

# July 2016 newsletter from Park View Health Partnership

## All about appointments

There are now early morning blood tests available on a Tuesday. If you can't take time off work for your blood test, please request one of these early morning appointments available from 7.30am.

Afternoon INR monitoring appointments are also available. You don't have to get your INR checked in the morning. Traditionally we have had staff working in the mornings but we are now extending our appointments to the afternoons to make it easier for patients to attend. In the coming months, ear syringing and wound care will also be available for you in the afternoons.

## Online appointments

This article has been prompted by a question from a patient about the different categories of appointments that show when you book an appointment online.

All our routine appointments are made available for patients to book online. If an appointment shows on the website, you are welcome to book it if it identifies as one of the types below. We have recently altered our appointment types to make appointments available within a week for our patients so here is an explanation of what you are seeing as we cannot add this onto the patient access website

**R** is for a routine appointment.

**4AM** is an appointment that is available to book four days in advance in the morning

**2AM** is an appointment that is available to book two days in advance in the morning

The same goes for the afternoon **4PM** and **2PM**.

You can easily register at reception to get access to book online appointments. [Go to our website](#) to find out how.

## Creating sustainable GP practices

*Dr Minesh Patel, Clinical Chair, Horsham and Mid-Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group*

"Why can't I get an appointment with my GP?" is a familiar question to a number of us in our communities.

At a national level over the last decade, hospital services have seen a large level of inward investment with an increase in specialist doctor numbers, albeit that in some specialities there are significant shortfalls. However, the overall investment in general practice has proportionately fallen from around 10% of the NHS budget in 1948 to under 8% (or about £135 average per patient per year today). Yet there has been a significant shift of care from hospitals to general practice.

At the same time, we are now in the midst of a significant recruitment crisis in general practice affecting doctors and nurses. Some expert predictions estimate this shortfall in GP numbers to be around 20-50% across the country over the next few years. The nurse shortfall is likely to be worse. In some parts of the country GP practices are closing down because there are

no GPs left. With rapidly rising demand coming from both an ageing and expanding population with more expectations of their NHS, we face an unprecedented challenge in meeting these expectations and needs.

No doctor or nurse goes to work to do a bad job.

NHS England has recently published a set of ambitions for general practice called the GP Forward View. We hope that the ambitions set out are translated into reality. Only time will tell but we can only truly rely on our own actions locally, working with our other local partners and communities. Horsham and Mid Sussex CCG is therefore working with our member GP practices to look at how we can find a way of developing general practice that is sustainable with all the challenges we face.

General practice really looks little like it did 25 years ago and won't look like it does now in another 25 years.

## Flu clinics 2016

### **Saturday 17 September & Saturday 8 October**

Our adult clinics are earlier this year, so you can get the protection you need sooner. If you are in one of the groups eligible for a free flu vaccination, please contact reception to book your slot.

In 2016/17, flu vaccinations will be offered at NHS expense to the following groups:

- people aged 65 years or over (including those becoming age 65 years by 31 March 2017)
- people aged from 6 months to less than 65 years of age with a serious medical condition such as: – chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis – chronic heart disease, such as heart failure – chronic kidney disease at stage three, four or five – chronic liver disease – chronic neurological disease, such as Parkinson's disease or motor neurone disease, or learning disability – diabetes – splenic dysfunction – a weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV/AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment)
- all pregnant women (including those women who become pregnant during the flu season)
- people living in long-stay residential care homes or other long-stay care facilities where rapid spread is likely to follow introduction of infection and cause high morbidity and mortality. This does not include, for instance, prisons, young offender institutions, or university halls of residence
- people who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main unpaid carer of an older or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill
- consideration should also be given to the vaccination of household contacts of immunocompromised individuals, specifically individuals who expect to share living accommodation on most days over the winter and therefore for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable.

Clinics for **CHILDREN ONLY** on the following dates:

Thursday evenings **29 September & 6 October**

Wednesday mornings **19 October & 26 October**

for all those aged two, three, and four years on 31 August 2016 through general practice. (date of birth 1 September 2011 to 31 August 2014 incl)

Vaccinating children each year means that not only are they protected but there should be reduced transmission across all age groups, lessening levels of flu overall and reducing the burden of flu across the population.

**Remember, if you receive a text reminder of your appointment you can also automatically cancel this by texting back CANCEL. It's a very useful service so do please let us have your mobile number.**