



HONITON SURGERY NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2009

SWINE FLU
CATCH IT
BIN IT
KILL IT

FLU PANDEMIC

We expect the flu pandemic to become more of a problem over the next few weeks and it may be necessary at some point to prioritise our work load to see sick patients and the more routine things to be put off for a few weeks. We apologise for this disruption to services and thank you for your understanding

SWINE FLU VACCINATION UPDATE

The following priority groups are now being invited for swine flu vaccination at Honiton Surgery:-

- All patients registered at the surgery aged between 6 months and up to 65th birthday in at risk groups (at risk groups are those that have chronic respiratory disease, heart disease, kidney disease, liver disease, stroke or diabetes),
- All pregnant women
- Those who are immuno-compromised and their household contacts. Immuno-compromised patients are those that are undergoing chemotherapy, those that take more than 20mg steroids a day, HIV positive patients, those patients without a spleen or a dysfunctioning spleen.
- Patients over 65 years in at risk groups.

Patients outside of these at risk groups should not book appointments as they will not be so severely affected.

Anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms is advised to contact the National Pandemic Flu Service on 0800 1 513 100 or visit www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu

DO NOT BOOK AN APPOINTMENT AT HONITON SURGERY OR ATTEND MIU IF YOU HAVE FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS

Seasonal Flu Vaccinations

Flu clinics have now been underway since mid September. Flu vaccinations are provided free on the NHS each year for people suffering from certain medical conditions or all of those over 65 years old. The groups of people eligible are

those aged over 6 months with:-

- Chronic Breathing Problems (for example asthma where steroid inhalers are needed)
- Chronic Heart Disease (for example previous heart attack)
- Chronic Liver or Kidney Disease
- Diabetes where medications are needed
- Reduced Immunity (for example if you have had your spleen removed or take steroid medication)
- HIV Infection
- Those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill.

If you do not fall within one of the NHS target groups for free flu vaccination but would like to receive one if there are any left over after the at risk patients have all been vaccinated it may be possible for you to book an appointment, please ask at reception for further details.

Please make your own appointments at reception, you don't need to wait to be called in.

GRAND OPENING OF HONITON SURGERY

Thursday 17th September saw the official opening by Professor Sir John Tooke, Dean of the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry, of the Honiton Surgery extension and refurbishment. After 20 months and at a cost of over £1.2million, the new extension now houses a patient waiting area, clinical rooms and an enlarged pharmacy on the ground floor, and rooms for administration, nursing teams, teaching and research on the second floor. The refurbishment of the original building has provided seven new consulting suites, purpose built teaching rooms and storage facilities. The car park has been replaced on land adjacent to the surgery and the new entrance for all patients is through the Honiton Hospital entrance on Marl pits Lane.

The Honiton Hospital League of Friends has kindly helped provide a plasma screen display for the patient waiting area as well as medical equipment. We have also received kind donations of outdoor seating for patients use.

The new premises will provide a more restful environment with improved patient confidentiality, a counselling room and an expansion in clinical activities such as nurse led clinics for chronic diseases, and women and men's health.

The surgery gratefully acknowledges the co-

operation and forbearance of all patients and neighbours of the surgery and thanks all those who have helped bring the project to a successful conclusion.

IT COMES IN THREES

Congratulations to Dr Siobhan Gillespie, Dr Jenny Button and nurse Tracey Crabb on their current pregnancies. If you think you are infectious please make reception aware as we would prefer not to book infectious patients with these members of staff

Medical Students

Every year the surgery accepts medical students from the Peninsula Medical School in Exeter for teaching placements.

The 2nd and 3rd year students will be sitting in with the doctors and nurses clinics during their time at the surgery and posters will be displayed in reception informing you of when and who they will be sitting in with. The students are here to gain clinical experience which is an essential part of their learning. However, if you would like a private consultation with the doctor or nurse please notify reception. Please also feel free to ask the student to leave the room at any point during your consultation. You may also be offered a supervised consultation with one of our 5th year medical students.

Patient Volunteers

The 2nd year medical students are required to carry out supervised examinations of patients. This is an essential part of their training. If you would like to volunteer to help us with this we would be very grateful. Please contact Jan Daly at the surgery for further information.

FED UP WITH SMOKING?

Help is at hand..... Josette Moore will be running The Smoking Cessation Clinic here at Honiton Surgery every Thursday 2pm – 6pm. Her contact number is 07989 695308. For free advice or local support call 01884 836024. Useful information can also be found on www.givingupsmoking.co.uk or by calling the NHS Smoking Helpline on 0800 169 0169

CRYOTHERAPY

After much deliberation, the doctors have decided to cease offering cryotherapy service(liquid nitrogen) due to ongoing Health & Safety issues with storage. However, there are alternative treatments that can be offered, and your doctor will discuss these with you.

Honiton Surgery Patient Group

Honiton Surgery has an active Patient Group who meet regularly with members of staff at the surgery to discuss current issues. If you have any queries, concerns or feedback (positive or otherwise) please do not hesitate to contact one of the members listed below, they will be pleased to hear from you:-

Mr Alf Boom – 01404 548745
Mrs Val Royle – 01404 44463
Mrs Meg Pipe – 01404 850855

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### **Parking**

On completion of the build, there are now parking spaces available within the hospital grounds for visitors to Honiton Surgery and Lloyds Pharmacy to use. The spaces closest to the surgery entrance are reserved for GP use, as well as 2 spaces allocated for TRIP and disabled drivers.

### **ATTENTION WHEELCHAIR USERS!**

Due to fire regulations we are currently unable to see non-ambulant patients in rooms 14 (Dr McLachlan) 15 (Dr Button) and 16 (Dr Beth de Sousa and Dr Gillespie). Please let reception know when you are booking your appointment that you are a wheelchair user. The receptionist can then advise the GP and you will be seen in a different room. We hope this will be a temporary situation.

### **GP REGISTRAR**

Honiton Surgery is very excited that we have just qualified as a centre for training GP Registrars. Dr Sally Simmons, our first GP Registrar, joins us in February 2010 for six months. She is a fully qualified doctor who will be undergoing training in General Practice. She will see patients in room 26