******Doncare at the Medical Centre**

**Autumn 2013**

**Welcome to the autumn addition**

Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccinations will be available from the 28th September. We have clinics set up for the following dates

* Saturday 28th September 8am till 12pm
* Saturday 12th October 8am till 12pm

Appointments are now available on screen to book in advance or if you prefer you can drop in on the day of the clinics.

Patients eligible for the seasonal flu vaccine:

* Patients with chronic illnesses E.G. Asthma, COPD and Diabetes
* Pregnant women (at any stage if their pregnancy)
* All patients over the age of 65
* Carers of the elderly and disabled
* All 2 and 3 year old children
* Everyone living in a residential/nursing home
* Household contacts of anyone who is immunocompromised
* All frontline healthcare workers and social care workers

We remind you that flu is not like a common cold and can be serious to those in the “at risk” group. If you fall into this category we advise you get vaccinated.

Please note when attending the flu clinics on the Saturday mornings we will only be issuing patients with the flu vaccine. We will not be issuing prescriptions or seeing patients for other problems.

Shingles Vaccination

It seems some patients are confused about the current situation with the new vaccine for shingles. At the moment we are only offering the vaccination to patients that are aged 70 and 79. This excludes patients 71 and 72 etc. This is due to guidelines set by the government following research by Sanofi the pharmaceutical company who manufacture the vaccine. The reason for the vaccination, one to reduce the risk of developing Shingles and two to reduce the severity of the attack and the after effects if you are unfortunate to contract the disease. If you would like to have the vaccine and you meet the age criteria contact the surgery to arrange an appointment with the treatment room nurse. Please note that if you are immunocompromised or take immunosuppressant’s (including high dose prednisolone) you will not be suitable for the vaccine.

Patient Participation Group

The practice hold PPG meetings and we encourage patients to join the group. These are held on Thursday afternoons from 1.30pm. The sessions are informal and usually led by a speaker delivering a specific topic chosen by the PPG and the manager. (The topics are educational and the group gain a lot from them) If you are interested in joining speak to a member of staff for more details.

Meetings for the rest of 2013

* 7th November- Talk from the in house counsellor and psychological welfare practitioner
* 12th December- planning next year’s programme

Changes to opening hours

From the 1st October 2013 our opening hours will change. The new hours of opening will be Monday to Friday 8am while 6.30pm.

Staff changes

We will start by welcoming our two new members of staff. Tracey Hudson is our new medical support who started work at the medical centre mid-august & Daniel Stewart our new apprentice support who started working with us beginning of September and will be training with us for the next 2 years. We also have a new first contact practitioner, Pam Creed who started working at the practice earlier this year. Pam will be working Mondays and Fridays. Appointments can be pre booked or booked on the day. We also say goodbye and good luck to Suzanne medical support who has moved on to a new venture.

A & E Attendances

The A&E department should be used for accidents and emergencies only. We receive a notification from A&E every time you attend which gives details on the reason why you attended. It has been noted that some of our patients have been attending A&E during surgery hours with conditions that can be dealt with by a doctor or nurse here at the surgery. We run a MIC (Minor Illness Clinic) at the surgery every day, so patients can be seen for more minor problems such as sore throat etc. We also have a doctor on call throughout the day to deal with any other issues. Please contact the surgery for advice before attending A&E.

Missed appointments

We must remind patients that it is not acceptable to miss doctor and nurse appointments. Over the last 3 months 581 appointments have been missed. If you feel you cannot attend your appointment we would appreciate if you would contact the surgery and let a member of staff know. The appointment can then be used by another patient.

Additional information

We now have a new service available to patients who are not able to go out unaccompanied, **free** home eye testing available with Healthcall Opticians, Funded by the NHS Commissioning Board. For further information call Healthcall- Your local home visiting optician.

Tel: 01582 390800

Fax: 01582 390839

Email: Info@healthcalloptical.co.uk