



Ecclesfield GP

news



"Welcome to our November patient newsletter, designed to inform you of changes we have made and current news regarding the running of the practice and the services we aim to offer. Much has happened since our last update and we hope patients will benefit from the ideas we have implemented.

Simon Kirby, Practice Manager

Staffing Update

Dr Stephanie Ledingham

We are very sad to announce that Dr Ledingham will be leaving the practice on the 31st December 2008. Stephanie has been at the practice for some 20 years and has been an important member of the team during this time. Whilst she leaves us with our best wishes in order to pursue other interests; (and whilst the practice will be able to reduce its coffee and biscuit expenditure!) her presence, undoubted skills and great sense of humour will be sadly missed by us all. We hope you will join us in wishing her a long and happy retirement. The partnership has begun looking for a suitable replacement and we hope to announce a successful recruitment in our next newsletter.

Dr Paul Jeavons

Many patients will be aware that Dr Jeavons has been absent for the past few weeks. This is due to personal reasons and is likely to result in his absence until the New Year. Please bear with us during this time as appointments may be more difficult to offer.

Michelle Payling

The practice is pleased to announce the arrival of our new Assistant Manager, Michelle Payling. Michelle started in September and has been recruited to help us manage the increasing amount of day-to-day work and services the practice aims to provide. She has a wealth of general practice experience and as part of the management team will be available for patients to contact should the need arise.

Kerry Newton

Our nurse Kerry will be going on maternity leave early in the New Year and we wish her all the very best with her new addition to the family. We will be recruiting a new nurse to cover her absence and look forward to seeing Kerry again later next year.

Extended Hours

Since our last Newsletter in June, the practice has negotiated extra opening hours with Sheffield PCT. We are pleased to announce that we will be offering appointments on a Saturday morning as well as a late Wednesday evening. Our attached pharmacy will be open on a Saturday at the same time and we are hoping to negotiate a similar arrangement for the Wednesday evening as well. The additional opening hours are **Wednesday 6:30pm-8:00pm** and **Saturday 8:45am-11:00am** aimed at patients who find it difficult to attend during the normal working day.

FLU VACCINES

Patients who have not yet had, but who wish to have an influenza vaccination are advised to contact the practice at the earliest opportunity. We aim to complete this immunisation programme by the end of November/early December

The Health Centre
96a Mill Road, Ecclesfield,
Sheffield S35 9XQ
Tel: 0845 120 4443

Branch Site
Margetson Surgery
1 Remington Avenue, parson
Cross, Sheffield S5 9PA
Tel: 0845 124 2664

Practice Learning Events (PLI)

We would like to inform patients that from October, we will be closing the surgery from 1pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. We have an increasing number of practice staff, both clinical and administrative, but have very little time together in order to assess and implement positive change. The practice and its patients will hopefully benefit enormously from us being able to have some dedicated time. We thank you for your time and understanding with this situation.

Repeat Dispensing

Repeat Dispensing is a new way for patients to obtain repeat prescriptions over several months without the need to contact the gp practice on each occasion. If you are suitable for repeat dispensing then you will be given several prescriptions in a row all at one time along with a master copy. These prescriptions are then taken to the pharmacy for regular dispensing without having to order them every month or two.

One thing to remember is that all these prescriptions must be collected from the same pharmacy every time. You can't, for example, go to Lloyds at Ecclesfield one time and then go to another across the city the next time.

If you have a long term condition that has regular medicines and the medication dose is always the same, or changes infrequently, then this might be suitable for you. Ask for full details at reception to see if you are suitable, or mention it to your GP at the next appointment.

Patient Survey

Many of you may have recently taken part in our 2008 practice survey and we are hoping that the results will acknowledge the changes the practice has made in the past 2 years, in order to further increase patient experience of the practice. These include, lunchtime opening, later evening appointments, extended opening hours, a practice pharmacy, improved access to the surgery and an increased opportunity for speaking with a GP over the telephone. The practice is always willing to look into new ways of meeting patient needs and continues to welcome request from patients.

Anyone interested and wishing to view the results of the 2007/08 national GP patient survey can do so by following the link below:-

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collection/primary-care/general-practice/gp-patient-survey-2007-08>

Website

Our practice website has been up and running for some months now. We welcome views from our patients and are happy to listen to any comments on what else you would like to see on the site. Please do visit the site at: www.ecclesfieldgp.co.uk and let us know what you think. We want it to be a site that will help you and your visit to the surgery.

Patient Forum..... Want to be heard?



We are still looking for and are keen to hear from any patient interested in forming part of our Patient Forum Group. Please contact the **Practice Manager Simon Kirby** for further information as we will shortly be arranging our first meeting.



***Christmas & New Year
Opening Times 2008/09***

*Christmas Eve - **Emergency Surgery**
Christmas Day - **Closed**
Boxing Day - **Closed***

*Sat 27th December - **Closed***

*Mon 29th December 2008 - **Normal Surgery hours**
Tues 30th December 2008 - **Normal Surgery hours***

*New Years Eve - **Emergency Surgery**
New Years Day - **Closed***

*Fri 2nd Jan 2008 - **Normal Surgery**
Saturday 3rd December - 8:45am - 11:00am*