
Branch End News

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JANUARY 2007

PLEASE TAKE ONE

We wish all our patients a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Christmas Raffle

Thank you to staff and patients for all their support. The winner of the hamper was Mrs. Fish. There were 10 other prizes which have all been claimed. The Christmas raffle has raised £427 which will go to the Tynedale Hospice.

Flu Clinic

The last Flu clinic for this season will be held here at the surgery on

January 11th 2007

Between 8.30am and 12.30pm

If you would like a flu injection please inform reception and you can call in between the above times. If you are eligible for a flu vaccination but do not want one, please let us know.

Telephone Prescriptions

From the 8th JANUARY you will be able to order your prescriptions by telephone using a dedicated line.

They can be ordered Monday - Friday between the times 10.30am-12.30pm and 2pm-4pm in the afternoon.

The telephone number is 01661 845945

This line is purely for prescriptions and no other query can be dealt with.

(not available Thursday 2pm – 4pm)

Patients should be aware that this number is on a single line and therefore may be engaged from time to time. Please keep trying on this number as we cannot accept prescription requests on the main surgery number.

Dr. Paul Guellard

Dr Paul Guellard will be leaving us at the end of January. We would like to thank him for his valuable contribution to the practice during the past year and wish him the best of luck in the future.

He will however be doing some locum work for us in February.

Registrars

Dr Matthew Robinson and Dr Gareth Forbes will be leaving in February and we would like to thank them both.

We send them our best wishes and wish them well in the future.

We welcome Dr. Elsa Randles to our team in February on a 6 month placement. She is a fully qualified doctor training to be a GP.

Cold's and Flu

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU HAVE FLU?

Generally one would feel worse than a “normal cold” such that you would struggle to get out of bed if you had contracted the Flu virus. As this is a viral illness antibiotics are not indicated, but you can self treat as follows:

- Keep Warm
- Take paracetamol in the appropriate dosage for your age.
- Drink plenty of fluids
- You can self certify for the first 7 days so you will only need a sick note for work if your absence is longer.
- You should see the doctor if symptoms last longer than 8 days or if you developed a chest infection and needed anti-biotics.

Please come to the surgery if at all possible the doctor can see at least 4 patients in the time it takes for a home visit.

Patient Survey

Please look out for the results of our patient survey and our response. These will be published soon.

Choice of Hospitals

Patients can now choose when and where they receive hospital treatment. The practice is able to do some direct booking with Hexham General Hospital using the computerised Choose and Book system.

Confidentiality of Records

Patients should be aware that all staff having access to medical records have signed a confidentiality agreement. Any breach of this may result in disciplinary action.

Branch End News**Central Records Spine**

At present the practice can only add a code to computer records indicating that the patient does not wish their information to be included on the Central Records Spine (when that is up and running).

Again, however, patients should be aware that NHS staff are not at liberty to ‘browse’ patients records as an audit trail is left by anyone opening a record.

All NHS staff are bound by confidentiality ties as in this practice and any breach would invoke a full investigation.