

# The Westgate Practice Newsletter

SUMMER EDITION 2025



## \*\*TOTAL TRIAGE LAUNCH\*\*

From 8<sup>th</sup> July, we will be changing the way URGENT appointments are booked.

Following the successful implementation of patient triage for all non-urgent appointments, this is now being extended to urgent problems.

From this date, patients can complete the online form found on our website using the Contact Us online panel or the NHS App.

We will no longer be able to book your appointment at the front desk for URGENT problems, as the doctor will

require patient information to assess their needs. The form is very short and easy to complete and involves a few simple questions. Anyone unable to complete this online can ask family or friends to help them. If this is not possible, please **telephone** the practice so our staff can support you.

**Triage allows the practice to use our clinical resources in the most effective way and allows patients to have direct access to GP advice for ALL problems. These requests are best triaged by a GP, who can ensure that the patient sees the right person at the right time.**



NHS England (NHSE) is actively digitizing correspondence to improve healthcare delivery and patient care. This includes digitizing patient information, clinical notes, and access to data, aiming to transition from paper-based systems to digital ones.

## Cervical Screening Changes

From July, younger women (aged 25 to 49) who test negative for HPV, meaning they are at low risk of cervical cancer over the next 10 years, will safely be invited every 5 years rather than every 3, in line with major clinical evidence.

This change is based on strong evidence showing that people without HPV are at very low risk of cervical cancer. If you have missed your last invite, please contact the practice to book an appointment with the Practice Nurse.

Cervical Screening invites will also be sent digitally via the NHS App to align with the NHS digital drive. Invites will be sent via the NHS App in the first instance before being sent by SMS 72 hours later. If you do not have a mobile number, the invite will be sent by letter.

This is because of the numerous benefits it delivers to both patients and the NHS. The advantages include:

- Faster and more reliable communication
- More accessibility
- Improved accuracy
- Reduces anxiety in waiting
- A patient centred service

If you do not have the NHS App, please consider downloading this and turning Notifications on. We want as many of our patients to benefit from this transition.

# Childhood Immunisation Programme Changes

The UK childhood vaccination schedule is undergoing significant changes, starting **1<sup>st</sup> July 2025**, and **1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2026**. Key changes include shifting the second MenB dose to 12 weeks, moving the first Pneumococcal dose to 16 weeks, discontinuing the routine Hib/MenC vaccine at one year, and introducing a new 18-month appointment. The new 18-month appointment will offer the fourth dose of DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB and the second MMR. These changes aim to improve protection against certain diseases and ensure a smoother vaccination process.

Specific Changes:

## 1 July 2025:

- The second dose of Meningitis B (MenB) vaccine will be moved from 16 weeks to 12 weeks.
- The first dose of Pneumococcal vaccine (PCV13) will be moved from 12 weeks to 16 weeks.
- The routine Hib/MenC (Mentorix) vaccine offered at the one-year appointment will be removed for children born on or after July 1, 2024.

## 1 January 2026:

- A new 18-month appointment will be introduced, offering the fourth dose of DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB and the second dose of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine.
- The second MMR dose will be moved from the 3 years and 4 months appointment to the new 18-month appointment for children born on or after July 1, 2024.

## KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE PRACTICE

The latest news and health forms on the website:

[www.westgatepractice.co.uk](http://www.westgatepractice.co.uk)

FOLLOW US on Facebook:

Search: [The Westgate Practice](#)

## OTHER NEWS

### PRACTICE CLOSURES

The Practice will close at 1pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July; 12<sup>th</sup> Aug and 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept for **Protected Learning Time**. This is allocated training time for practice staff.

The Practice will also be closed for the August Bank Holiday on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August.



### WELCOME

We would like to welcome new patients who have recently joined the practice. You can keep up to date with practice news via our website, Facebook page and our quarterly newsletter.



### PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

The PPG held its Annual General Meeting on 11th June 2025. Thank you for those that attended, as we really appreciate your engagement and feedback.

PPG minutes are available to view on our website.

### PLEASE REMEMBER!

Let us know if any of your details change including:

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