

# Newsletter September 2015

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## Flu Vaccination Clinics:

Our 2015/16 flu campaign will start in late September. Clinics will be held on the following dates between 9am and 1pm:

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2015**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2015**

Our Practice encourages all patients who are over 65, or whose medical condition puts them at particular risk from flu, to have the vaccine. Please check with a receptionist if you are unsure if this applies to you.

**Children aged 2, 3 and 4 years:** A clinic for childhood flu vaccinations (nasal spray) will be held on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2015**

## Repeat Prescriptions:

The Practice will only issue repeat prescriptions for items that your doctor wishes you to take or have regularly. Repeat prescriptions can be ordered in the following ways:

1. Complete the right hand side of your prescription and post in the repeat prescription box located in the surgery entrance lobby.
2. Post your request to the surgery and if you enclose a stamped addressed envelope we will post the signed prescription back to you.
3. By special arrangement with the chemist.
4. If your medicine is stable you can use the 'repeat dispensing system' which allows up to 6 months of your prescriptions to be with a nominated chemist so that you just visit the chemist to collect your prescription items. A consent form needs to be signed prior to starting this system so please ask a member of our Reception Team for more details.
5. Online via EMIS – if you are interested in using this service please ask a member of our Reception Team for more details. You will be provided with the appropriate access codes and password. Alternatively visit our website to download the required forms. [www.waldersladesurgery.co.uk](http://www.waldersladesurgery.co.uk)

**Requests for repeat prescriptions cannot be made by telephone.**

Repeat prescriptions will be ready for collection within 48 hours (excluding weekends). Requests made on a Friday will be ready for collection on the following Tuesday.

If you require medication that is not part of your repeat prescription please complete one of the 'Medication Request' forms and post it in the repeat prescription box located in the surgery entrance lobby.

Mondays are our busiest day for prescriptions. Please try and make your medication request later in the week if you can.

**Walderslade Surgery**

[www.waldersladesurgery.co.uk](http://www.waldersladesurgery.co.uk)

### **Appointments:**

Your doctor or nurse appointment is a vital opportunity to get the best treatment for your health, so it is important to make the most of your visit. When you telephone the surgery to make an appointment the receptionist will always ask the reason for your visit. This is to ensure that the doctor or nurse can prepare as much as possible for your medical needs.

Doctors spend an average of 8-10 minutes with each patient. Once you've got an appointment, plan ahead to make sure that you cover everything you want to discuss. If you have a complicated problem, ask for a longer appointment when you book.

### **New drug driving law in force in England and Wales:**

Certain prescribed medicines **may** affect your ability to drive. This includes some common painkillers (Co-codamol, Codeine, Tramadol and morphine type painkillers but **NOT Paracetamol**).

If you are taking your medicine as directed and your driving is not impaired, then you are not breaking the law.

However it is an offence to drive while your ability is impaired by illegal drugs or these certain prescribed medicines and, if in doubt, you should not drive. The police may use a roadside test to see if you have taken any of these. For more information visit [www.gov.uk/drug-driving-law](http://www.gov.uk/drug-driving-law)

### **Missed Appointments:**

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.

### **During August 229 patients did not attend their booked appointment and did not contact us to tell us.**

We can remind you that you have an appointment. Our MJOG automated SMS text and email messaging service will remind you that you have a booked appointment approximately 24 hours before. Please ask a member of our Reception Team for details on how to sign up for this service.

Our new automated telephone service Patient Partner enables you to book, check or cancel an appointment at any time, night or day, without having to speak to a receptionist.

It is important that we have your up to date contact details to be able to use these services so please let us know if they change.

### **Elderly Bus Pass Service in Barnsley:**

South Yorkshire Freedom Riders have secured a six month deal with bus company Stagecoach to allow elderly people who have hospital appointments early in the morning to get free travel prior to 9.30am.

This applies to any hospital appointment in South Yorkshire if you are using a Stagecoach bus and you are starting your journey in the Barnsley area.

Travellers need to show the driver their hospital appointment letter or card as well as their bus pass.

Free travel **does not** apply for GP appointments.

For further information contact George on 07985 028003

### **Staff Update:**

We say goodbye and good luck to Dr Lockwood who leaves the Practice on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

We welcome Dr Ness (female) who joins the Practice on 8<sup>th</sup> September.