

UEA Medical Centre

Patient Newsletter – Vol 3 Issue 1: Spring 2025

WELCOME

Welcome to our quarterly patient newsletter and welcome to 2025!

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

Assorted topics will be covered within our newsletter, not all medical.

Please get in touch if you have any suggestions and ideas that you would like to be covered in future newsletters.

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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. Men ACWY 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](#).



Student sickness certificates

We produce medical certificates to provide evidence in support of extenuating circumstances and extensions for course tests and exams. Students are now able to self-certify for 7-day extensions as many times as required throughout the academic year. For extensions longer than 7 days, a certificate is still required. If evidence of extenuating circumstances due to a health condition is required then a medical certificate can be requested via the online form on the Medical Centre [website](#). (These can only be completed if we have sufficient evidence.)

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

Appointments – keep it or cancel it!

Of the 20,790 appointments at the practice in the last 3 months, 1,526 (7.3%) did not attend (DNA) their booked GP/nurse appointment. This is equal to **255 hours of wasted appointments / 8 weeks of a full time GP!**

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! It's really easy to do by clicking the link in the 24-hour reminder you will receive by text ahead of your appointment.

Health campaigns

Brain tumour awareness – March

Brain tumours are indiscriminate; they can affect anyone at any age. What's more, they kill more children and adults under the age of 40 than any other cancer. One in three people know someone affected by this devastating disease. Find out [more](#).

Ovarian cancer awareness – March

In the UK, over 7,000 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer every year. Two thirds of women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer too late when the cancer is harder to treat. And every day, 11 women die. Find out [more](#).

If you have any concerns, call reception on **01603 251600** to make an appointment.

Eating Disorders Awareness Week

This is taking place 28th February – 6th March. It is a week-long campaign that aims to shed light on the complexities of eating disorders, including anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge-eating disorder, and others. The event emphasizes the importance of early intervention, access to treatment, and reducing the stigma associated with eating disorders.

NATIONAL
**EATING
DISORDERS**
AWARENESS WEEK



Eating Disorders

An eating disorder can be a serious condition characterised by abnormal or disturbed eating behaviours. Often people assume that they must be medically underweight to be diagnosed with an eating disorder, but this is not the case. We often use the SCOFF screening tool to help identify those who might benefit from a referral.

- Do you make yourself sick because you feel uncomfortably ill?
- Do you worry you have lost control over how much you eat?
- Have you recently lost more than one stone?
- Do you believe yourself to be fat when others say you are too thin?
- Would you say that food dominates your life?

1 point for each “Yes”. Score of 2 indicates a likely eating disorder.

If you think you may have an eating disorder, call us on **01603 251600** and make an appointment to see one of our GP's as soon as you can.

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/

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.

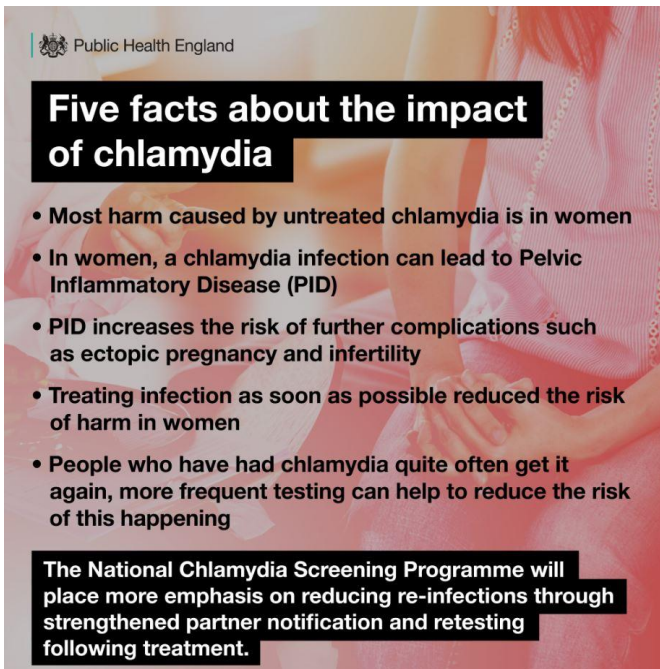
Pre-booked appointments only, no drop ins. Please call reception on 01603 251600 and ask for a **NURSE B** clinic appointment. All our services are confidential, non-judgemental, and open to all.

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](#).



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 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.

Travel services...planning to go on holiday soon?

Whether you're off on a package holiday to relax, trekking through the Amazon, on Safari in Africa or exploring the world, our fully qualified and experienced Travel Health nurses can give you expert advice on staying healthy and safe abroad. The travel clinic offers:

- Full travel risk assessments and advice
- Travel vaccinations
- Registered Yellow Fever Centre
- Free parking

Appointments are available throughout the week, and you should aim to book your first appointment at least 8 weeks before you are due to travel. We do not give travel advice over the phone. Your initial appointment will be for 30 minutes, and the specialist nurse will run through a personal assessment of risks/needs, taking into account your length of stay, activities and any existing health problems. This assessment will determine which vaccinations/medication you require. Subsequent appointments are usually 15 minutes.

! 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't tell them anything unless you have signed the form!)

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



Social Prescribing - For support with non-medical matters

Social prescribing involves helping patients to improve their health, wellbeing, and social welfare by connecting them to community services which might be run by the council or a local charity.

They can help with:

- Housing
- Benefits
- Mental health
- Activities, clubs, and groups
- Family and relationships
- Blue badges and transport
- Budgeting and debt
- Education and training
- Rights and responsibilities
- Care
- Work

How can I book to see a Social Prescriber?

Just give us a call! 01603 251600. You will need a GP referral into this service. Once referred, you will have an initial telephone consultation with the social prescriber, where they will assess your needs to see how best they can help you. This may be putting you in touch with other organisations or booking you a follow up appointment(s) with themselves (via phone or in person) for further support.

Student Information Zone (SIZ)

Alternatively, if you're a student and need help with learning, student services or finance? You can also contact the UEA Student Information Zone (SIZ) who 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.

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, and most Saturday mornings (for pre-booked appointments only).

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.

Find an NHS service near you

www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/services-near-you/