

August 2015 newsletter from Park View Health Partnership

A new nurse

We welcome Hayley Miller, who joins the practice nurse team in August. As a qualified nurse, she's been working in the hospital environment and has no practice nursing experience so it will be a steep learning curve! She will be a great asset to the team.

Practice list closure

You may have noticed that we are no longer accepting new patients. Our practice list is closed until mid January 2016 by which time we hope to have recruited a new GP which will give more appointment availability and more flexibility in the practice. We will, of course, accept new babies on to our list.

Appointment management

We know that it has been difficult for patients to book a routine appointment and that the one urgent problem clinic is being used for all sorts of issues, not just urgent appointments. Once we return to capacity and there is more availability for routine appointments, we will tighten up on the use of this clinic, and it will be used for urgent, on the day problems, as it was originally intended. Please remember that for minor illnesses, such as sore throats and colds, your pharmacist or this website <http://surrey-sussex.healthhelpnow-nhs.net/> will guide you to the best solution. You don't always need to visit the GP and if you need advice, call 111 who are available 24/7.

New vaccine

You may have heard of MenC and MenB as causes of meningitis and septicaemia – now there's an increase in Men W infection as well. Meningitis and septicaemia can kill very quickly and cases caused by the meningococcal W bacteria are increasing in the UK. All age groups are being affected but teenagers and young adults have a higher risk of meningococcal disease. A vaccination programme is being introduced from this month to provide added protection against MenW and to reduce the spread of the disease to others. It will protect against the 4 meningococcal groups A C W and Y and will be available in schools from September 2015. Even if you have already had the MenC vaccine you should have the MenACWY vaccine. Teenagers aged 13-18 (school years 9-13) are in a high risk group so keep an eye out for the dates that the vaccination team are visiting your school. If you are going to university or college and are under 25, please make an appointment with one of our nurses before you go. There's more information at www.nhs.uk/meningitis, www.meningitis.org and www.meningitisnow.org

Contact details

We can remind you of your appointment, and you can also cancel it by text if you don't need it, but the system only works if we have your current mobile number. Please ensure that you update us if you change your number or call reception to check that we have a mobile number for you.

It would also be helpful to have your email address and you can update this by emailing info@parkviewhealth.co.uk Thank you.