

## Old Parsonage Surgery

### Patient Participation Group Newsletter No 19

September 2017

#### Group Membership

We are delighted to welcome Lizzy Dimet as a new member of the Group, thus filling a long standing vacancy.

#### Surgery Closures/Holidays

Please note that there will only be one doctor in attendance (and thus waiting times may be longer) on the following:

Sept 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

Sept 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>

Oct 12<sup>th</sup>

Nov 13<sup>th</sup> (half-day)

Nov 16 – 17<sup>th</sup>

Dec 1<sup>st</sup>

In addition, the Practice Nurse will be away for part of September and thus there may be some restriction on appointments.

#### Friday Afternoon Clinic - Important Changes

The rising workload has made the current arrangements unmanageable. Thus **from November 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 this will become a bookable surgery** (with some slots for emergencies as at present) and patients will need to book in advance if planning to attend. Hopefully this will reduce the current long waiting times.

## **CQC/Building Works**

As indicated previously, the Surgery has now received official notification from CQC of its 'GOOD' rating in all categories. The next inspection is likely to be in three years.

Consequent on the above there are some necessary minor works to fittings/facilities required and these are scheduled for September. This may mean some short-term changes in room function and the Surgery apologises in advance for any inconvenience.

## **Vaccination Protocols – Lots of Information!**

**Influenza/Pneumococcal Pneumonia:** 'Flu' vaccine will be available to eligible patients from early October and you are asked to contact the Surgery for an appointment. Note that protection against pneumococcal pneumonia (a one-off vaccination) will be offered at the same time to patients who are 65 years or older.

**Shingles:** this one-off vaccination is now offered to all patients when they reach 70 years of age and eligibility continues until the last day of their 79<sup>th</sup> year. Please contact the Surgery to take advantage of this increased eligibility.

**Meningitis (MEN ACWY):** a further reminder to young adults to note the importance of this protection as they become university entrants/enter the workplace etc. Again, please contact the Surgery to discuss eligibility on an individual basis.

**Hepatitis B:** patients should note that this protection will be incorporated into the vaccination protocol for all newborns from August 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.

**Hepatitis A:** against the background of a national shortage of this vaccine as reported in the press, patients should note that this is NOT available at the Surgery. If vaccination is required for travel purposes, please contact one of two local Travel Clinics as follows:

BMC Travel Clinic (Ashford) – Tel 01233 503066

Warders Medical Centre (Tonbridge) – Tel 01732 770088

## **Donations/Equipment**

The Hyfrecator system (allowing state of the art removal procedures for minor skin lesions) mentioned in the previous Newsletter has now been purchased and is in regular use. The Surgery continues to be grateful for the donations from patients which allow the purchase of equipment to enhance the quality of service.

## **Urgent Treatment**

The usual reminder to attend the Surgery during opening hours if urgent treatment for a minor injury is required, when you will be seen by a doctor or practice nurse. This helps to lessen the workload on our busy local A&E departments.

## **AN IMPORTANT LAST ITEM - Change in Group Chairman**

Anthony Farnfield has indicated his wish to step down as Chairman of the PPG from the end of 2017. Anthony has been Chair of the Group since its inception in 2011 and has played a massive role in guiding and informing the Group and Surgery during this period. His hard work and commitment deserve a huge vote of thanks and his agreement to remain as a member of the Group is welcomed. The role of Chairman passes to Colin Samuell from January 2018.

Colin Samuell