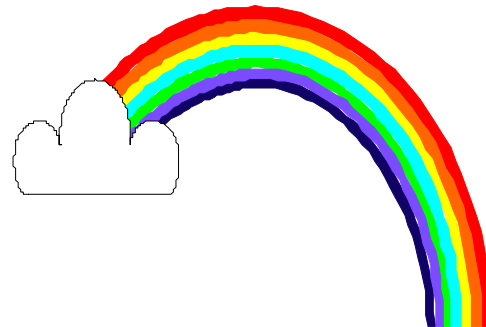


RAINBOW SURGERY

NEWSLETTER

October 2008



Flu Vaccination Programme

Clinics:

Wed 8 October 2008 - 11.00am – 11.30am and 5.00pm – 5.40pm

Fri 10 October 2008 – 11.30am – 12 noon

Mon 13 October – 5.00pm – 5.40pm

Wed 22 October - 11.30am – 12 noon

Wed 29 October – 11.30am – 12 noon

Please make an appointment for these sessions.

Saturday 1 November 2008 – 9.00 am – 11.30 am
No appointment necessary

The flu vaccines will be available from early October. We prefer it if those in the higher risk groups could come to our special flu sessions. The priority groups remain those with chronic heart, lung and kidney conditions; those on drugs that lower the immune system; carers or vulnerable patients and those over the age of 65.

Patient Group Meeting

The next Patient Group Meeting will be on **Friday 21 November** from 7.30 to 9.00pm. We will be discussing further improvements in the repeat prescription service, the patient satisfaction questionnaire survey and the access survey results. We will also be discussing:

- The new alcohol service
- HPV and cervical cancer issues
- Patient involvement in NHS planning



Wedding of Dr John Richmond

Patients will be delighted to hear that John Richmond is getting married on 25 October to Eli Scott. He will be away some of October/November before the wedding and for his honeymoon. We wish them both a long and happy future together.



Extended Access

Our surgery has excellent access during normal working hours for patients wanting routine or emergency appointments. The results of the huge government questionnaire are on our website and confirm our access as the best in the Hunts area.



Some patients have requested appointment availability at other times and so from April we have offered a combination of two late evenings a month, one early start a month (from 7.00am) and one Saturday morning a month. These appointments are intended for those who would not be able to attend during normal working hours, for example those commuting to work. We hope that patients will use these slots sensibly.

HPV Vaccines – Gardasil and Cervarix

Parents of teenagers may well be aware of the publicity surrounding the imminent government programme to protect against cervical cancer. The rules are quite strict and the vaccine will only be available to girls aged between 12 and 18 (born after 1.9.1990). Parents of girls older than 18 may wish to avail themselves of the vaccine outside the NHS provision. We are not allowed to provide this vaccine to our own registered patients but will be making arrangements with another local surgery so that we can offer the injections to each other's patients. The cost is likely to be around £360 which compares well with the sites available on Google charging around £450 for all 3 injections.



The government programme is not intended to be made available to boys but there are very strong benefits in protection against genital warts for boys using the Gardasil vaccine at the same cost. The ideal protection from these vaccines is if they are used before teenagers become sexually active. If you are interested, do ask for details at the surgery.

Choose and Book

Many of you will have experienced making your own hospital appointments once the decision to refer has been agreed with your GP. The Choose and Book software is working well. The range of hospitals that you can choose to be referred to has been expanded this year as have the number of specialities that are available, including some NHS services in private hospitals. Although we will not know the names or expertise of doctors in hospitals further afield you do have the choice of having treatment outside the area if you wish. Hinchingsbrooke has worked hard to reduce the incidence of hospital infections and now has a low incidence of these compared to most other hospitals in East Anglia.



18 Week Waits

One of the central planks of the Government reforms of the NHS has been to reduce the massive waiting lists that were rife 5 years ago. The current deadline is that no patient should wait more than 18 weeks between referral and final treatment, from January 09. Hinchingsbrooke are already well on the way to achieving this target. One of the consequences of this is that many clinics have to be within 6 weeks of referral so that any planned diagnostic procedures and surgical procedures can be done between week 6 and week 18. This change in policy has required a major investment and new ways of working. We are doing all we can to reduce unnecessary follow ups in clinics so that more clinic time is available for faster throughput to meet the 18 week target. Patients are also benefitting from not having to go to hospital for straightforward follow ups that could have been otherwise done at the GP surgery.



Community Clinics

An increasing range of services are being run nearer patients. So please don't be surprised if you get an outpatient appointment at a GP surgery in the locality. This is already working well for Dermatology, ENT and Gynae, and may well expand to other specialties. Some of the advantages include a less chaotic feel to the clinic and easier parking that is free. Unfortunately hospital transport is not available to these peripheral clinics.

Repeat Prescription Ordering

There are now several ways to order your repeat prescriptions:



If you are a non-dispensing patient, who collects their prescription from Lloyds Chemist, you can leave your re-order slip with them and they will send it through to the surgery in time for you to collect the items directly from the chemist approximately 4 weeks later. **(You will need to hand the re-order slip to Lloyds each time you collect your prescription).**

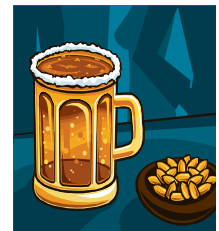
If you are a dispensing patient, simply hand your re-order slip to the receptionist and the items will be ready for you to collect in approximately 4 weeks time. You will not need to phone to request your drugs. **(You will need to hand the re-order slip in each time you collect your prescriptions).**

If you have internet access, please ask for a PIN number at reception, and you can order your drugs on line, safely and securely.

You are still able to telephone your repeat order through to the surgery but please do not ring before 11.00am on a Monday morning to do this. The answerphone service is still available for leaving repeat prescription orders when the surgery is closed at night or at weekends.

Alcohol Services

We are delighted to have the input of Nick Charles and Nikki De Villiers for patients and families concerned about alcohol issues. This is provided free, though it is not an NHS service, and we are already seeing great benefit to patients and their families from their input. Patients can self refer (Phone No 07935 929308) and there are also group evening sessions at the Resource Centre. Support is available 18 hours a day and 7 days a week, unusual in any service!!



Reminder

Our website address is:
www.rainbowsurgery.co.uk

Our e-mail address is:
reception.rainbowsurgery@nhs.net