

Newsletter August 2018

New Automated Arrivals Facility:

Patients might have noticed that the practice has a new automated arrival check-in system which is located in the ground floor waiting room. The new system is designed to reduce congestion and enhance the waiting room experience for our patients.



Features and benefits:

- Saves time by streamlining the check-in process.
- Reduces queues and gives our receptionists time to deal with complex queries.
- Is user-friendly with an intuitive design.
- Tells you the room number of the clinician you are seeing and which waiting room to wait in.
- Additional features, such as a short questionnaire, can be used to collect information from targeted patient groups so we might ask you some simple lifestyle questions such as 'Are you currently a smoker?'

Thank you for using this facility!

Travelling With Medicines Which Contain Controlled Drugs:

Controlled drugs (CDs) are prescribed medicines controlled under the Misuse of Drugs legislation. Due to extra measures applied to controlled drugs a GP can only prescribe a maximum of one month's supply for patients travelling abroad.

When travelling abroad you need to prove your medicine is prescribed to you if:

- It contains a 'controlled drug'.
- You have it on you when you are entering or leaving the UK.

You may also need to get a licence if you're travelling for at least 3 months or carrying enough to last you that long (see the Government website for further information about this).

Refer to www.gov.uk for a current list of controlled drugs. It is up to you, not your GP practice, to check if the Controlled Drug you are taking is listed.

If a patient is taking controlled drugs abroad:

- They must be in the original, correctly labelled packaging.
- In hand luggage (airline regulations permitting – refer to individual airline policies).

The patient must also take a letter from their GP giving the information below:

- Patients name and address
- Patients date of birth
- Departure and return dates of travel
- A list of the controlled drugs being carried
- The dosage of the controlled drugs being carried
- The total amount of controlled drugs being carried

Walderslade Surgery GPs will charge £20 for writing such a letter as the Practice is not obliged to provide this service under the NHS.

Useful information about travelling with controlled drugs can also be found on www.nhs.uk

Walderslade Surgery Flu Campaign 2018/19:

The Influenza Campaign 2018/19 differs from previous years in that for the first time GP Practices have been advised to use different vaccines for our two groups of eligible patients, those aged 65 years and over & those who are aged under 65 years considered at risk.

Advice from Public Health England and from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is clear that for the 2018-19 winter season, GP practices and Community Pharmacy providers should offer:

- **Over-65s** the **adjuvanted trivalent vaccine (aTIV)**
- Patients **aged 18 to 65** (in at-risk groups) the **quadrivalent vaccine**

Use of these more effective vaccines is in the best interests of patients.

Vaccination, using the most effective vaccine, should be given as soon as possible to provide protection before flu starts to circulate. Ideally vaccination should be completed by the end of November.

We always encourage our patients to attend for their vaccination as early as possible and usually start our flu clinics at the end of September. However, as there is only one supplier of the vaccine for patients aged 65 years and over (aTIV) and delivery dates for all practices in the country are approximate and not yet confirmed, we will be holding a number of clinics over several dates, which may not be held as early in the season as we would have liked.

The plan is to hold our first clinic on **Saturday 29th September.**

Unfortunately, at the time of issuing this newsletter, we can only offer appointments to patients aged 65 years and under (at risk) for this clinic.

We have been told to expect deliveries for the aTIV (vaccine for patients aged 65 years and over) throughout September, October & November. We will constantly review the situation and clinics will be added as soon as delivery of vaccine is confirmed.

We will aim to keep you updated as the flu season approaches using various communication methods. Please visit our website where the latest information about our clinics will be posted.

Foreign Travel Vaccinations:

If you are travelling abroad and require vaccinations or medication, you will need to complete the new 'Walderslade Surgery Foreign Travel Risk Assessment Form' before making an appointment to see the nurse for advice about your vaccinations.



Forms are available to download from the surgery website

www.waldersladesurgery.co.uk or for collection from the surgery reception desk. Your completed form should be returned to the surgery where an appointment will be made for you.