

**Seasonal influenza and Covid vaccinations** We are currently busy sending invites to eligible patients for their covid and flu vaccinations. These are being given at Four Shires Medical Centre in Moreton-in-Marsh. However, please direct all queries to us at Campden Surgery. Please be patient with our receptionists, as they are dealing with vaccine queries alongside their other work as the vaccine hub telephone number is not available this year for queries.

**Nurse appointments** We currently have a nurse off long term sick leave. This nurse performs the majority of our diabetic patients review appointments. Therefore, we are experiencing a delay in being able to send out the routine monitoring reviews for these patients. We have been trying to source agency nurses to help, however this has been unsuccessful to date.

**Doctors in training** Now that we are an approved training practice, we have welcomed our first doctor in training this week, Dr Sadaf Khan. Dr Khan is a qualified doctor who is completing her placement in General Practice before deciding on her career path. Dr Khan will be available for booked appointments 2 days per week in due course.

**Batch prescriptions** Campden Pharmacy have advised us that they are now asking patients on batch prescriptions to let them know 4 days before collecting their monthly prescription so they can ensure they prepare this in time.

### **Questions and concerns from patients on an elective waiting list at Gloucestershire Hospitals Trust – the Elective Care Hub**

The Elective Care Hub is a service that provides support to patients waiting for treatment at Gloucestershire Hospitals. This non-clinical team proactively contact patients who have been waiting a long time to reassure them that they haven't been forgotten, check on their status and escalate any concerns to the relevant clinical teams. In addition, the Hub also provides a point of contact for patient queries relating to outstanding appointments.

Patients can use the Hub for general queries such as chasing appointments, changes to patients' circumstances and non-urgent clinical concerns/issues for those patients currently awaiting treatment (which the team will direct to the relevant clinical team for review and then provide a response).

Patients can contact the Elective Care Hub in relation to an outstanding appointment as follows:

- [gkn-tr.waitinglistpatientenquiry@nhs.net](mailto:gkn-tr.waitinglistpatientenquiry@nhs.net)
- 0300 422 6360 (Mon & Wed – 8am -6pm; Tues, Thurs & Fri – 8am – 4pm; & Sat – 8am – 1pm).

We have added this as an option on our telephones for patients – press option 4 to be transferred.

### **Facebook page**

The surgery now has a face book page for patient information, which is updated regularly. Please like our page to receive updates.

### **Requests to prescribe private consultation recommended medications on NHS prescription**

Sometimes patients decide to see doctors or other healthcare professional in the private sector for their healthcare needs. Occasionally, following this appointment(s) the private healthcare clinician asks a GP to take on the prescribing element of a treatment plan under the NHS. Your GP will consider these requests and will make a judgement as to whether they are able to meet this request. NHS Gloucestershire's Integrated Care Board (ICB) has produced a guideline for GPs and other NHS prescribers to help when making decisions. Prescribing a medicine for patient is a very complex activity. Professional bodies for healthcare clinicians advise Doctors, and other prescribers,

that they should assess every situation individually and only prescribe if they are competent to do so. This means that prescribers are not obliged to prescribe on behalf of other prescribers and cannot be “told” they must prescribe against their clinical judgment. Prescribers should only prescribe if they:

- a) have the necessary information about the patient and their medical conditions, and especially relating to the condition being treated,
- b) are sufficiently knowledgeable about the requested medicine to feel confident to prescribe safely (and sometimes have access to ongoing specialist advice and support),
- c) will be able to safely look after the patient whilst they are taking the medication (e.g., any required monitoring to ensure your safety and treatment benefit)
- d) are not restricted in prescribing the drug by the local ICB (NHS prescribing of some medicines is restricted locally).

If the GP feels that one or more of these conditions are not met, then they may decide they are unable to prescribe. If your GP is unable to prescribe, they will advise or discuss options with you. These may include obtaining a private prescription from the private clinician you have seen or being referred to an NHS specialist clinician (where appropriate).

If you have any further questions, please contact PALS on [glicb.pals@nhs.net](mailto:glicb.pals@nhs.net) or 0800 0151 548.

### **Measles**

There has been an increase in confirmed cases of measles in 2023 compared to numbers that were seen during the Covid-19 pandemic. The NHS is advising patients to make sure children get 2 MMR vaccines on time – the first at 12 months of age and the second at 3 years, 4 months. If you or your children missed these vaccines, it’s not too late – ask for the free vaccine from your GP surgery if you or your children aren’t up to date.

If you think you have symptoms of measles stay at home and phone your GP or NHS 111. Do not attend GP surgeries and A&E departments without informing them that you think you have measles before you visit – you could spread the illness to others.