

ST AGNES SURGERY NEWS LETTER

August 2012



Registrars

Dr Vicky Barnard has now finished her training with us and has moved to the North of England to do locum work.

Dr Anita Cyril and Dr Chris Ireland started on 1st August. Dr Ireland is with us for a year and Dr Cyril for 18 months.



Dispensary

We are aware that a lot of patients still don't realise it is much cheaper to buy a pre-payment certificate if they need more than three items in three months, or more than 13 items in 12 months. Prescriptions are £7.65 per item of medication. A three monthly certificate costs £29.10 and a yearly certificate £104. It is possible to pay for the yearly certificate via direct debit over 12 months as the Government has realised that an outlay of £104 is too much for a lot of people.

From our point of view it is also important to know which exemption to tick on the prescription back when collecting medication as it will be checked by the Prescription Pricing Authority.

Sickness

Dr Henderson has been back at work since April and we are hoping to see Dr Naylor's return in the next few months.



Carers Group

Sue McKerrow who is one of the Cornwall Carer Support Workers, is very keen facilitate the setting up of a St Agnes Carer Group. This is a support group for carers and will be run by carers.

She kindly wrote a small article about this for us:

Cornwall Carers Service is supporting the development the new St Agnes Carers Group. If it can find enough members to start up, the Carers Group will be open to all unpaid carers in the area enabling them to offer each other support, exchange information and to access funds for training or outings. The group plans to meet monthly in the Miners and Mechanics. The group is seeking more members and also volunteers who would like to help the members run the group.

If you would like more information about the group please contact Sue McKerrow who is a Carers Support Worker working for the Cornwall Cares Service on 07714081793. If you would like to access individual support or information about services and entitlements that may aid you in your caring role please ring the Carers Service Helpline on 01872 266383.

Appointments

We cannot stress often enough that our patients are able to book routine appointments up to four weeks in advance. We do realise that even with this facility it is not always possible to book the doctor of choice, due to holidays etc. We also **offer early morning appointment at 7.30 am on Wednesdays and Fridays**. These appointments are specifically offered to enable working patients to see the doctor without having to take time off.



Opening Times

Not all patients are aware of our early morning clinics:

Morning Clinics
Monday to Friday 8.30 am - 11.00 am

Afternoon Clinics
Monday to Friday 3.30 pm - 5.20 pm

On some days of the week appointments are available from 2.00 pm-4.00 pm

Extended Opening Hours:

St. Agnes Surgery offers extra appointments for people who are unable to attend the surgery during ordinary opening hours
These appointments can be pre-booked up to 4 weeks in advance of the day required.

Wednesdays 7.30 am - 8.00 am
Fridays 7.30 am - 8.00 am

Services

St Agnes Surgery offers a wide range of services to our patients:

Asthma Reviews
Diabetic Reviews
Learning Disability Reviews
Child Health checks
Immunisations
Travel Clinic
Maternity Care

Contraceptive Care including coil fitting and Implanon

Smears

Minor surgery

Minor injury

Ear microscopy (see explanation below)

Nasendoscopy (see explanation below)

The use of an ear microscope gives the best visualization of the ear canal and the ear drum. Apart from examining the ear canal and the ear drum, the microscope can also help removing any ear wax, foreign body or infective material like pus.

A nasendoscopy is the examination of the nose and upper airways by the use of a small flexible tube (endoscope) that allows a doctor to examine the lining of these areas. The examination examines the nose (nasal cavity), the back of the nasal cavity, the back of the mouth and tongue and upper part of the voice box.



Minor Injuries

It is worth while emphasizing the minor injury service we offer. We will deal with any minor injuries we are able to, which saves a trip to the Minor Injuries Unit. Obviously there will be times when time constraints or available clinical personnel will not permit this, but we will deal with a wide range of injuries:

Cuts, lacerations, abrasions

Simple local infections

Cellulitis

Animal and human bites

Insect bites and stings

Removal of foreign bodies

Soft tissue injuries

Minor Head Injuries

Burns

Bruises due to trauma

Eye injuries

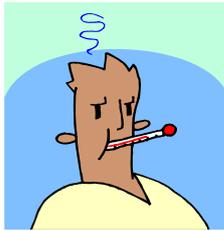
Please do not go to the Accident and Emergency Department for this type of injury. If the practice cannot deal with it there are dedicated Minor Injury Units at various locations, the nearest being:

Camborne and Redruth Community Hospital (01209 881650) - 8am to 10pm every day

Falmouth Hospital (01326 434739) - 8am to 8pm every day

Newquay Hospital (01637 893623) - 8am to 10pm every day and open 24-hours on Fridays and Saturdays during July and August

Out of Hours please ring Serco (on the surgery number) in the first instance.



Flu Clinics

Last but not least the flu season is nearly upon us. We will be holding dedicated flu clinics on:

St Agnes 8.30 – 12.10

Saturday 29th September
Saturday 13th October
Saturday 3rd November

Mount Hawke 13.30 – 17.00

Tuesday 23rd October
Tuesday 20th October

These clinics will be by appointment only.

To help the smooth running of the clinics, it would be most helpful for patients to remove their coats before going in to see the nurse and if possible wear short or loose sleeved clothing.

You are not able to attend for a flu jab if you are unwell, have a cough or cold. We will also be giving flu jabs opportunistically.