHS. This may be because there is limited evidence about whether they are clinically effective or it could be because the treatment is considered cosmetic, rather than necessary on health grounds e.g. removal of excess skin following weight loss surgery or some treatments for varicose veins.

Patients need to be aware that if requesting referral or medications on the NHS, some may no longer be possible due to this Policy. Furthermore, should you decide to see a private consultant and they prescribe you medication privately, we may not be able to change your private prescription to an NHS prescription as many patients request.



### Severe Weather

The surgery would like to apologise to any patients inconvenienced recently at the surgery when we could not safely get staff into the surgery due to the severe weather and snow or when we needed to close early to try and get staff safely home again. I can assure you planning was continuous and telephone lines were manned as normal and even remotely. What a December!!! We are certainly hoping the severe weather does not return. Whilst as a surgery we maintain a positive outlook, we do need to take into account staff safety. Patients who could not get to the surgery due to the snow and ice and requested home visits were prioritised by medical need. If you cannot get to the surgery due to snow and ice it is most likely a nurse or GP cannot get to you as well unless a medical emergency.

### EQUIPMENT FUND

Some medical tests are not normally available locally and this has meant a hospital referral for patients to have these completed. Therefore, over the years the surgery has purchased medical equipment to have some tests completed locally at the surgery to save patients waiting times and travel. The surgery does need to replace certain pieces of medical equipment regularly at great cost and with the severe cuts in NHS spending we may not be able to continue to be able to do this. If you are interested in running a fund raising function to assist us in this matter or if you would like to make a one off donation or a small regular donation to our Equipment Fund please discuss with Anny Practice Manager. Examples of equipment are ambulatory (24 hour) blood pressure monitoring machines, lung function testing equipment, a heart defibrillator, ECG machine and smoking cessation equipment.

We are also keen to provide facilities to make the surgery more comfortable with adequate seating.

**We wish all our patients a very happy & healthy new year!**