

KNEBWORTH AND MARYMEAD MEDICAL PRACTICE

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP NEWSLETTER

September 2019

KNEBWORTH SURGERY DEVELOPMENT

Work is continuing at a good pace on our new surgery in St Martin's Road, Knebworth, and it is now possible to get an idea of the positions and size of the windows, particularly on the upper floor.



In the meantime, the colour schemes for the walls and flooring have been approved and the furniture for the consulting rooms, the offices and the public areas has been chosen and ordered.

SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION 2019-2020

It is that time of year again when we are vulnerable to flu. The best way to avoid infection is to have a FREE flu injection during the autumn every year. The flu virus is constantly changing, so you need to have an injection every year to maintain your immunity. This will not stop you getting coughs and colds, but will protect against the latest strains of flu.

As last year, there are two types of vaccine which will be used in the flu programme for adults. This will benefit patients by ensuring that they have the most suitable vaccine that gives them the best protection against flu. The Adjuvanted Trivalent flu vaccine is licensed for people aged 65 years and over. The Quadrivalent vaccine is recommended for adults from 18 years to 65 years of age who are at an increased risk from flu because of a long term health condition.

Therefore, these vaccines are available to anyone who is 65 or over, or is in an at-risk group, is a carer, is pregnant or has a BMI (body mass index) of over 40. At risk groups include people with chronic long term conditions, such as diabetes, COPD, asthma, heart disease, chronic kidney disease, liver disease or are immunosuppressed.

There are both walk-in clinics and clinics that can be booked in advance, appointments for which are now available.

Influenza Clinics for Patients aged 65 and over ONLY

Walk-in and Appointment Clinics

Knebworth Surgery

Saturday, 28th September between 9.00 am – 12.00 noon
Tuesday, 15th October between 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm

Marymead Surgery

Tuesday, 24th September between 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm
Tuesday, 1st October between 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm
Saturday, 5th October between 9.00 am – 12.00 noon

Lunch-time Walk-in Clinics ONLY

Knebworth Surgery

Tuesday, 24th September between 1.15 pm – 1.45 pm
Thursday, 3rd October between 1.15 pm – 1.45 pm
Tuesday, 1st October between 1.15 pm – 1.45 pm

Marymead Surgery

Wednesday, 25th September between 1.15 pm – 1.45 pm
Thursday, 26th September between 1.15 pm – 1.45 pm
Friday, 4th October between 1.15 pm – 1.45 pm

At-risk Patients and Others

Walk-in and Appointment Clinics

Knebworth Surgery

Tuesday, 22nd October between 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm
Saturday, 26th October between 9.00 am – 12.00 noon
Tuesday, 29th October between 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm

Marymead Surgery

Saturday, 12th October between 9.00 am – 12.00 noon
Saturday, 23rd November between 9.00 am – 12.00 noon

Lunch-time Walk-in Clinics ONLY

Knebworth Surgery

Wednesday, 27th November between 1.15 pm - 1.45 pm

PRIMARY CARE NETWORK (PCN)

The new Stevenage South Primary Care Network is now in operation and, along with Knebworth and Marymead, this includes Bedwell and Roebuck, Shephall and King George Practices. Primary Care Networks are part of a new NHS England initiative whereby Practices within the same locality, with a combined total of 30,000 to 50,000 patients, join forces in order to share resources more efficiently and improve the delivery of healthcare.

Our Patient Participation Group feels strongly that Network should have at least one patient representative within its ranks and we are presently working closely with the other Practices to achieve this objective in order to ensure that there is adequate patient scrutiny of their proposals and activities. We will keep you informed of progress in this matter.

NHS 111 SERVICE – VIDEO CALL-BACK

An exciting addition to the range of urgent help available in Hertfordshire has been made, with patients now able to have a video call-back when contacting the NHS 111 Service. It is the first Service of its kind in the country and has been made available using the WhatsApp messaging service.

The initiative was led by Dr Vishen Ramkisson and Dr Vipul Parbat, the Hertfordshire GPs and clinical leads for Integrated Urgent Care in Hertfordshire, as well as Dr Rafid Aziz, Medical Director for HUC, the organization that runs the NHS 111 scheme for Hertfordshire.

Secure video call-backs from a doctor take place after an initial ‘triage’ telephone or on-line conversation has established that someone will benefit from a WhatsApp video consultation.

More information can be found on www.england.nhs.uk/digital-technology/.

FORTHCOMING PPG MEETINGS

The next PPG Meeting will be on Tuesday, 24th September at 7.00 pm at Knebworth Surgery; the October Meeting will be on Tuesday, the 22nd at Marymead Surgery. All patients are welcome to attend, you don’t have to be a signed-up member of the PPG. The Meetings are usually over within an hour.

PPG CONTACTS

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Produced by the Knebworth and Marymead Patient Participation Group