

March 10, 2010

[NEWSLETTER - DRS ALLEN BREWERTON & HALL
THE DEVONSHIRE LODGE PRACTICE]

WALK-IN SURGERIES

We are trialling surgeries where you can simply arrive at the Health Centre between 8.50am and 11.00 am and you will be seen by a doctor in the order that you arrive. You do not need to make an appointment for one of these surgeries. We plan to continue the trial until December and would welcome feedback from you.

SATURDAY MORNING SURGERIES

From the beginning of January 2010, we will be holding Saturday morning surgeries. These will run from 9.00am to 11.00am and all the appointments will be pre-booked. Unfortunately, we will be unable to see urgent or emergency problems during this surgery and the telephone will not be manned.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

The first meeting of the PPG was held on Wednesday 20th January 2010. It was well attended and the discussions were very informative and helpful.

Please contact our Practice Manager - Miss Nargis Khan - for more information or download an application form

DEVELOPMENT OF THE HEALTH CENTRE

Phase 1.

Hillingdon PCT is in the process of making some changes to the Health Centre that should make the reception area more accessible for patients that are disabled.

There are plans to make some minor alterations that will provide us with 2 more consulting rooms. This will allow us to return to being a teaching practice where we can train doctors who want to become GP's.

Phase 2.

More long term plans are for more substantial works that will allow us to increase and improve the services we can provide for our patients.

SWINE FLU VACCINATION

The National Pandemic Flu Service (NPFS) is now closed. Access to antiviral medication, if appropriate, is through your GP who can issue a voucher that can be taken to one of the pharmacies that stock antiviral medication. People who are most at risk from swine flu need to be vaccinated first. These groups are, in order of priority:

People aged between six months and 65 years in the seasonal flu vaccine at-risk groups.

- All pregnant women.
- People who live with those whose immune systems are compromised, such as cancer patients or people with HIV/AIDS.
- People aged 65 and over in the seasonal flu vaccine at-risk groups.
- Young children aged between six months and five years.

What are the seasonal flu vaccine at-risk groups?

These are people with:

- chronic respiratory disease, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD),
- chronic heart disease, such as heart failure,
- chronic kidney disease, such as kidney failure,
- chronic liver disease, such as chronic hepatitis,
- chronic neurological disease, such as Parkinson's disease,
- diabetes requiring insulin or oral hypoglycaemic drugs, and
- immunosuppression (a suppressed immune system), due to disease or treatment.

You can get more information about flu symptoms from <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pandemic-flu/pages/qa.aspx>

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