

Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2019

NATIONAL CANCER DIAGNOSIS AUDIT (NCDA)

We are taking part in an important national project to improve how people are diagnosed with cancer.

If you have been diagnosed with cancer, your GP practice may share certain information with the National Cancer Registration and Analysis Centre at Public Health England.

This information might include how many times you came in to see the GP with symptoms, what types of tests you had and when you were referred.

Taking part in the NCDA shows that this GP practice is committed to diagnosing cancer as early as possible.

The type of information and how it is shared is controlled by law and enforced by strict rules of confidentiality and security.

If you do not want your information to be used, please inform the receptionist, your GP or your nurse. This will not affect your care in any way.

More information is available at:

www.cruk.org/ncda and www.ndrs.nhs.uk

NATIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING CAMPAIGN

Don't fear the smear!

Nationally, only 71% of eligible women (aged 25-64) have been screened. It is free, only takes a few minutes and is painless. Our nurses are experienced and will be happy to discuss any concerns you have.

A cervical smear can be performed at any time except when you are bleeding.

If you have received an invite or reminder to attend for a cervical smear, book your appointment now.....it could save your life!



BLOOD PRESSURE MONITORING

Do you need to monitor your blood pressure regularly?

BP machines are now very cheap to buy and are readily available online or from your local chemist for as little as £25. The Omron M2 is a basic and easy to use machine for home use.

We recommend buying your own machine and to let us have your readings every 6 months or if they change from your normal readings.

PATIENT SURVEY— OUR RESPONSE

Thank you to the patients who took the time to complete our patient survey last year. Overall, 98% of patients rated the practice as good or excellent.

Telephones—56% of patients found it easy to get through on the phones with 34% rating the experience as average. We are currently reviewing our telephone system to see if there is a package that will manage our call volume better.

Appointment times—13 patients asked for Saturday opening. The practice has opened on a Saturday morning for pre-booked appoint-

ments for many years and GP appointments are bookable online. Recently a weekend service at Dorset County Hospital was introduced for GP and Nurse appointments (see below).

Blood test appointments—15 patients rated the availability of these appointments as satisfactory. In response to our long wait times for blood test appointments, we have recently appointed an additional Healthcare Assistant. We aim to offer dedicated blood test clinics every morning, Monday to Friday. Our new HCA will also support our nurses with dressing, ECG, BP, ear syringe, B12 and flu appointments.

Did you know? The NHS was created in 1948, just three years after the Second World War ended.

SYSTMONLINE

A few patients have reported difficulties with viewing and accessing our online service via an iPad.

Download the SystmOnline app to use our online system which is available for tablets, ipads, android and iphones via your Appstore.

PRIMARY CARE NETWORK

The new 5 year GP contract promotes greater integration of, and collaboration between, GP practices and other health services, social care and local communities. New working arrangements called Primary Care Networks (PCNs) will share expertise and resources across population groups of 30,000-50,000 people across England.

We are part of the Mid-Dorset group of GP practices who are used to working collaboratively and are increasingly linking with partners to integrate health and social care services in the Mid-Dorset area.

Funding will be available to provide additional staff across the network of practices to include a Community Pharmacist and a Social Prescriber.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO GENERAL PRACTICE SERVICES

Weekend and evening (7.00-11.00pm) appointments are available at Dorset County Hospital for GP and Nurse appointments. If a weekend or evening appointment would be more convenient for you, please ask one of our receptionists to check the availability with this additional service and we can book you an appointment.



CANCER AWARENESS

Female celebrities recently bared all to raise awareness of the importance of women checking their breasts and having regular smear tests. As highlighted on our front page, many women do not attend their routine smear tests and this simple test can detect the early signs of cancer which, if treated early, is often curable. Knowing your breasts by checking them regularly and looking for changes is equally important. If you have any concerns—see your GP.

A group of male celebrities also stripped off to help promote regular checks for testicular and prostate cancer. Men are encouraged to check for signs of testicular change and see their GP if they have any concerns. Prostate cancer screening is not routinely offered as it has not been shown to be of benefit. If you have concerns about prostate cancer, please discuss with your GP.

WELCOME.....

Dr Thomas Loveless will be our GP Registrar until August 2019. Dr Loveless will be with us for 6 months before completing his final year of training in another practice. For many years we have been a training practice and train qualified doctors who would like to specialise as a GP.

Jodie Philpott joined us on 1 May as our newest Healthcare Assistant. She will be supporting our existing HCA, Moira, and our Practice Nurses.

GOING ON HOLIDAY?

If you are planning to travel outside the UK, you may need to be vaccinated or receive a booster. If vaccines are recommended please allow **at least 8 weeks** before you travel.

Please ask at reception for a travel vaccination questionnaire. The completed form will be checked by our practice nurse against your record of vaccinations. Allow 3 working days before contacting reception to see if a nurse appointment has been advised.

Please note that some travel vaccines are not available free of charge on the NHS and you will need to book with a private travel clinic. Our travel form lists these vaccines.