The Calverton Practice Newsletter – April 2023 **Some Changes to Report**

There is a fair bit of news from the practice to report this month. Firstly, I am delighted to be able to advise that Dr Hopkinson will be back in the surgery 2 days a week from April. This is due to a change in some of his other roles and as the arrangement looks long-term, we have decided to adjust the GP patient list allocation to reflect this. It feels that the most straight forward way to do this is by letter of surname and keeping households together where possible. It means that Dr Fleming will have less formal responsibility for his patients than previously, though of course patients used to seeing her will still be able to do so.

Our building work continues at pace, completion is anticipated in about another month and we do apologise for the disruption caused. I hope you would agree it is worth it to help increase practice capacity.

Next, we have been advised of changes to the death certification process from April. There will now be a Medical Examiner, an independent senior doctor from outside the practice. They will check all deaths, speak to families and the patients usual GP and then authorise the issue of a death certificate (or if needed referral to the coroner for further action). We hope this will be a smooth and efficient service and we are being told that this will not ‘*cause any delay in issuing a death certificate’*. Please though bear with us if there are any initial teething problems to be ironed out.

Also, did you know that it is possible to get emergency supplies of routine prescribed medication if you run out? This is via the NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service and is accessed via 111. You will then be signposted to local participating pharmacies. In an emergency a pharmacist can also issue a limited supply of prescription only medications to a patient who has previously had that medication. This is a non-NHS service for which there is a charge.

This month is also the 70th anniversary of the RCGP. The surgery will be planting a College provided fruit tree in honour of the occasion.

Next, do you have any unused or old antibiotics at home? If you have unused or unwanted antibiotics, they should not be kept for another time or shared with other people. This could make you or them sick and it increases the risk of bugs becoming resistant to antibiotics. They should be returned to a community pharmacy which can dispose of them safely, —throwing them in the bin or flushing them down the toilet can contaminate the environment and should never be done. Similarly other unused or out of date medication should always be returned to a pharmacy for appropriate disposal.

Finally, this month we say farewell to Dr Lau, welcome Dr Mir and the returning Dr Ali. We also say farewell to Jayne our medication delivery driver (after 4+ years of sterling service).

 Phil Rayner