



Harbury Surgery Newsletter

Autumn 2014



Important information regarding the 2014 Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccinations will be done by appointment only this year. Appointments will be available from late September and there will be plenty of appointments throughout the Autumn at both Harbury and Bishops Itchington Surgeries. Please phone anytime from early September to book yours.

This year the categories of patients who are eligible for flu vaccination has been extended as detailed below:

- All children aged 2, 3 or 4 years of age on 1 September 2014 are eligible for nasal flu drops.
- All children in **at risk categories**, up to the age of 18 are eligible for nasal flu drops.
- For adults between the ages of 18 and 65 a flu vaccination by injection is available **only** if you are in an **at risk category**.
- Everyone over the age of 65 is eligible for a flu vaccination by injection.

The At Risk Categories are:

- over 65 years old
- asthmatic or have a chronic respiratory disease
- chronic renal disease
- chronic liver disease
- chronic heart disease
- chronic cardiovascular disease, including stroke and transient ischaemic attack (TIA)
- diabetes
- impaired immunity due to disease or treatment (immunocompromised)
- multiple sclerosis and related conditions or those with hereditary and degenerative diseases of the central nervous system
- pregnant
- carer

If you are housebound, you should telephone the Surgery to be added to a list for home visit flu jabs. This will be carried out by the District Nurses if they already come to see you, or by the Surgery Nurses.

Named GP for all over 75's

Over the last month or so, we have been writing to all patients over the age of 75 informing them of their named GP. In practice, patients can still see whichever GP they prefer, but your named GP will take lead responsibility for your care and will make a professional judgement on whether you need a multidisciplinary care package. Over 75's can also have a general health check if they wish.

Accountable GP for vulnerable patients

As a part of a government initiative introduced in a move to reduce unnecessary emergency admissions to hospital, we have also been writing to patients with more complex medical needs and informing them of the accountable GP designated to them. Accountable GPs will be consulting with patients to produce a personalised care plan, which is regularly reviewed. Patients can ask for same day telephone consultations for urgent queries or follow up arrangements where required. Following discharge from an in-patient admission to hospital, patients will also be contacted by an appropriate person to ensure coordination and delivery of care and to review their care plan.

Carers News

Guideposts Carers Support Services came to the Surgery in June and together we held a Well Carers Afternoon. Carers who attended enjoyed tea and cake, a mini massage, general health check and the chance to discuss any problems and ask for information from the staff from Guideposts.

Following the success of this afternoon we are currently looking into offering a session on First Aid for Carers provided by the Red Cross. If you are a Carer and would be interested in this, please give the Surgery a ring, although we will write to carers when a date is finalised.

Your GP Cares

Harbury Surgery, as part of the Warwickshire Local Medical Committee, is asking for the support of their patients in an attempt improve services in local GP surgeries.

GP surgeries across Warwickshire are at breaking point: we are under unsustainable pressure from a combination of rising workload and falling resources, and are left facing a workforce crisis, with many local doctors unable to offer the services the public want and they want to offer. We understand entirely why our patients are becoming frustrated at the lack of appointments and delays getting the treatment they need.

340 million GP consultations are now undertaken every year, an increase of 40 million since 2008. On average GPs spend 12 minutes with each patient, compared with just over 8 minutes in 1993, highlighting the increasing complexity of managing more long-term conditions that patients are living with.

Because of these issues facing general practice the British Medical Association (BMA) has launched the '**Your GP Cares**' campaign. We are reaching an incredibly important moment for general practice. We can either face up to the realities facing GPs and make plans now to meet the growing challenges – or we can bury our heads in the sand and watch this key part of the NHS slide into permanent decline.

We are asking the public to show their support by reading the 'Your GP Cares' leaflets and posters at their surgeries, signing the e-petition at <http://bma.org.uk/working-for-change/upoir-gp-cares> and by writing to their MP.

Thank you.

**If you would like our quarterly newsletter emailed to you,
please request this by emailing Mandy.brain@harburysurgery.nhs.uk**