

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2017

LATEST PRACTICE NEWS

1ST DECEMBER 2017

Hello and welcome to our Winter Newsletter 2017.

VACCINATIONS - FLU

Flu vaccines are still available for those patients eligible. If you are unsure whether you qualify, please ask at reception. We are particularly keen that all over 65's and patients with chronic respiratory problems receive the vaccine, as some reports suggest that there may be a particularly virulent strain of influenza about this winter. Our vaccine uptake has been low for both at risk adults and children but it is not too late to book in with either one of our nurses, Vicky or Steph for a vaccination.

VACCINATIONS - PNEUMOCOCCAL

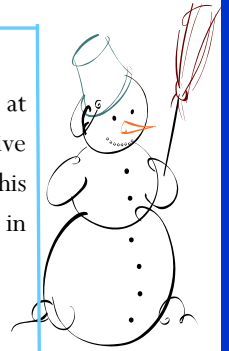
Pneumococcal vaccinations are available for patients aged 65 and over. Please ask at reception for more details.

VACCINATIONS - SHINGLES

We offer shingles vaccinations for patients who were born on or after 02.09.1942 and those patients who are aged 70, 78 or 79. Please make an appointment with one of our practice nurses to receive a vaccination.

VACCINATIONS - MMR

There is a measles outbreak in Liverpool. MMR vaccination is the only way to protect children and young people. Please contact reception if your child needs an MMR vaccine.



NHS

Are you flu safe?
Get the jab!

To book your jab, contact your GP today

PHLEBOTOMY SERVICE

You may be aware that we now have a very successful phlebotomy service at the surgery on a Tuesday and Thursday morning. No appointment necessary, just attend with your blood form between 8:30am and 11:20am. Please inform reception when you arrive to ensure that you are seen.

PRACTICE LIST

Our practice list is now open to patients living within the practice boundary.

PHARMACISTS - NEW PROCEDURE

Pharmacists are no longer able to order repeat medication for patients unless they receive their medication in a blister pack or are considered vulnerable. Patients need to request their medications from the practice either by using their repeat prescribing slip (the right hand side of the prescription slip) or online. It is hoped that more patients will register online at Patient Access to order prescriptions and also make appointments. You are also able to view your medical record online. Please ask for further details at reception.

STRUGGLING TO GET AN APPOINTMENT?

Widnes GP Extra

If you are having difficulty arranging an appointment to see a doctor because of work commitments then you can contact our reception who can make an appointment to see a general practitioner outside of your working hours. Please ask one of our receptionists to book you in to GP Extra. This is a service run by local GP's and is situated on the first floor at Widnes HCRC. It enables you to pre-book an appointment by ringing our reception but you are seen in the evening or at the weekend at your own convenience at the HCRC.



Need a routine appointment after 6.30pm midweek or at the weekend?

GP EXTRA

The Halton based extended hours service

Pre-bookable and same day appointments available for you, with prescribing practitioners.

Mon-Fri 6.30pm-9.00pm and Sat-Sun 9.00am-3.30pm

Online Consultations

You can also email the doctors by using GP Online Consult.

Please access this option by logging onto the Beeches Medical Centre website at,

www.thebeechesmedicalcentrewidnes.nhs.uk

Contact our
doctors online

GET STARTED NOW

- 1 Send us details about your condition
- 2 A doctor decides on the best treatment for you
- 3 We ring you back with advice, prescription or an appointment

HALTON CARE HOME ALIGNMENT SCHEME

We are now part of the Halton Care Home Alignment Scheme. Each surgery in Halton has been aligned to a particular care home where the doctors do weekly ward rounds. The Beeches have been aligned to Ferndale Court Care Home. Eventually this will help doctors in their daily visits as they will only have to visit one care home.

KEEP ANTIBIOTICS WORKING

The Beeches Medical Centre is the highest prescriber of antibiotics in Halton. As bacteria evolve and become increasingly resistant to antibiotics, we are keen to avoid unnecessary antibiotic prescribing. Sometimes it can be difficult to be sure whether an infection is bacterial or viral. We have a new machine available this winter to help guide us in diagnosis. It involves a pinprick of the finger and can detect markers of infection in the blood. Whilst it won't be appropriate for every patient, it should help us avoid patients having to take antibiotics unnecessarily.



NHS
Public Health
England

Taking **ANTIBIOTICS** when you don't need them puts you and your family at risk

WHEN IT COMES TO ANTIBIOTICS,
TAKE YOUR DOCTOR'S ADVICE

Keep Antibiotics Working

STAFF NEWS

Dr Helen Elwell is starting her 12 month maternity leave in January 2018. We wish her all the best and look forward to hearing of the safe delivery of her first child. We are lucky to have Dr Prev Narayana helping us to cover her maternity leave.

THANK YOU

May I take this opportunity to thank all our patients for their cooperation in 2017 and to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy 2018.

Dr R Maguire - December 2017.