**DonCare at The Medical Centre**

**Newsletter**

**Winter Edition 2012**

Happy New Year!

From all the Doctors Nurses and Support Staff at The Medical Centre

Your Patient Participation Group needs you!

We hold a PPG meeting roughly every 6-8 weeks to keep patients up to date on any changes within surgery & to give you the opportunity of getting involved and having your say on the way we run. The sessions are informal and are usually led by a speaker delivering a specific topic which has been chosen by the group and practice manager. The sessions are always on a Thursday afternoon from 1.30pm. If you would like to keep up to date but prefer not to come into surgery we offer a virtual PPG. Patients can be contacted via Email. If you require anymore information feel free to ask a member of staff.

2013 PPG meetings dates

* 7th February
* 21st March
* 2nd May
* 20th June
* 1st August
* 12th September
* 7th November
* 12th December

Flu Vaccines

We still have flu vaccinations available in surgery. If you are in the ‘at risk’ category and suffer with a chronic disease like COPD or Diabetes you are more at risk of complications if contracting the virus.

If you wish to have the flu vaccine please get in touch.

Advance booking appointments

Just to remind all patients that routine appointments for both GP’s and Nurses can be booked in advance. We also offer early morning appointments on Wednesdays & Thursdays starting at 7.30am & a late evening clinic on Mondays and Tuesdays 6.00pm-6.30pm.

Text Message appointment confirmation

We are now able to confirm appointments by text. When booking appointments a text message will be sent with the date and time of your next appointment. If you would prefer for us to send you text confirmation instead of using appointment cards please make the receptionist aware & leave an up to date contact telephone number.

On-line Prescription Ordering

We still offer patients the facility to request repeat prescriptions over our On-line Ordering System. To get started ask a member of staff for your own user name and password. You will then be shown all the items that are on repeat prescription. You simply tick the ones you require and send. The request will then be sent directly to a receptionist who will create your prescription. If you require an item which isn’t shown on your repeat prescription list you can leave us a note.

Holiday Vaccines

If you are thinking of travelling abroad it might be a good idea to speak to our treatment room nurses. They offer travel advice and will check if all your vaccinations are up to date and you are covered against any tropical disease.

Medication

If you have any repeat medication that you no longer require or don’t require for a month or so please let a member of staff know. Alternatively contact our practice pharmacist Alison for an annual medication review.

Patient Questionnaire

All patients will be asked to complete a patient questionnaire to help us identify any problems & help us to improve the level of care we give. We would be grateful for your opinion.