THE BEECHES MEDICAL CENTRE

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2016

LATEST PRACTICE NEWS

6TH JANUARY 2016

Hello and welcome to our Winter Newsletter 2016. We would like to wish all our patients a happy new year.

STAFF NEWS

We welcome our new female registrar Dr Barrett on the 13th January 2016. Registrars are fully trained doctors gaining experience in general practice.

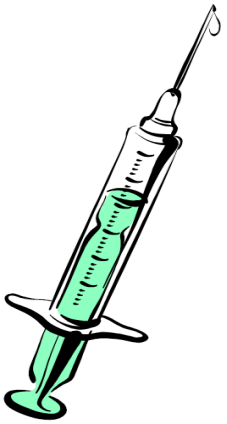
CQC VISIT OUTCOME REPORT

We had a CQC visit inspection on the 22nd September 2015 and are pleased to inform our patients that we received a clean bill of health with a rating of "Good" in all 5 key lines of enquiry, Safe, Effective, Caring, Responsive and Well led and one area of outstanding in the treatment of homeless patients.

Patients can access the full report on our website www.thebeechesmedicalcentrewidnes.nhs.uk or on the CQC website www.cqc.org.uk. We also have paper copies in the waiting area in reception. The practice manager will be pleased to email a copy of the report on request. Please email HCCG.Beechesmc@nhs.net if you would like a copy emailed to you.

FLU VACCINATIONS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

We still have flu vaccinations available for patients who are over 65 years of age or suffer with conditions such as diabetes, respiratory, heart disease or low immune system. Carers are also eligible for a free flu vaccination. Please ask at reception if you would like a vaccine.



ON-LINE CONSULTATIONS AT THE BEECHES MEDICAL CENTRE

We now have a system accessible to patients on our website where patients can access online consultations with our doctors. Please go to our website www.thebeechesmedicalcentrewidnes.nhs.uk for further details.

MJOG - TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE

We now have a texting service to remind patients of appointments. Patients can cancel an appointment by texting back to the practice. We may also use texts to remind patients of their annual review or flu vaccination. If you do not want to receive text messages then you have the option to opt out of this service. Please email HCCG@beechesmc.nhs.uk to opt out or inform a receptionist.

MORE PRE-BOOKABLE DOCTORS APPOINTMENTS - Available after 6:30pm and at weekends at HCRC

We do our best to offer our patients an appointment on the day or a pre-bookable in advance appointment. Unfortunately, demand is sometimes higher than the appointments we have, however we now have a alternative appointment venue at the HCRC, where non urgent patients can be seen at the HCRC by a doctor on a pre-bookable appointment from 6:30pm - 8:30pm Monday to Friday and 10am - 4pm Saturday and Sunday. This is very convenient for people who work and may not be able to get time off in the week. If you would like an appointment then please speak to one of our receptionists who will book an appointment here at the Beeches Medical Centre, however if you do need to cancel an appointment you must do this by ringing HCRC on 0151 495 5000

ANTIBIOTICS

Halton practices are amongst the highest prescribers of antibiotics in the country. Within Halton CCG practice umbrella, the Beeches are one of the highest prescribers of antibiotics. Whilst of course we will continue to prescribe antibiotics for appropriate bacterial infections, we are keen to reduce the prescribing of inappropriate antibiotics, e.g for infections that get better on their own.

There is a growing concern that some bacteria have become resistant to our standard antibiotics as we continue to prescribe them in large numbers. This could result in infections becoming untreatable. We may on occasion suggest that you wait and see whether your infection is clearing on its own, before collecting a prescription of antibiotics. There is further information available on treating infections from your doctor, practice nurse or alternatively please ask for further details at reception. Advice is also attached to this newsletter.

Dr Rebecca Maguire - 06.01.2016