

THE BEECHES MEDICAL CENTRE

WINTER NEWSLETTER

LATEST PRACTICE NEWS

JANUARY 2020

Hello and welcome to our Winter Newsletter. We would like to wish all our patients a Happy Health New Year!

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.

VACCINATIONS - PNEUMOCOCCAL

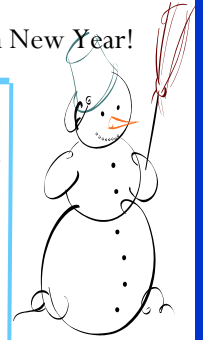
Pneumococcal vaccinations are available for patients aged 65 and over. Please ask at reception for more details.

VACCINATIONS - SHINGLES

We offer shingles vaccinations for patients who were born between 1941 and 1950. Please make an appointment with one of our practice nurses to receive a vaccination.

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATIONS

We continue to promote and encourage parents to have their children vaccinated. We also have nasal flu vacs available for children.



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 11am. Please inform reception when you arrive to ensure that you are seen.

TEXT MESSAGING AND ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRES

We are currently introducing new ways to communicate with our patients. The new ways of communication include text messaging and online questionnaires. One of the many benefits of using this software, is that GP's can message you directly to give you advice and guidance. Online questionnaires, can also be used to review your health status without the need to see a GP. It is vital that we have an up to date mobile phone number for you. This will allow you to benefit from this service.

PLEASE MAKE SURE WE HAVE THE CORRECT MOBILE PHONE NUMBER FOR YOU!!!

FOOD BANK DONATIONS—THANK YOU

Thank you to all the patients who brought food to the surgery in December to donate to the Widnes Food Bank. We received a big thank you from the food bank organisers who stated that the donations received were equivalent to providing 164 meals.

STAFF NEWS

Dr Asia Ali our GP registrar is starting her maternity leave on 9th January 2020. We wish her all the very best and look forward to hearing of the safe delivery of her baby.

PRESCRIPTION REQUESTS

We no longer take prescription requests via email from patients.

Question: How do I get my medication?

Answer: Register for Patient Access.

Please register for Patient Access by following the link <http://www.patientaccess.com> Alternatively, you can come in to the practice and one of our reception staff will help you register. You will find this is a much more convenient prescription request service once you register. Your prescription will be sent electronically to your nominated pharmacy, where you can collect your requested medication.

If you do not want to register for Patient Access, then you can request your prescription on our practice website using the prescription request form by following the link below;

<http://thebeechesmedicalcentrewidnes.secure-gpsite.nhs.uk/repeats,67744.htm>

Question: How else can I get my prescription?

Answer: Post or Hand Deliver

Post your repeat order slip to:- Prescription Request, The Beeches Medical Centre, 20 Ditchfield Road, Widnes, WA8 8QS.

Alternatively, you can post your repeat re-order slip in the post box on the wall in the reception area inside the surgery. This can be done Monday to Friday, 8am—6:30pm.

Please note that we DO NOT take telephone prescription requests. Please allow 2 working days for your prescription to be processed.

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.

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.



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

**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

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

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