

Newsletter



Welcome to edition 9 of the Patient Participation Group Newsletter.

Many changes have occurred during the past 6 months at the practice, nationally and locally. We will try to keep you informed as much as possible on changes that you may be affected by along with health promotion articles and current affairs regarding the NHS.

Also; in this edition we shall provide a little insight into the some of the members who are on the group.

New Doctor

Our new lady doctor—Katherine Foster— recently joined Dr Greiss and Dr van Spelde in providing medical care to our 5400 registered patients. From comments I have heard she has made a big impression on everyone she has met and all have praised her highly.

Suzanne Holland (practice manager) says ‘ the practice is very privileged to have engaged this new doctor, she has made a great impression on patients and staff and we look forward to her input into services especially for our female patients. It has been evident from past surveys that our patients have long awaited a female GP and the practice has always been mindful of this need. We always strive to meet patient satisfaction. in any way we can.’

Alan Blood—PPG chair

Ladies the Patient Participation Group needs YOU!!

Why not join Kristine on the PPG. We meet every 2 months and we aim to be a part of and to make patients aware of the changes happening in the NHS and Wigan area in particular.

The PPG continue to represent the surgery in the various patient groups and would welcome to learn of any issues you would like us to raise on your behalf. For confidential reasons we cannot deal with any personal problems.

Secretary needed!! If you have any emailing, typing and/or publishing skills and feel you could contribute to the group we would welcome you on board. Please contact Alan or Suzanne at the surgery



Final Pilot for Open surgery

Thank you for all your comments about the first two pilots, they have proved very useful. We have discussed the comments in recent meetings and together with the practice we agreed to start the 3rd pilot in mid June. This pilot is based on giving an appointment on the day after 10am in the morning. The same 20 slots are allocated but the essence of a 'walk-in surgery' has now gone. (see details of the appointments in surgery or on the website). As this appointment system is a pilot we still need your comments to get as full a picture of patient satisfaction as possible. The practice staff report that it is a welcome change. There is no longer a stressful hour for both patients and staff at 2-30 to 3pm and the pilot is going really well. Please remember that these on the day appointments are for urgent matters only with only one problem in one appointment!

Alan Blood

On-line Appointments and repeat prescriptions

Please don't forget to register with the surgery to enable you to make/cancel appointments and order your repeat medication on-line. Just pick up a registration form when you next visit the surgery.

You will now receive an email reminding you the day before of your appointment.

Is your bathroom cabinet choc –a- block full of medicines that you no longer have use for?

Sometimes you may find that you have requested a repeat prescription that you no longer need.

Maybe you have a stock pile of out of date medicines on your shelves.

Then here's what to do

Ask your Doctor for a medicines review.

Ask for that particular medicine to be taken off repeat.

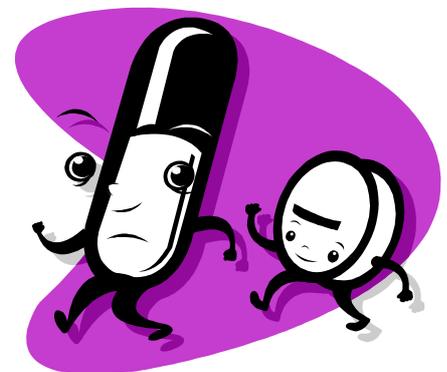
Ensure your pharmacy are not ordering and dispensing medications you don't need for the current month.

Now how should we get rid of those we already have and don't use ?

In the 'old days' we would flush them down the toilet, but our community waste water systems are not equipped to screen out all the antibiotics, hormones and other potential contaminants in unwanted medicines.

Your surgery/ Doctor is not able to take them either but your local chemist will (I have checked this today with Salter's Chemist on Scott Lane) so parcel them up and make some space on those shelves and cabinets for things you really want.

Kristine Webb



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Update on Aspull Surgery Health Walks

The health walks are continuing to attract interest and leave from the surgery at 10am every Monday morning. Tracey from Active Living has now trained up two of our patients as walk leaders and will be leaving Aspull walkers to it! She commented that Aspull walking group has been very successful and one of the best in the borough. Tracey emailed a message which I thought was prudent to display in the newsletter.



