

Sixpenny Handley and Chalke Valley Practice Newsletter December 2020

Thank you to everyone who continues to support us during these unprecedented times. We hope the exciting developments of vaccines for Covid-19 help bring an end to the pandemic whilst recognising this will take time for us to see our lives start to return towards normal. General Practice has been instructed to deliver some of the Covid-19 vaccination programme and we are planning how this will be achieved. We continue to run our flu vaccine campaign and if you are eligible and have not had your vaccine yet please contact us.

We are working hard to expand our team within the budgets we are given and are delighted to be recruiting some extra practice nurse time. Our nursing team will become more involved in the care of people with high blood pressure as well as sexual health and contraceptive services. We also have a new menopause clinic offering advice and treatment options including HRT.

NHS England is investing in primary care and we hope there will be the workforce available for us to utilise this funding. We have new staff from Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living whose services include support for those who feel isolated or lonely. We have a Musculoskeletal Practitioner starting in the next month or so who will be the clinician who assesses you for some conditions that cause back or joint problems.

We are installing a 24/7 medication collection machine in the external wall at the Sixpenny Handley branch for use by anyone registered with the practice. This exciting development means that many people will no longer need to queue to collect their medication during our opening hours and can collect it at any time of the day or night. Please see our website or ask for an application form if you might be interested in signing up for this.

We are continuing to make improvements to our site at Broad Chalke and have just had an assessment for disabled access to the rear of the building. We will be re-opening some services as soon as we can. In the mean time we thank those of you who usually receive your care from the Broad Chalke site for understanding the need to focus most services from one site.

The NHS very much wants us to be delivering usual services alongside the additional work generated by the pandemic. We are doing our best and realise you are having to wait longer for a routine GP appointment. Please bear with us. If we have assessed your request for an appointment and consider it safe to wait for a routine slot we hope you will understand this. The NHS has provided a few additional GP appointments available to practices with GPs who work from other sites in each area and we hope these will be utilised. If our receptionist offers you one of these slots it is because it is the next available GP appointment or the time of the appointment might suit you better.

With the bank holidays that are due over the Christmas period please make sure you have ordered any regular medication you will need in time.

We wish you all a peaceful Christmas and New Year.