

Newsletter August 2015

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Pre-Bookable Appointments:

We use an appointment system which helps organise doctor and nurse time (which includes special clinics, minor operations, visits, emergencies, meetings and administration in addition to surgeries) and minimises the time our patients are kept waiting at the surgery.

You can pre-book an appointment up to 6 weeks in advance. Please help us by making a pre-bookable appointment for all but genuinely urgent problems. It is best to telephone either late morning or in the afternoon.

Same day appointments are intended for emergencies or problems that patients believe should be assessed within the next 24 – 48 hours.

Telephone consultations are intended to provide an alternative when face to face discussion is not possible or is not needed.

Pharmacy *first* Minor Ailments Service:

Barnsley GPs and Pharmacies are offering a service that gives more patient choice. The following common conditions can be treated with a medication that is available from your local pharmacy. Ask for help and advice on the most appropriate medication to relieve symptoms for:



Allergies and Hayfever, Athlete's Foot, Cold Sores, Conjunctivitis (for adults and children over 2 years of age), Constipation, Coughs and Colds, Diarrhoea, Dermatitis, Eczema, Ear Wax, Fever / High Temperature, Haemorrhoids (piles), Head Lice, Heartburn and Indigestion, Infant Colic, Insect Bites and Stings, Mouth Ulcers, Nappy Rash, Nasal Congestion, Oral Thrush, Pain, Ringworm, Scabies, Sore Throat, Teething, Threadworms, Vaginal Thrush, Verrucae and Warts.

Call into participating pharmacies displaying the symbol above.

Practice Update:

GP Registrars Dr Pelc and Dr Kong left the practice at end of July. Two new female Registrars, Dr Naomi Sen and Dr Lauren Vout, will start at the practice on 5 August.

A new male GP, Dr Olasimbo, will start in post at the practice on 17 August.

We apologise to all our patients following problems with our telephone system on 1st, 3rd, 6th and 7th July and callers being unable to get through to the surgery. This was due to BT fault at the exchange which has now been rectified.

The surgery building will be 10 years old this month. Minor refurbishment works will take place during the autumn/winter. Further details will be advertised shortly.

Walderslade Surgery

www.waldersladesurgery.co.uk

Primary Care Funding Changes:

You may have heard on the news both local and national about changes to the funding of GP practices, and that in some areas practices are facing deep cuts to their budgets which in some cases have led to threats of practices closing. (There was a piece on Look North about a practice in Sheffield facing nearly a quarter of a million pounds cut in budget recently).

The reason for these stories is that NHS England who decide on practice budgets, have been trying to equalise the differences between practice funding, which have come about over recent years as different types of contracts for practices have been rolled out. This has led to wide variations in funding which the government is trying to even out.

Practices that are now being threatened with reductions to their budgets are often ones that have had higher than average budgets for several years. There is local variation here as these contracts were agreed locally between practices and the old PCTs that came before the change to CCGs a couple of years ago. It will come as little surprise to many that overall Barnsley practices have received lower than average funding compared to our near neighbours in Sheffield, Rotherham, Wakefield and beyond, which means that over the next 4-5 years as the funding is redistributed, there will be a net increase in funding available to practices in Barnsley, to bring us up to the national average, whereas most practices in Sheffield will see their budgets potentially reduced.

What this means for Walderslade is that we will receive extra income starting in 2015-16 which we have already decided to invest in an extra full time GP. We hope that this means that we can improve the service we offer particularly regarding access to GP appointments.

7 Day Services:

A group of practices in Barnsley has secured funding from the prime minister's 'Challenge Fund' which will be used to increase provision of GP services at weekends and in the evenings. The 7 day service is over and above the existing 111 and Care UK service which operates out of hours, but different in that they hope to have access to patients full computer records. Individual practices, including Walderslade Surgery, are not expected to open 7 days. This new service will run from 2 hub sites (which are yet to be confirmed) and offer services to all residents of Barnsley. Unfortunately this funding is for one year only ending March 2016. We hope to be able to provide you with more information over the coming weeks.

Missed Appointments 1 – 31 July:

**228 patient appointments missed;
54 hours of lost time.**

228 patients did not attend their booked appointment and did not contact us to tell us.

This equates to 54 hours of lost and wasted doctor, nurse and health care professional time.

Please can you help us and other patients by letting us know as soon as possible if you are unable to attend an appointment. We can then offer the appointment to someone else.

Did you know...

If you have had hay fever or seasonal allergy medication in the past there is no need to see a doctor. The practice reception team will be happy to issue a repeat prescription. Please ask a member of the team.

Flu vaccination season is fast approaching. Please look out for further information and flu clinic dates which will be advertised in the surgery and on our website.

The surgery will be closed for staff training every first (for 3 hours) and third (for 2 hours) Thursday of every month. These dates are advertised in the surgery and on our website.