

The Westgate Practice Newsletter

AUTUMN EDITION 2024



ADVANCED NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Our team of six experienced advanced nurse practitioners deal with a wide range of acute and on the day medical issues.

Should you need to be seen by one of the team for either an acute or on the day issue, we advise patients to call the practice from 8am to book an appointment.

A member of our Patient Services Team may request some details from you in order that they can check you are

being seen by the right clinician and to allow them to inform the clinician about the problem before you are seen.

Appointments can be held over the telephone as well as in person depending on the issue.

Our nurse practitioner team deal with a variety of problems from abdominal pain, lumps, coughs, dizziness, skin infections, sore throats/tonsillitis, back pain, anxiety, constipation, emergency contraception, etc.

Flu and Covid

The decision by NHSE to delay the start of the flu and covid season to 3rd Oct, has resulted in the practice inviting patients later than usual. This is based on evidence that the flu vaccines effectiveness can wane over time in adults and so it is preferable to vaccinate individuals closer to the time when the flu virus is likely to circulate (typically peaking Dec/Jan).

We are currently inviting patients to have both their seasonal vaccinations at the practice. These vaccinations have been co-administered for a number of years. Unfortunately the practice is not in a position to book numerous appointments when these can be given together. All our patients should be invited by the end of October. If for any reason, you have not been contacted, unsure if you are eligible or have yet to book by this time, please call the practice.

There are many benefits to having your flu and covid vaccinations at the practice. These include, having access to your medical records, adding your vaccination data directly into your records so we are aware these have been given, and to support your GP Practice.



Have you considered using our call back functionality?

When contacting the practice, patients can now opt to request a call back rather than waiting for their call to be answered.

This might be more suitable for those patients who are perhaps making contact with the practice at our busier times or due to not wanting to hold on the line.

Many of our patients have found this telephone functionality beneficial, so when you next call the practice, please consider if this is a service you could make use of to save time.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccination

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms during the winter months. The virus can lead to bronchiolitis and pneumonia, requiring hospitalisation and intensive care in severe cases. The new vaccination programme is a proactive measure to mitigate these risks, enhance public health and reduce the impact on NHS services.

There will be 3 eligible cohorts:

1. Adult Routine Programme

This will be for adults turning 75 years on or after 1st September 2024. Patients turning 75 years will be invited in the month following their 75th Birthday by a self-book text invitation or letter.

2. Adult catch up Programme

This will be for adults aged 75-79 years as of 31st August 2024. Patients will be invited from 1st December 2024 by a self-book text invitation or letter. Please await your invitation.

3. Programme for pregnant women to protect infants

This will be for women who are over 28 weeks pregnant. They will remain eligible for the vaccination up to birth. These will be offered by midwives and antenatal healthcare professionals but can be given at the practice if requested.

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 22nd October, 26th Nov and 10th Dec for **Protected Learning Time**. This is allocated training time for practice staff. The Practice will also be closed for the Bank Holidays on 25th and 26th Dec.



WELCOME

We would like to welcome Daniella, who joins our pharmacy team and Abdussamad, our new First Contact Physio. Welcome to the Westgate Practice! Dr Forbes has become a partner of the Practice. We would also like to wish Dr Pilkington a well-deserved retirement and Prof Dame Stokes-Lampard every success on her new venture.



PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Our last PPG meeting was held on 23rd September. Our next Meeting has been scheduled for 11th December with Dr Moss now taking on the role as Chair. PPG minutes are available to view on our website.

PLEASE REMEMBER!

Let us know if any of your details change including:

- new address
- changed your mobile number
- become a carer