

This occasional newsletter is produced by the Patient Participation Panel (page 3) aimed at keeping you informed about the services provided at the Devon Road surgery, changes that are taking place, and useful topical information.

If there is anything that you would like us to feature in a future edition of the News Letter please let us know by dropping a note into the suggestion box in the surgery or email to Devonroadppp@nhs.net

Seasonal Opening Times

24 th Dec 2014	Wednesday, Christmas Eve	Normal hours
25 th Dec 2014	Thursday, Christmas Day	Closed
26 th Dec 2014	Friday, Boxing Day	Closed
27 th Dec 2014	Saturday	Closed
28 th Dec 2014	Sunday	Closed
29 th Dec 2014	Monday	Normal hours & extended hour 6.30pm to 7.30pm
30 th Dec 2014	Tuesday	Normal hours
31 st Dec 2014	Wednesday, New Year's Eve	Normal hours
1 st Jan 2015	Thursday, New Year's Day	Closed
2 nd Jan 2015	Friday	Normal hours

Keep warm

Thinking about previous winters, and how severe some have been, maybe we should be thinking about those in our community for whom winter can be a challenge. If you have someone nearby who is frail or elderly then you may be able to help them. All you need to do is make contact and try to visit occasionally. Not only will your visit provide contact and conversation, but it would give you the opportunity to check that they are keeping warm and have enough to eat.

There is lots of useful advice and tips about keeping warm on the "Age UK" website. Finally don't forget, helping someone else could make you feel better too!

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Seasonal flu clinics 2014

Vaccination is available for:-

- Patients over 65 years of age.
- Patients on a disease register.
- Patients who are carers.
- Pregnant women.

Saturday 4th October 9am to 12pm
 Saturday 18th October 8am to 11am
 Saturday 1st November 8am to 11am

During the Clinic on 1st November the Carers first "group will be available in the surgery to give advice to carers..

Children's seasonal flu vaccination

Eligible children are those aged two, three and four years old (but not 5 years or older) on or before 1st September 2014.

Also children in a clinical risk group.

Meningococcal C

For University fresher students. To be vaccinated 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

This is for patients aged 17-25 who have not been vaccinated against meningococcal C since reaching 10 years old. First time students only.

These vaccinations can be given at the Devon Road Surgery or at the University practice.

Shingles Vaccinations 2014-2015

The Practice will use the following criteria for the Shingles vaccination. As of 1st September 2014, eligible patients will those whose birthdays fall on or between:

2nd September 1943 to 1st September 1944
 2nd September 1935 to 1st September 1936
 2nd September 1934 to 1st September 1935

Vaccinations must be carried out by 31/8/2015.

If you want to book an appointment with the nurse or require any further information, please contact the Surgery.

Measles Mumps and Rubella

To be vaccinated 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2015

This is for patients aged 16 years and over, that have not had MMR vaccine.

Pneumococcal vaccination.

For patients reaching the age of 65 years during the period of 31st March 2014 to 31st March 2015. Also patients identified as at risk. (e.g. patients who have had their spleen removed). This is once in a life time vaccination.

Whooping cough (Pertussis) protecting your unborn child.

Getting vaccinated while pregnant may help to protect your baby from developing whooping cough in the first few weeks of its life. Whooping cough is a serious disease that can lead to pneumonia and permanent brain damage. Most babies with whooping cough will be admitted to hospital as they are at risk of dying from the disease. Deaths from whooping cough are rare in the UK but more babies died in 2012 than in previous recent years. The best time to get vaccinated to protect your baby is from week 28 to week 32 of your pregnancy-but you can have the vaccine up to 38 weeks if you miss the recommended time. Your baby will still need to be vaccinated as normal when it reaches 2 months of age.

The immunity that you get from the vaccine will pass to your baby and provide passive protection until it is old enough to be routinely vaccinated.

Rotavirus

Rotavirus is an infection that causes vomiting and diarrhoea in thousands of babies every year. Most babies recover at home, in a small number of cases rotavirus infection can become serious, with babies becoming dehydrated (losing body fluid) and possibly needing hospital treatment. For children 6 weeks to six months, but not over 24 weeks. This vaccine is administered by mouth and not by injection.

Patient Participation Panel (PPP)

Current Panel members are:

Neville Machin Chairman

Pat Coleman Vice Chairman

Sally Bannayi Secretary

Jennifer Strickland, Sally Gee, Adrian Connell Brian Gaskin and Madeline Stuttle

The purpose of Patient Participation is to ensure that patients are involved in decisions about the range and quality of services provided, and over time, commissioned by the practice.—In short a way that you, a patient, can have your say.

Patient Participation Virtual Group

The Patient Participation Group is encouraging patients to give their views on how the practice is performing. It would be helpful to be able to contact as many patients as possible by email. To be involved please e-mail the group at devonroadppp@nhs.net so that you can be contacted occasionally..

Carers

It is important that carers contact the practice in order that appropriate carers' consent forms can be completed. Without these forms the practice will not be able to discuss any medical conditions or discuss treatment for the person you are looking after, because it would breach their patient confidentiality.

Even if you do not consider yourself to be a carer, if you look after your partner, relative or friend who is ill or disabled then **you are a carer**.

Useful telephone numbers are:-

- Carers First 0300 303 1555
- Social Services 03000 41 6161

Dispensing list

Patients who live more than 1.6 km of a chemist are eligible to use the dispensary at the Devon Road Clinic for prescriptions.

NHS England has notified the practice of 200 patients who now live within 1.6 km of a chemist and are therefore are no longer eligible to use the practice dispensary The practice affected patients will be advised.

Family and friends test

The anonymous annual survey will be replaced by an equally anonymous "Family and Friends Test" (FFT). This starts from 1st November 2014. The FFT will be made up of a several questions against which you will be asked to score the practice This will be done on a printed card which you will be able to place in a box provided at reception.

Please remember that all responses will remain anonymous

Retirements

Barbara Westcott: Practice Manager will be retiring at the end of December 2014 after 31 years of service to the Practice. We are sure that everyone will wish her a long and happy retirement. Barbara's replacement will be Julie Robbins who is an experienced local Practice Manager, and has a long background with the NHS.

Dr Hunt: at the end of May 2015 Dr Hunt will also retire, after 28 years of service to the patients and Practice, again we are sure that everyone will want to wish her a long and happy retirement.