



September/
October 2019

Bourn Surgery Newsletter

www.bournsurgery.nhs.uk

The Surgery will be closed for part of the afternoon of Wednesday 16th October, for staff training.

'Flu Season:

It's that time of year again, and we are gearing up for the 'flu season. NHS guidance advises that 'flu vaccine is the best protection we have against an unpredictable virus that can cause unpleasant illness in children and severe illness and death among at-risk groups, including older people, pregnant women and those with an underlying medical health condition. Studies have shown that the 'flu vaccine will help prevent you getting the 'flu. It will not stop all flu viruses and the level of protection may vary, so it's not a 100% guarantee that you'll be 'flu-free. But if you do get 'flu after vaccination, it's likely to be shorter and milder than it would otherwise have been. Those eligible to receive a free NHS 'flu vaccine are: adults aged 65 and over, patients of any age with certain medical conditions, pregnant women, children aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2019, informal carers and frontline health or social care workers. Children of primary school age will receive their vaccination at school.

Our annual adult 'Flu Clinic is on the morning of Saturday 12th October.

In addition, we have 'flu vaccine appointments running throughout the vaccination season. Appointments for 'flu vaccination, including the Saturday clinic, are now available to book online, as well as by phone/in person. If booking online you will see the appointments labelled as Under 65 or Over 65. This is because patients aged 65 and over receive a different type of 'flu vaccine which is more effective for this age group. Please ensure you book the correct appointment for your age. Children aged 2 and 3 can be booked into nurse 'flu clinics.

We would ask that you **support your GP surgery** by having your vaccination done here. The funding that we receive for giving each 'flu vaccine is an important source of income for the practice, which allows us to maintain our staffing levels and provide services above and beyond our core obligations. We are proud of and wish to maintain the level of service we provide, but in the current climate of reduced funding for primary care, this is becoming very difficult. Every little helps!

Vaccine delivery nationally is being spread across the vaccination season, but we will receive enough in October and November to vaccinate all our eligible patients.

GP Patient Survey 2019:

Much as the 'flu season comes round every year, so does the national GP Patient Survey. The survey results are based entirely on the feedback from patients about their recent experiences at the Surgery, from booking an appointment, to their impression of the clinical staff and their satisfaction with the appointment. We are delighted to have been ranked 388 out of 6859 practices nationally!

Welcome to new staff!

We have a number of new staff to welcome onto the Bourn team this month.

Dr Tim Sharp joins us as a salaried GP on the 17th September. Dr Sharp had been working as a GP in central Cambridge prior to joining us.

Jodie Harris has joined the nursing team as a phlebotomist, working alongside Jacqueline Allen in this role, and freeing Jacqueline to utilise more skills as she works through her nurse training. We also hope to be joined by a new practice nurse in October.

Louise O'Conner will be joining the Reception team in mid-September. Louise was previously a paramedic, but is taking on the role of Receptionist.

Our GPs have slightly altered their working days, as some of you may have noticed. Dr Frame was delighted to have become a Partner at the beginning of September, alongside Drs Redwood, Lalli and Lockyer. This has led to a readjustment of our GP's working hours in a bid to manage the ever-increasing workload and pressures we face. Dr Sharp will be joining as a salaried GP to ensure that there is no drop in appointment levels.

Dr Redwood will be at the Surgery on a Monday, Thursday and Friday,

Dr Lalli on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday,

Dr Lockyer on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday,

Dr Frame on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Dr Sharp will on a Wednesday and Thursday, with alternate Tuesdays and Fridays.

Difficult times ahead

In the last newsletter we talked about the formation of Primary Care Networks (or PCNs) and the direction of travel over the next few years for funding to be delivered through the new PCNs to enable practices to work together more closely, pool resources and hire new staff, such as Pharmacists, Social Prescribers and Physiotherapists.

However, the devil is in the detail as they say, and so far there is still no clear detail about the Government's future intentions for PCNs, although we do know quite a bit about their aspirations. The Government's aim is that PCNs will form the centre of community services networks, which will be supported to encourage a shift of workload from secondary (hospital) care to primary (GP) care. This is a laudable aim, and one which we would all support, but the ability to take on extra work requires more staff, more facilities and more resources. Nationally, Primary Care is stretched to breaking point, despite repeated calls for more workforce and resources. The local picture in Cambridgeshire is particularly worrying as our Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has one of the highest levels of debt in the country. Drastic cuts are having to be made, and unfortunately this has led to a reduction in the level of funding to Primary Care this winter. While we sympathise with the difficult situation our CCG colleagues are in, we are very worried about the impact this reduction of funding will have on GP services in Cambridgeshire heading into the winter. We will keep you updated.

Reception

- **Mon-Fri:**
8.30am-1pm, 1.30pm-6pm
- **Appointments:** 01954 719469
- **Emergencies:** 01954 719313

Dispensary

- **Mon-Fri:** 8.30am-1pm,
2pm-6pm

Out of Hours

- **01954 719313 and listen to the automated message.**