

UEA Medical Centre

Patient Newsletter – Vol 1 Issue 2: Autumn 2023

WELCOME

Welcome to our quarterly patient newsletter.

It's going to be a busy few months for the practice with the start of a new term and lots of new students around the UEA campus.

We hope that the newsletter is going to be helpful in keeping our patients and the local community aware of the goings on here at UEA Medical Centre and provide information that we feel will be beneficial to you.

Assorted topics will be covered within our newsletter, not all medical, and we welcome any suggestions and ideas that you would like us to cover in the future.

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Returning students - have you changed address/phone number?

If your contact details have changed, please make sure you let us know so we can update your records. You can notify us by filling out a form at reception or by emailing umsuea@nhs.net. (If via email, please make sure you include your full name and date of birth on the email as well as your new contact details.)

Meningitis, Measles, Mumps and Rubella - awareness

The University encourages you to receive immunisations in advance of your arrival at UEA. If you have not been immunised you should consult your home GP to obtain the immunisation at least 3 weeks before you are due to start at the UEA. We strongly advise you to obtain your immunisations BEFORE coming to the UEA.

If it has not been possible to have Meningitis/MMR vaccines prior to your arrival at university, we will be able to do these once you have registered. Phone 01603 251600 and ask to make a nurse appointment for your vaccinations. MenACWY is available FREE to all aged 24 or under and MMR is available FREE to all (any age) who have not been immunised.

If you would like this vaccine, please call reception on 01603 251600 to book a nurse appointment.

Enjoy your time at university by making sure your health and wellbeing is a priority.

For more information, please visit our [website](#).

International students

If you have come from a high-risk TB country it is a university regulation that you have TB screening as soon as you arrive at the UEA. Failure to have this screening could result in suspension from campus and from your course. For further information visit our [website](#).



Pharmacy closure – survey of support to reinstate!

For the last 20 years, the UEA Medical Centre has always had an independent pharmacy onsite next door, but in July 2023 the pharmacy closed down – this is a significant loss to campus and to us. The UEA has thousands of people on campus each day; we look after 21,000 patients; we are in a cost of living crisis; the next closest pharmacies are 2+ miles away; transport is expensive and convenience is priceless! Support the reinstatement of a pharmacy on campus – [share your views by completing this surveys](#) with Norwich South MP, Clive Lewis and help get this service back for those who need it.

Seasonal flu vaccine

Flu vaccination invites are being sent this autumn, inviting “at risk” patients to book for their seasonal flu vaccine. Specialist flu clinics run on various days throughout October to December. Clinics book up quickly, so if you have received your invite, please either click on the text link to book when you get it, or phone reception on 01603 251600! (Please note, we are unable to provide the seasonal flu vaccine privately for those who are not on the “at risk” register.)

Alcohol

University can be some of the best years of your life, but for many, alcohol ends up being a huge part of the experience too. Although there is no completely safe level of drinking, the NHS advises that the risk of harm to your health is low if you don't regularly drink more than the recommended allowance.

Health experts recommend drinking no more than 14 units a week spread across 3 days or more. That's around 6 medium (175ml) glasses of wine or 6 pints of 4% beer.

If you overdo it, give your body a day or two to recover. If you regularly drink too much, you could do yourself long term damage. For further information on drink awareness visit:

www.nhs.uk/better-health/drink-less/

Student sickness certificates

We produce medical certificates to provide evidence in support of extenuating circumstances for deadline assessments and event assessments. In the first instance, students must self-certify their FIRST & SECOND episode of illness in each academic year. If you have already self-certified TWICE within the current academic year, only then, is it appropriate to request a medical certificate from the Medical Centre.

For further information about when to attend the Medical Centre for certificates, see our [website](#).

Nominated Pharmacy (electronic prescribing)

If you have ever had your prescriptions sent directly (electronically) to a pharmacy and you are now living in Norwich, make sure you update your nominated pharmacy to a local one, otherwise you will encounter problems trying to obtain your medication. The 3 closest pharmacies are below but you can also find a local pharmacy [here](#).