Hi Suzanne

The walk has gone great, really fantastic. The walk has had two people trained so the walk can continue to grow from strength to strength, the walk has an average of about 10 to 12 people regularly walking each week and the numbers are growing with each walk. The leaders choose different scenic routes and make the walks as accessible as possible. Keep up the great work Aspull surgery walk leaders, lets get the borough active!

Many thanks

Tracy Morris—Specialist Activity Instructor

Over 75 patients

All patients over the age of 75 should by now have received a letter from the surgery informing them of a named GP. You will also receive an invitation to have a full health check to help you remain as well as possible. If you are 75 and have not received a letter please contact the surgery.

Local and National News

Mental Health Strategy

Wigan Borough Clinical Commissioning Group, who are the body responsible for commissioning health services in Wigan, have initiated a major review of mental health services to ensure people with a mental illness get the best possible help. All the agencies involved in providing services met earlier this month to plan how they could work together, reduce costly duplication of services and provide a more comprehensive service for those of all ages.

The strategy should be published in July.

Alan Blood

If anyone has a mental health emergency and is experiencing distress, the crisis team can be contacted on 01942 482239

THE HEALTHIER TOGETHER INITIATIVE

It is really important that residents in Wigan Borough, and across Greater Manchester, get to have their say on what their local NHS services should look like. The Greater Manchester Healthier Together Team has been looking at how they can provide the best care possible for patients across the area. They have developed a proposal for greater collaboration and the sharing of knowledge, staff and expertise. Under this proposed model, rather than all the ten hospitals in Greater Manchester trying to deliver everything, it is proposed that a smaller number of hospitals will be designated as Specialist Hospitals which will deal with the most complex, difficult and urgent cases. Those hospitals that are not designated as Specialist Hospitals will continue to deliver a broad range of services as General Hospitals and will keep their Accident and Emergency departments. Over the next few months the consultation will secure a range of views on which hospitals should be designated as specialist hospitals and they want people across Wigan Borough to let them know their views on this. The members of Aspull PPG will be asking for your opinions and information will be circulated widely so we can influence the provision care of Wigan residents

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WHO ARE THE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP?

ALAN BLOOD – CHAIRMAN worked as a social worker in mental health in the past as well as a doubly qualified nurse where I spent over fifty years in the health service. This is why I am involved in the PPG to ensure we keep the best health service in the world and it is free.

CHRIS READY– I am the local councillor for this area and with my family we have lived here all our lives. Health is the most important thing we deal with so its a privilege to serve on this group.

KRISTINE WEBB—I have worked for the NHS for over 40 years in both clinical and academic settings in the North West. Before my retirement I worked in the Smoking Cessation Service. Since retirement I have been working a few hours a week as an Independent Consultant for Cambridge Weight Plan helping people to change to a healthier lifestyle.

Having recently moved into the area I joined the Aspull practice and I have been very impressed with the friendliness and professionalism of all the Health Centre staff, for this reason when I saw the advert in the surgery inviting patients to join the group I decided to sign up.

There are a lot of changes happening now and in the future in the NHS and the North West region which is why we need to have a voice in what service we would like albeit within financial restraints.

ROBERT WHELAN—Hi! I'm Rob Whelan. I'm a retired GP, having spent most of my time in the NHS, but I served for six years as a Medical Officer in the Regular Army. I am a keen walker, and also work two days each week as a volunteer at Dunham Massey NT. I joined the PPG as a means of getting involved with the local community and hopefully to feed back some of my experience as a GP.

GRAHAM LOWTON—Registered with Haigh/Aspull (Red Rock) surgery for first 20 years of NHS.

As a professional engineer in field of oil exploration and production spent 35 years as an expat experiencing the health care systems in a number of countries - some extremely basic and some sophisticated.

Since retiring spend time gardening, dog walking, reading and DIY.

Hope experience gained will enable a positive contribution to current and future trends in health care for the local community.

FRANCIS LEIGH—I have worked in various industries, over my working life in a variety of working roles. My interest are in horticulture travel and music. I was a volunteer in the commonwealth games in Manchester in 2002 and also in the Olympic and Paralympic games in London2012.