

IN TOUCH – News from Kington Medical Practice

Issue no 1 November 2021

Welcome to the first issue of our monthly PPG (Patient Participation Group) news sheet, which replaces our quarterly newsletter.

The PPG recently met “mask to mask” with Dr McCaffrey and April Jones, the Practice Manager, to discuss the many changes/adaptations/challenges that General Practices are currently dealing with. For instance as more is learnt about the corona viruses and the covid pandemic, new ways of managing the care and treatment of patients, and of preventing infection by vaccination and behavioural change are evolving. These developments are not happening in a vacuum, but in the context of significant changes being made nationally in the ways that General Practices operate. For example patients may not be aware that the CCGs (Clinical Commissioning Groups) of Herefordshire and Worcestershire have merged. CCGs commission services from Medical Practices and allocate the funding to pay for these services. Whilst there are core services that all General Practices must provide, other services may be shared between all the Practices in the Primary Care Network e.g. Casey Ord, our social prescriber, works in all the Practices in the North West Herefordshire Network.

Many of these changes are positive. However they do present the PPG with the challenge of informing patients about what is happening and why. We feel that a monthly format will enable us to respond to queries from patients more quickly and effectively. We hope to include a section entitled “Questions Patients Ask” in each news sheet. Please address your questions to me either by leaving a note:

FAO Kay Birchley at reception, or by email; Kington.PPG.Chair@gmail.com

[Update from the Practice](#)

Thank you to everyone who attended our Flu vaccination clinic held on the 2nd October, we vaccinated 1659 patients on the day! If you are eligible and are not yet vaccinated, a follow up clinic for those who couldn't attend our first clinic and for those aged 50-64 will be arranged following confirmation of deliveries of further vaccine, invitations will be sent. Seasonal influenza and COVID-19 viruses have the potential to add substantially to the winter pressures usually faced by the NHS, particularly if infection waves from both viruses coincide, it is therefore important that if you are eligible to have a flu vaccine this season that you get vaccinated.

We are pleased to welcome back Dr Ayesha Rahim to the clinical team. Dr Rahim is currently working 6 sessions a week remotely, which has proved very popular, and 2 sessions per week Face to Face at the surgery. The Practice has 5 Doctors, Dr Silvana McCaffrey, Dr Daryl Mohammed, Dr Obi Ohakanu, Dr Sola Orebiyi and Dr Ayesha Rahim. Providing a total of 30 sessions per week equating to 420 patient appointments, included in these 30 sessions are 3 sessions used to provide care to the patients in the three local care homes.

While things appear to be returning to ‘normal’ in the public domain, General Practice is still faced with the pressures of Covid-19. While we understand patients may find our new way of working frustrating, the changes to how we operate are essential to keep our vulnerable

patients and staff safe and will enable us to continue to care for unwell patients who need priority review.

We thank everyone for their continued support and understanding.