

The Westgate Practice Newsletter

SPRING EDITION 2025



CLINICAL PHARMACIST TEAM

The Clinical Pharmacy team consists of highly experienced GPhC registered clinical pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who have worked in both hospital and community settings. They work as part of the healthcare team at Westgate with the main role being to improve patient care around medication use.

A few examples of what they do include:
Being experts in medicines use, they are available on the day to answer any medication related queries from both clinicians and patients.

They conduct annual medication reviews ensuring medicines are effective, safe and still needed. These medication reviews are structured which provides patients an opportunity to ask questions about their medicines and address any concerns they may have.

As part of the review, they look for any potential drug interactions or side effects; our Clinical Pharmacists are all independent prescribers so are qualified to safely adjust dosages, optimise treatment, or initiate new medicines where appropriate.

And more.....

They action clinic letters and discharge letters from hospital, ensuring that any new proposed medication changes from the hospital are safe and appropriate with the patient's existing regime.

The clinical pharmacist team also lead on medication safety and conduct audits to improve prescribing practices. Certain medications require regular blood monitoring (e.g. anticoagulants, methotrexate, lithium etc.) and they ensure that patients are invited for blood monitoring, so that prescribing remains safe.

Our clinical pharmacy team offers in-depth medication knowledge into general practice, bridging gaps between hospital and community care, and improving patient outcomes.



The Westgate Practice is proud to be a Parkrun practice.

Park runs are free nationwide events that take place every Saturday morning at 9am. You get to complete a 5km route with others in a friendly environment, whether that be by running, walking, alone or with friends, a push buggy or with a dog. They are inclusive and supportive, and a great way to get some exercise done in the fresh air, to help support your physical and mental health.

You can volunteer to support the park run or join in and complete it yourself. You can even become competitive with yourself or others and register for a park run barcode to record your times.

Our local park run is in the beautiful Lichfield Beacon Park. There are other local ones including Cannock Chase, Chasewater and Tamworth.

<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/beacon>

Spring Covid Vaccinations 2025

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has confirmed its advice for a 2025 spring coronavirus booster programme. The committee has advised that a spring booster dose should be offered to:

- Adults aged 75 years and over. This will include those who will turn 75 years by 17th June 2025.
- Residents in a care home for older adults
- Individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed

The programme for all eligible patients will commence on the 1st April running until 17th June 2025. The vaccination should be offered no earlier than around 6 months after the last vaccine dose.

The Westgate Practice will not be participating in the spring booster programme. This is due to the programme requiring many clinical and administrative staff to run these clinics. This would result in taking staff away from the practice and ultimately lead to a reduction in appointments and services for the remainder of our patient population.

Our care home residents and eligible housebound patients will be contacted by Springpharm Pharmacy in due course.

Patients who receive a text message or letter from the NHS to book their spring booster, are advised to book via the National Booking Service online from 18th March 2025 or to source the vaccination from their local pharmacy/provider.

WALK IN COVID CLINICS

Covid vaccination clinics are being held in Lichfield at the Community Fire Station, Birmingham Road on:

Sat 26th April 9am-2pm.

Mon 16th June 9am-2pm

OR

Lichfield Library, St Mary's Centre, Market Square on:

Friday 23rd May 9am-2pm

FOLLOW US on Facebook:

Search: [The Westgate Practice](#)

OTHER NEWS

PRACTICE CLOSURES



The Practice will close at 1pm on Tuesdays 29th April, 13th May and 24th June for **Protected Learning Time**. This is allocated training time for practice staff.

The Practice will be closed on the Bank Holidays of Monday 5th May and Monday 26th May.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Our last PPG meeting was held on Wed 19th March 2025 with Dr Moss. We will be holding an Annual General Meeting on 11th June 2025. PPG minutes are available to view on our website.

WELCOME



We would like to welcome Dr Elizabeth Heald who is now a Partner of the Practice. This follows the sad departure of Dr Nicholas York, who is emigrating to pastures new! We would also like to welcome our new members of the Patient Service Team and Health Care Assistant, Charlotte.

PLEASE REMEMBER!

Let us know if any of your details change including:

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