

September 2015 newsletter from Park View Health Partnership

The flu season is upon us again

If you are wondering whether to have the vaccination this year you may wish to consider that flu is a key factor in NHS winter pressures. It impacts on those who become ill, the NHS services that provide direct care as a result, and on the wider health and social care system that supports people in at risk groups. The annual immunisation programme helps to reduce unplanned hospital admissions and pressure on A&E and is therefore a critical element of the system-wide approach for delivering robust and resilient health and care services during winter.

As a patient in one of the groups below, you are eligible for a free flu vaccination at one of our adult clinics be held on **Saturday mornings 10 October and 7 November**. Please make sure that you book an appointment at reception so we can be sure that we will have enough vaccines.

The groups that we will be vaccinating this year are:

- 65 years or over (including those becoming age 65 years by 31 March 2016)
- from six 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 (this does not include carers who are employed as vaccination is funded by the employer).

- 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

Vaccination is also available to all those aged two, three, and four years (but not five years or older) on 31 August 2015 (i.e. date of birth on or after 1 September 2010 and on or before 31 August 2013) in **special children's clinics arranged for the morning of Thursday 29 October, the afternoon on Tuesday 3 November and Thursday 12 November** in the evening. Please do call to make an appointment if your child is the right age.

All children in school years 1 and 2 will be vaccinated at school by the school nurse this year.

A patient says:

"On the larger messages [on the screen in the waiting room], the writing is not on the screen long enough to read it all."

We really appreciate this type of feedback and we will be sitting in the waiting room in order to read the information as it appears to patients and adjusting the slides. We will also review the length of messages to see if they can be made more concise.

Patient survey

You may have noticed that we no longer undertake patient surveys. This is because it is now administered by IPSOS MORI on a random basis to ensure that a good representation of the patient population is targeted. You can see the results of the most recent survey by following this link <https://gp-patient.co.uk/practices/H82621>. You can compare your practice to others, the Clinical Commissioning Group (Horsham and Mid-Sussex) and to NHS England results. Please do let the practice have any comments regarding the results.

Staff training day

The practice will be operating a skeleton service on Thursday 15 October for emergencies only with one GP and one receptionist on duty. The rest of us will be at our bi-annual training day. It would be appreciated if you could avoid contact with the practice on this day, except for emergencies.

Kitchen Hands needed

You will know that we offer refreshments at our flu clinics which has turned into a good social event for many patients. Last year we were overwhelmed with offers of assistance, but this year we are asking for help to run the kitchen on the first Saturday, 10 October. If you are available from 9.00am-1.30pm, for all or some of the time, please contact info@parkviewhealth.co.uk or call 01444 244294 and leave a message. Many thanks in anticipation.