

The Calverton Surgery Newsletter Nov 2022

A lot can happen in a month. We have mourned a queen, seen the cost-of-living crisis take a turn for the worse and as GPs been told that 'we must do better' by both the main political parties at their annual conferences. Sitting here at the coal face of course reality intrudes, demand for services is high, resources are lacking and our local hospitals continue to struggle to catch up from the Covid 19 backlog. I can assure all our patients that the team are working flat out. Our daily triage remains busy, but it does mean we can spot our unwell patients who need seeing on the day. We would love to routinely be able to offer all appointments within 2 weeks but recognise that is often not possible. More non-doctor staff are being promised but increasingly these are at Primary Care Network (rather than individual practice) level and so in our case are shared between 3 GP surgeries. Many we find are relatively new to primary care and so need training and support at least to begin with, all of which can eat into GP availability. Our preference would be to appoint our own staff but that is not the current political direction of travel and so we do our best!

Other news to report includes: -

A Nottinghamshire County Postural Stability Exercise programme which is now available. It is suitable for patients over 55 who are unsteady (history of or fear of falls, balance problems, moderate frailty) & is held at the Calverton Core Centre on a Monday from 10.30 to 12.00. A referral may be needed so please make contact if you feel you might benefit.

Our practice flu programme has started, appointments are available so please book in or email the surgery to arrange. Also, for those patients eligible for an autumn Covid booster I would encourage you to have one though a reminder we are not offering those at the practice this time around.

Finally, I would like to welcome to our team Roger Lloyd who is taking on a new Mental Health support role. We think he will be especially useful for patients who don't need the input of our local Mental Health specialists but aren't suited (for whatever reason) to the local NHS Talking Therapy services. His time will be spread across the 3 PCN practices and we anticipate him being with us on a Friday – welcome Roger!

Phil Rayner