

MOIRA SURGERY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 24

The Surgery is coming into an exceptionally busy period between now and the end of October. As a team we felt that it would be useful for patients to be made aware of the latest developments.

SURGERY WEBSITE AND PATIENT ACCESS ISSUES

We are aware that a few patients have been experiencing difficulty using their online PINs for the Patient Access software. This software allows you to book your own GP appointments and to request your repeat medication on-line without having to ring in to the surgery.

Lately some of you have been having issues with what appears to be multiple step authentication and this is preventing normal use of the online service.

The difficulty has arisen due to the fact that the surgery website host, EMIS Web, have announced that they will no longer be facilitating surgery websites effective from the end of September. The result is that the Patient Access software can sometimes struggle to connect via the Moira Surgery Website.

The good news is that we are in the process of creating a new and improved Moira Surgery Website which will be capable of linking with the Patient Access system which in turn should resolve any issues being experienced. The new website should launch sometime in September so keep an eye out for this.

VACCINATION NEWS

There is a lot happening with regard to Vaccinations so perhaps it is best to break the information up into groups:-

New Respiratory Virus Vaccine (or RSV) – We have just received information that the Department of Health would like GPs to offer a new vaccine, Abrysvo, to patients who are aged 75 or older but who have not yet reached their 80th birthday. Ideally vaccination should take place in September, (the Respiratory Virus infection rate peaks around October to December), and we have approximately 400 patients who will need to be invited. Details are limited at present but what we do know is that this vaccine aims to offer protection against respiratory viruses which can cause lung infections. Pregnant ladies are also to be offered this vaccination but this will be done by the Trusts at AnteNatal clinic. This vaccine is separate from Flu, Covid or Pneumonia vaccinations and these vaccines are to be offered in the usual way during annual Flu Clinics. We await confirmation of when to expect delivery of the RSV vaccine and will be in touch but hope to deliver this vaccination programme before the end of September.

Further information is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/respiratory-suncytial-virus-rsv-vaccination-for-older-adults

Shingles Vaccines – The Shingles vaccination programme will take ten years to complete. Patients are being called forward in groups according to their date of birth. We are finished with Group 1 and will move forward to Group 2 from 1st September onwards. Group 2 will be for patients whose date of birth falls between 2/9/1958 to 1/9/1959 and 2/9/1953 to 1/9/1954. We await confirmation from Public Health of when the vaccines will be made available for Group 2 and will be in touch by text or letter as soon as we are ready to call this group forward. Again this is a sizeable group to plan for with over 200 folks in this group.

Flu Vaccine & Covid Booster In addition to the above the annual flu vaccination programme is due to start in October. We are still planning nursing time but would aim to vaccinate pre-school age children early in October, followed by the at risk under 65s with the older group being later in the month. This will allow time for those who have had to have a Shingles or an RSV vaccine to recover from any after effects before further vaccinations are given.

To make you aware of the scale of the flu programme, we give around 1200 vaccines each year, which requires a lot of administration planning time together with a lot of clinician time to give the vaccines.

We felt it best to make all patients aware that delivery of all of these vaccinations will have an impact on the availability of doctors and nurses during clinic times. Naturally we will try to manage this as best we can but please be aware that during vaccine clinics the surgery may be forced to offer emergency GP appointments with very limited availability for routine appointments.

PRESCRIPTIONS

Once again we would ask that you do not telephone the surgery to check if prescriptions are ready. Please check with your nominated chemist first. Boots and Maghaberry pharmacies call with the surgery daily to collect completed prescriptions. Boots chemist do offer a texting service to advise patients when medication is ready but you will need to organise this facility with Boots directly.

Please allow ample time for your prescription to be processed by both the surgery and the chemist. The surgery needs **2 full working days** to provide a script with the pharmacy needing at least the same thereafter. Please plan ahead for bank holidays and so forth.

AND TO FINISH

We are delighted to announce that Moira Surgery has achieved status as a GP Training Practice. Drs Spence and McKelvey are our GP trainers and as a result we are happy to introduce Dr Naomi Turner our GP Trainee. Dr Turner joins us in August as a qualified Doctor who is currently completing her GP Training Qualifications over the next 6 months. Following a settling in period Dr Turners' appointments will be available to book in the usual way with the reception staff. We look forward to making her feel welcome within the team.

As one door opens Sadly we say goodbye to one of our practice pharmacists in September. Some of you will know Heather Smith who has worked with us for a number of years. We wish her all the very best in her new post and would like to make you all aware that this leaves only one in-house pharmacist which will have a resultant effect on how quickly prescriptions can be processed. Please bear this in mind and be patient.

If you have any suggestions for topics that we can cover in future newsletters please do speak to staff and let them know. We will be happy to do some research and provide information accordingly.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information.

From all Staff at Moira Surgery.