- Allied Pharmacy – Earlham West (0.7 miles)
- Boots – Eaton (1.1 miles)
- Boots – Dereham Road (1.1 miles)

Either let us know where you would like your prescriptions sent to or ask your new local pharmacy to set this up on your behalf.

Sexual Health Services

Our in-house sexual health service is available during the week to all registered patients. Our sexual health nurses are specially trained to provide expert advice, support and screening for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). *Please note: Men with symptoms of an STI will need to contact [iCash](#).*

If you do not have any symptoms and would just like routine screening, you can pick up a DIY (do it yourself) kit from reception.

Pre-booked appointments only, no drop ins. Please call reception on 01603 251600 and ask for a **NURSE B** clinic appointment. All our services are confidential, non-judgemental and open to all.

Emergency contraception

If you have had sex without using any form of contraception or you think your method may have failed, you should attend the Medical Centre as soon as possible. If we are closed, this service is still available from the Out of Hours service by phoning 111 (free from landlines and mobiles.) Alternatively you can visit your local family planning service or pharmacy.

Treatment must start as soon as possible – usually up to 72 hours for the emergency pill and up to 5 days for the IUD. Remember, **the sooner the better**, do not leave it until the last minute to seek advice.

Further information about emergency contraception can be found on the [NHS website](#).

Public Health England

Five facts about the impact of chlamydia

- Most harm caused by untreated chlamydia is in women
- In women, a chlamydia infection can lead to Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)
- PID increases the risk of further complications such as ectopic pregnancy and infertility
- Treating infection as soon as possible reduced the risk of harm in women
- People who have had chlamydia quite often get it again, more frequent testing can help to reduce the risk of this happening

The National Chlamydia Screening Programme will place more emphasis on reducing re-infections through strengthened partner notification and retesting following treatment.

Struggling with your Mental Health?

Being away from home or at university for the first time can be exciting but it can also feel daunting or overwhelming. There is a lot going on in the world right now which can feel overwhelming for us all at times. If you feel you are struggling with your mental health and need to talk to someone, we have access to a variety of services and healthcare professionals who can help. You don't always need to see a GP either – our reception staff can refer you directly into some services. Call or visit us so we can make the most appropriate appointment for you.

And remember - you can also go to the Student Information Zone (SIZ) on the street (opposite The Union Bar) or visit [UEA Wellbeing](#).

Chlamydia screening

Chlamydia is the most commonly diagnosed sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the UK, affecting both men and women. Most people who have it will have no symptoms and without a test you will probably not know anything is wrong. Left untreated, it can cause complications such as long standing abdominal pain and infertility.

If you are sexually active and under 25 you should be tested annually.

The test is free, painless and confidential. You don't even have to be examined. You can pick up a self-test kit from the Medical Centre or make an appointment in the [NURSE B clinic](#) if you wish to discuss Chlamydia or have any other concerns.

Visit the [NHS website](#) for more information or visit the [iCaSH website](#) where you can order home STI kits and obtain further information.

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

We already have a virtual group in place but we need new members!

The practice is always looking for people from all ages and backgrounds that are enthusiastic about influencing and improving the way that local health care is delivered.

Want to take part, but no time for meetings? Don't worry - our PPG is virtual.

We will occasionally send you emails asking for your opinion on a range of topics. We are also looking to introduce online Teams meetings once/twice a year to allow members to discuss issues directly with the team including the partners.

If you are interested, please complete the form on our [website](#) and someone will be in touch.

Prescription charges from 1st April 2023

Charges are subject to change on 1st April each year.

- Single charge = £9.65
- 3-month PPC = £31.25
- 12-month prepayment certificate (PPC) = £111.60
- HRT prepayment certificate (PPC) = £19.30

If you will have to pay for four or more prescription items in three months, or more than 15 items in 12 months, you may find it cheaper to buy a PPC.

- Telephone advice and order line **0845 850 0030**
- General Public – **Buy or Renew a PPC online**

There is further information about prescription exemptions and fees on the [NHS website](#).

Appointments – keep it or cancel it!

