

Newsletter September 2016

This Issue:

- ❖ **Thank you**
- ❖ **Dr Sagar**
- ❖ **Nurse Appointments**
- ❖ **Flu Vaccination Clinics**
- ❖ **I HEART Barnsley**
- ❖ **Patient Poem**
- ❖ **South Yorkshire Disabled Person's Travel Pass**

Thank you:

The practice would like to thank all patients who attended their booked appointments during August.

Unfortunately **202** patients did not attend their appointments (even some that were booked on the same day). Patients who fail to keep their appointment are denying someone else the chance to get earlier access to medical help. Please remember to cancel as soon as possible if you no longer need your appointment.

Did you know that you can sign up for our MJOG text or email messaging service? We can send you a reminder message 24 hours prior to your booked appointment time. If you no longer need the appointment just reply **CANCEL**. See a member of our reception team for details on how to sign up for this service.

Dr Sagar

Many of our patients will remember Dr Sagar who was a well-respected doctor at the surgery for many years. Sadly on 25th August, 2016, Dr Sagar passed away at his home in Trinidad, aged 85 years.

Nurse Appointments:

Our practice nurses work alongside our doctors to provide a range of review appointments and clinics to help patients manage a number of chronic conditions and illnesses. These include:

- Diabetic clinics
- Asthma clinics
- Chronic Respiratory Disease (COPD) clinics
- Chronic Heart Disease (CHD) clinics
- Anticoagulant (INR) clinics
- Hypertension (Blood pressure) monitoring

Many of these clinics need appointments varying from 10 to 30 minutes. More often than not follow-up appointments are required based on the results of a previous appointment. It is important that you attend these appointments in sequence.

If you are sent an appointment for one of our clinics, or a review, please make sure that you take note of when you are to attend and what it's for. Missing one of your appointments might increase your waiting time for your next appointment.

If you find you cannot attend, please let the practice know so that we can book you another appointment and the slot you had can be offered to someone else. This will help reduce waiting times and allow our nurses to spend valuable time with patients supporting them to manage their chronic illness.

Flu Vaccination Clinics:

Clinics will be held between **9am and 1pm** on **Saturday 24th September, 2016 and Saturday 8th October, 2016**. Please book an appointment.

Children aged 2, 3 and 4 years: A clinic for childhood flu vaccinations (nasal spray) will be held on **Saturday 15th October, 2016**. Eligible children will be invited by letter.

Pneumonia Vaccinations:

These are available for patients 65 years of age and over, or who are in an 'at risk' group. Please speak to one of our receptionists to check if this applies to you. Pneumonia vaccinations can be given at our flu clinics. Please book an appointment.

Shingles Vaccination:

This vaccination is offered to a range of patients. The practice will contact eligible patients to invite them to make an appointment to have the vaccination.

We are very grateful to one of our patients for providing the following poem as a reminder of the benefits of having a flu vaccination:

As wintertime approaches
And a chill is in the air
People who are vulnerable
Need to take more care
So if you are identified
As more at risk this year
Just book in for a flu jab
To eliminate your fear
It's simple and it's painless
Just five minutes of your time
About as long as it's taken you
To read this cheesy rhyme!

Copyright Philip Liptrot (Walderslade Patient)

South Yorkshire Disabled Person's Travel Pass:

Please note that GPs at this practice are unable to provide verification of a patient's eligibility for a disabled person's travel pass.

GPs will only respond to requests for factual information about a patient if contacted by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

For further information about disabled person's travel passes contact BMBC or South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive.

I HEART Barnsley:

I-HEART Barnsley is a medical service designed to give more choice for patients to access GP and nurse appointments. It is available to anyone who is registered with a GP in the borough of Barnsley.

Two surgery 'hubs' in the area can offer GP and nurse appointments outside of normal GP practice hours (evenings and weekends). They also offer a clinician led telephone assessment service; bookable appointments with GPs and nurses for face to face and telephone consultations; a video call and an email advice service.

The hubs are located at Woodlands Drive Medical Centre, Barnsley and Chapelfield Medical Centre, Wombwell.

The services offered at the hubs do not replace any existing services offered at Walderslade Surgery but provide an additional service to compliment access to medical services for our patient.

Contact I-HEART BARNSELY on **01226 242429** or see the website for further information:
www.iheartbarnsley.org.uk