



KNEBWORTH AND MARYMEAD MEDICAL PRACTICE

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP NEWSLETTER – December 2017

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

During the forthcoming holiday period, both Knebworth and Marymead surgeries will be closed from 6.30 pm on Friday, 22nd December until 8.00 am on Wednesday, 27th December and then again from 6.30 pm on Friday, 29th December and will reopen on Tuesday, 2nd January at 8.00 am.

If you require urgent medical assistance during these periods, contact the 111 Out-of-Hours Service, or visit the New QEII Hospital Urgent Care Centre in Welwyn Garden City for minor injuries or the Accident and Emergency Unit at the Lister Hospital for more serious injuries or problems.

For the most part, local retail pharmacies, other than those within supermarkets, will be closed on the same dates during this period. A notice giving the locations of those pharmacies that will be open on specific days in the holiday period will be displayed in the windows of local pharmacies, on the outer doors of both surgeries and it will also be posted on our website.

PRESCRIPTION AND PHARMACY NEWS

As most Knebworth patients will now be aware, the branch of Lloyds Chemists at 148 London Road, Knebworth (the one on the same side as Simmons) will be closing at the end of January. As a result of this closure, patients who are currently using this branch will have to arrange to pick up their prescriptions from another pharmacy.

The surgery cannot influence you to use a particular pharmacy, the choice is entirely yours. Hopefully, this should not present too much of a problem. There is, of course, another Lloyds in Knebworth at 133 London Road and that one may be the most convenient for you. Also fairly nearby is Codicote Pharmacy, which is an independent one, and there is another branch of Lloyds in Old Welwyn. In addition, there are pharmacies in several of the local supermarkets in both Stevenage and Welwyn Garden City.

Another possibility may be for you to use one of the companies that specialises in the home delivery of medicines on prescription, such as Pharmacy2u, although the Practice is unable to particularly favour or recommend any of these commercial outlets.

Please speak to the receptionist or to Lisa, our Clinical Pharmacist, at the surgery – this is particularly important if you are on Pathfinder. They will be only too pleased to help and advise you. **But remember, at the end of the day, it is your prescription and it is your choice!**

UNWANTED CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

If you have any unwanted Christmas gifts, the Patient Participation Group (PPG) would be pleased to take them off your hands and make good use of them as prizes in our summer raffles and tombolas.

Please could you either drop them off at the surgery or contact Mandy Preedy, who will collect them from you. Mandy's email address is mandypreedy@hotmail.com and her phone number is 01438 811512.

FORTHCOMING PPG MEETINGS

Our PPG Meetings are held once a month, on Tuesdays at 7.00 pm, and all patients are welcome to attend (you don't have to be a "signed-up" member of the group!). The meetings only last for one hour and we alternate the venue between the Knebworth and Marymead surgeries.

The next Meeting is on Tuesday, 19th December, at Knebworth surgery and the first meeting in 2018 will be at Marymead on 30th January.

We have a schedule of dates for our meetings throughout 2018 and if you would like a copy of this, or further information regarding the Patient Participation Group, please contact one of the members listed below.

OUR CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The PPG would like to wish all patients and other readers of the newsletter a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2018.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped towards the success of our various events throughout the year. Our thanks are also due to our Practice Manager, Ken Spooner, and to Tony Stowe for continuing to maintain and update the website and also to Ken and to Justin Jewitt for their success with our Facebook page

Finally, we would like to thank all the Practice staff for their continuing support of the Patient Participation Group at all times throughout the year.

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Produced by The Knebworth and Marymead Patient Participation Group