**Spring Newsletter 2019**

**Staff News**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Emma and Charlotte who have accepted Apprentiship posts at The Medical Centreas Medical Support, we appreciate your patience while they are being trained.

We send congratulations to Sam and her family on the birth of their baby boy.

**Breast Screening**

Chequer Road Breast Screening Clinic will be calling all women currently aged from 50 up to their 71st birthday from The Medical Centre to attend for Breast Screening.

They are also conducting a trial to help assess the benefits and risks of screening women slightly younger than 50 and older than 70. This means that some women will be invited for screening between the ages of 47-49 and 71-73.

These invitations for all patients, including those that will be selected to take part in the trial research will be sent out shortly by Chequer Road Clinic.

**Cervical Smears**

Uptake for booking and attending appointments for Cervical Smears is at an all-time national low yet there are more than 3,200 women diagnosed with cervical cancer every year in the UK and 900 die annually. All women aged 25 to 49 are invited for a screening test every 3 years and those aged 50-64 are invited every 5 years.

**Changes to Medication Categorisation**

If you take Pragabalin or Gabapentin please be aware that these medications are becoming Controlled Drugs as of the 1st April. The brand names for these medications include Lyric, Alzain and Neurontin.

This means:

* Prescriptions will expire 28 days from the date of the prescription being issued
* Any pharmacy owings must be collected by the expiry date
* Quantities will be reduced to a maximum of 30 days
* Emergency supplies and loans cannot be made from pharmacies if you run out.

However, they are also rolling out Electronic Prescribing for Controlled Drugs so if you are not tagged to a chemist doing so would be beneficial as it may be faster and safer for the prescribing of these medications.

Any prescriptions that you have must be dispensed before 1st April 2019

If you are owed any medication by your pharmacy make sure you collect them before 1st April 2019

**Electronic Prescribing**

If you have regular prescriptions then the Electronic Prescribing Service will be able to save you time by sending your prescriptions to your chosen chemist like an email saving you from unnecessary trips to the practice.

**Improved Online Access**

Register for online services! This allows you to book and cancel appointments, order repeat medication, answer questionnaires and view your coded records and medical summary. From July 1st 25% of appointments offered at the surgery will be available to be booked online, this includes, GP’s, Nurse Practitioner’s, Clinical Pharmacists and Health Care Assistance’s

**Patient Participation Group**

The next Patient Participation Group is Thursday 21st March and we will be discussing Diabetes and testing blood sugar levels.

We also discuss any changes to the practice, staff and services at The Medical Centre and in Doncaster.

The dates for the rest of the year and some topics are:

* Thursday 21st March Diabetes Type 2 and Blood Sugar Levels
* Thursday 30th May- Dementia In Doncaster
* Thursday 19th September – Keeping Well-Karl Roberts
* Thursday 19th December – TBA

The Patient Participation Group is open to all registered patients at The Medical Centre and all are welcome to attend

**Target Training Dates**

The Medical Centre will be closed for training from 12 noon on:

Wednesday 27th March

Wednesday 3rd April

Wednesday 22nd May

Wednesday 5th June

Wednesday 12th June

Wednesday 3rd July

Wednesday 4th August

Wednesday 25th August

Wednesday 9th October

Wednesday 6th November

Wednesday 13th November

This training enables us to continue to develop and update our services to you.

Your options to access medical help and advise during these training times include:

* Out of Hours
* 111
* Doncaster Same Day Health Centre

0300 123 3103

**Extended Access**

Extended access is a service that offers appointments with a healthcare professional on an evening or at the weekend; it also offers appointments to be assessed by a physiotherapist. This service is made up of four elements, these include;

1. Saturday Morning Appointments- these are held at one of 4 hubs, Askern, Thorne, Conisbrough and Tickhill. These appointments include GP’s, Advance Nurse Practitioners, Practice Nurses and Healthcare Assistants.
2. First 2 Physio- This is based at Devonshire House at Cavendish Court where patients can be seen with up to a 6 month history of musculoskeletal conditions.
3. Inclusion Health- These are drop in clinics for Wharf House (homeless hostel), new migrant/ Asylum Seekers.
4. Same Day Additional Capacity

**Unattended Appointments**

When a patient fails to attend an appointment a note is made in their medical record. If a patient fails to attend 2 appointments within 12 months, the patient will receive a letter reminding them of the importance of cancelling unwanted appointments in good time and detailing the consequence of not doing so.

If the patient fails to attend 3 appointment in 12 months, the Practice Manager will write to the patient informing them this will be brought to the attention of the Partners where the usual course would be to remove the patient from our list without further discussion unless the patient is able to provide a valid explanation in support of them remaining on the list.

Last year £51,686.20 was wasted on unattended appointments at The Medical Centre.

If you do need to cancel an appointment please give at least 24 hours’ notice.

In the last 3 months we have had a total of 446 appointments not attended.

* **December - 133**
* **January – 166**
* **February – 147**

**To cancel appointments please call:**

**01302 349431**