Of the 14,020 appointments at the practice in the last 3 months, 1109 (7.9%) did not attend (DNA) their booked GP/nurse appointment. This is equal to **185 hours of wasted appointments!**

With increased demand for GP and nursing services and very little extra funding to facilitate this rise, reducing the DNA rate could make a significant difference to appointment availability.

Please... if you cannot make your appointment, cancel it so someone else can use it!



Student Information Zone (SIZ)

Need help with learning, student services or finance?

The UEA Student Information Advisors can help provide an initial response to questions and work out next steps. They can show you how to find the information you need online and can make a referral to the right service if required.

F2F: Visit them on The Street (opposite The Union Bar.) Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm

Online: SIZ can be accessed 24/7 at siz.uea.ac.uk. To gain full functionality, you need a UEA username and password which you will receive once you have registered as a student.

Email: You can also email student.information.zone@uea.ac.uk with your question.

Diabetes patient event

Diabetes UK have been working with Norfolk and Waveney ICS to provide a ‘Living with Diabetes’ patient event, taking place at The Nest in Norwich on 26th September. Further information can be found [here](#) . You can sign up via [Eventbrite](#).



New intrauterine coil contraception guidelines

The FSRH Clinical Effectiveness Unit has recently produced new guidelines. One key change is that the hormonal Mirena (52mg LNG-IUD) intrauterine coil can now be used for 6 years for contraception (rather than 5 years).

This guidance is for all current and future users. There is no change to the length of use of Kyleena or Jaydess, which remain 5 years and 3 years respectively. It is still important for women who use the Mirena coil for endometrial protection in HRT to have their coil changed at 5 years as per previous guidance.

! Consent for sharing your medical information

If you are aged 16+ please be aware that the medical centre **cannot share** any of your personal information without written consent from you.

This includes sharing information with your parents/ guardians, university schools or any other third party that requests information. (So... if you know it is likely that your parents/guardians are going to ring us - please let them know that we can tell them nothing unless you have signed the form!)

Download the form [here](#) and send it to umsuea@nhs.net

Feeling unwell? Not sure what to do or where to go?

These days there are lots of choices within the NHS. Making the right choice, at the right time will help you get the best possible treatment appropriate for your condition at that time. To help you decide, we have devised a list of services available:

Self-care	NHS 111	Pharmacist	GP (Doctor)	NHS Walk-in Services	A&E or 999
<p>Hangover. Grazed knee. Sore throat. Cough.</p>	<p>Unsure? Confused? Need help?</p>	<p>Diarrhoea. Runny Nose. Painful cough. Headache.</p>	<p>Unwell. Vomiting. Ear pain. Back ache.</p>	<p>If you cannot get to the GP and it is not getting any better.</p>	<p>Choking. Severe bleeding. Chest pain. Blacking out.</p>

Self-care: Best choice of treatment for very minor illness and injuries, such as coughs, colds, sore throats, cuts, bruises etc. Keep a well-stocked medicine cabinet with paracetamol or aspirin, indigestion remedies, plasters, thermometer, anti-diarrhoeal medicine, rehydration mixtures

NHS 111: This is a free NHS telephone number (from both landlines and mobile phones) which you can call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Confidential health advice and information. You can also get help for your symptoms online <https://111.nhs.uk>

Pharmacy: There are many local pharmacies available in Norwich, various opening hours. You can find your local pharmacy [here](#). They can provide advice on common illnesses such as colds and coughs including the best medicines to treat them.

GP (Doctor) Surgery: This is us! We are open Monday-Friday 08:00-18:30, alternate Saturdays. Routine and pre-bookable appointments with Doctors, Nurses and other health professionals. Urgent service for urgent same day issues (non-life threatening). For illness and injury that will not go away.

NHS Walk-In Centre: Rouen Road (city centre), Norwich, www.norwichwalkincentre.co.uk
Open 7 days per week (including bank holidays) 07:00-21:00

Accident & Emergency or 999: For critical or life-threatening conditions only.
Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Colney Lane, Norwich, NR4 7UY

Find an NHS service near you
www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/services-near-you/