

The Westgate Practice Newsletter

SPRING EDITION 2023



The
Westgate Practice

BLOOD TESTS

We have made a number of changes to our phlebotomy service. As we come out of the pandemic, we have been able to increase the number of daily appointments available for our patients.

All blood test appointments are to be booked by patients who have been requested they have a blood test done either by a clinical member of practice staff or as part of their long term condition or medication review.

Patients who require hospital bloods to be taken should not book with the practice. This is because hospitals provide their own blood appointment service (E.g. Burton/Derby bloods are offered at Samuel Johnson and at Burton via Swift Queue.) Good Hope have a walk in service. Any housebound patients requiring a blood test should be visited by the District Nursing Team.

Hospital blood results need to be reviewed by the requesting clinician, many of which will be specialist investigations.

GOING ABROAD?

Have you made plans for a family holiday, do you have children participating in World Challenge UK or attending the World Scout Jamboree this year?

If you are travelling abroad, please ensure that you contact the practice at least 6 weeks ahead of your travel plans to arrange any vaccinations that may be necessary. To help our practice nurses assess your travel needs, it is important that they are in receipt of our Travel Assessment Form, which you can find on our website. This is to ensure we can assess your needs and obtain the necessary vaccinations ahead of your appointment. Having the right travel vaccinations for your trip is essential to staying protected throughout your stay.



After a visit or contact with the practice, you may be invited to complete the Friends and Family Test.

This comprises of two questions which provides valuable feedback and a way to monitor our services.

This can be completed in surgery via our feedback forms and box located in the entrance of the health centre. Please ask at reception if you cannot find a feedback form and want to give feedback.

Alternatively, you can visit our website and type NHS Friends and Family Test into the search box and complete online.

NEW: NOSE AND THROAT SAMPLES FOR DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

The Westgate Practice has long been involved with research activity working alongside many organisations. This practice is one of over 1900 practices in England and Wales contributing towards national research as a Research and Surveillance Centre. These have been the primary source of disease monitoring, working closely with the Royal College of General Practitioners and the UK Health Security Agency.

We are now offering eligible patients who have an appointment with an Advanced Nurse Practitioner, the opportunity to participate in this research. Patients attending with a respiratory, cold, flu or covid type symptoms, may be asked if they would like to take part in the programme. Participation involves the taking of a one-off swab sample and is entirely voluntary. The swab may help determine which (if any) viruses may be making you sick. These samples will be used for population wide monitoring of flu, covid-19 and other respiratory illnesses in the community and provides valuable data to help shape future health programmes and vaccinations.

For more information, please log onto our website and look under practice news or visit our Facebook page.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE PRACTICE

The latest news and health forms on the website:

www.westgatepractice.co.uk

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OTHER NEWS

PRACTICE CLOSURES

The Practice will **close at 1pm on Tuesday 16th May; 20th June & 18th July for Protected Learning Time**. This is allocated training time for practice staff.



WELCOME

Jenny, who joins our Clinical Pharmacist Team.



PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

The latest PPG minutes are on the website; the next meeting is due to be held in June 2023.

PLEASE REMEMBER!

Let us know if any of your details change including: new address, changed your mobile number, email or have become a carer.