



Welcome to the next edition of our Newsletter .

This month we're covering: Pregnancies, the perennial missed appointments, car parking (again) and the flu vaccination season, but first

Did you know that:

**We offer a smoking cessation service every Friday afternoon and you don't need a referral from a Doctor here to see the advisor
Just ask at the Reception desk for an appointment!**

Dr Joshi has now had her baby, a son, Mikah, born on August 20th, weighing in at 7lb 6oz; mother and son are doing well!

The next one due is Liz Walton at the end of September and we'll let you know when she has delivered!

Whilst we are talking about babies, we have changed the procedure for ladies who know or think they may be pregnant -

From now on, you don't need to see the Doctor first to confirm your pregnancy; all you need to do is arrange to see our midwife, Pippa Ward, she can be contacted on her mobile number of 07798925675. If she isn't answering, ring us and we'll give you other contact numbers,

Missed appointments:

I didn't include any figures in the last Newsletter, and sadly, the numbers are increasing again, despite the text messaging service being fully operational.

In July and August the number of missed Doctor appointments was 61 and missed Nurse appointments was 73, giving a total of 134 for the two months; this is up by almost 40 from the months of May & June, so

if you haven't given us a mobile number yet, please do so when you next ring up or call in., and please try to keep your appointments or if you can't, ring us to cancel in enough time to allocate it to another patient.

Incidentally, on the first day back after the Bank Holiday, 6 patients failed to keep pre-booked appointments

(PTO)

Car parking:

The crash barrier has been repaired, and the wooden fence is now higher than before.

You may have noticed that the two blue badge signs are now displayed more prominently, but despite that, many patients are still ignoring these and parking in the spaces when they haven't got a blue badge.

While I do appreciate that car parking is difficult on the roads, once again, this is totally selfish and inconsiderate and inconveniences those patients who have a legitimate right to use the car park—even if you are “only calling to collect a prescription” (an excuse I hear countless times) it doesn't mean you can use the car park, so please have some consideration for others.

FLU VACCINATIONS:

This special time of year is nearly upon us!

As we do not yet know what will be happening with the Swine Flu vaccination programme we will continue with the seasonal flu vaccine programme as usual!

Our first batch of seasonal flu vaccine is scheduled to be delivered on **Monday 21st September** with flu sessions starting on Monday 28th September. We will be opening for flu jabs on Saturday 3rd October. There will also be sessions on some Thursday afternoons.

The Government have prioritised the risk groups; theoretically they should be vaccinated in order!

Category	Description
1	All those aged 65 years or over – born before 31st March 1945 All those aged over 6 months in the recommended risk groups only (see attached)
2	Those living in long-stay residential care homes or other long-stay care Facilities where rapid spread is likely to follow introduction of infection and cause high morbidity and mortality.
3	Patients in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of someone whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill
4	Healthcare workers – they should contact their Occupational Health Service
5	Any other groups – including patients with MS and those with diseases of the nervous system

All eligible patients will be written to – and anyone needing a home visit will be asked to contact the surgery at be added to the “home visit” list – one of the nurses will visit on a Monday morning – to housebound patients **only!**

Finally, if after reading this, anyone wishes to join the Patient Participation Group, please contact me.

Richard West, September 2009