

The Glenfield Surgery

Patient Participation Group



Newsletter October 2016

Welcome to the October edition of the PPG Newsletter.

Staffing

Dr Durant left the Practice on the 25th September but will be available for locum duties if required.

Dr Vanessa Tuboku-Metzger joined the Practice as a locum on 5th October and will work on Wednesdays. She says we can call her Dr Vanessa.

Dr Cooper returned on 5th October and will be working all day on Wednesday, Thursday and mornings on Friday.

Dr Salt retires from the Practice on the 25th November 2016.

Flu vaccination programme

The flu programme is going well and by the 14th October we will have given nearly 2,000 vaccinations.

A further 7 clinics will commence on the 24th October. We have offered late flu clinics on the Monday evenings from 16.30 – 19.30 to accommodate those patients who cannot attend in the afternoon.

Most appointments can be booked online as well as by phoning into the surgery.

Children invites for the nasal vaccination were sent out on 7th October plus the flu invites for any pregnant ladies.

Building B consulting rooms

An organisation has been to visit the Practice and are very keen on using a room here as their Glenfield base. It is uncertain at the moment whether they will be using a room in Building B or the main surgery. Further discussions are ongoing.

Another contact has been provided to investigate the possibility of moving some hospital services/clinics to the Practice.

Over the counter medicines

Consideration is being given by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to stop GPs prescribing over the counter medicines. Over the counter medicines are those that can be sold to the public without a prescription, one example being paracetamol. Paracetamol will be used as an example to illustrate what the CCG is considering. Some patients with long term conditions are prescribed paracetamol for pain relief. The CCG is not intending to change this and will still allow GPs to prescribe for long term conditions. Patients will often self-prescribe and buy paracetamol over the counter from a chemist or supermarket. In these cases the patients will know that their requirement for the tablet is for a very short period of time, say to clear a headache. Then there are patients who need pain relief for a few weeks whilst they get over an injury and therefore, need a significant number of

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tablets. In this case the GP may well issue the patient with a prescription for the tablets. It appears to be this group of patients that the CCG is focussing on. The cost for these over the counter medicines is some £1.5m annually in East Leicestershire and Rutland alone.

This change in policy has already been introduced by some CCGs in other parts of the country.

New Emergency Department at the LRI

Some of you will be aware that the LRI is building a new Emergency Department (ED). The existing A & E department was opened in 1969 and built to cater for 100,000 attendees per year. In 2015 over 220,000 people attend the LRI A & E department. It is the busiest A & E department outside London. The new ED is due to open April 2017 and will have a triage service to assess patients' needs for emergency services. Patients considered not to have serious or life threatening conditions will be referred to other facilities, such as walk-in centres, back to their GP or to Pharmacists.

Local Pharmacy Services

Pharmacies are able to provide a number of services which can save patients visiting the GP. These services are listed on the NHS Choices website and you can find your local pharmacy listed there.

The NHS Choices website, www.nhs.uk, provides a wealth of information about NHS services, location of local GPs, Pharmacies and Dentists as well as information on the treatment of medical conditions.

Newsletter by email

If you wish to receive the newsletter by email each month, then either complete a form in the surgery and leave in the PPG suggestions box in the ground floor waiting room or email your request to glenfieldsurgeryppg@outlook.com.