

Henley-in-Arden Medical Centre

Patient Participation Group (PPG) Newsletter

The PPG consists of a number of patients who work to try and improve communication between patients and the Medical Centre staff. We meet four times a year but can also raise any patient issues or concerns at any time.

Concerned about Shingles or Covid?

You are eligible for the shingles vaccine

- A) If you turned 65 after 1 September 2023, (Unfortunately, under NHS Guidelines, if you turned 65 before 1 September 2023, then you will have to wait until you turn 70.)
- B) Everyone aged 70 to 79 is eligible for the shingles vaccine.
- C) If you are aged 50 or over and you are at higher risk from shingles because you have a severely weakened immune system. This includes:
 - some people with blood cancer (such as leukaemia or lymphoma)
 - some people with HIV or AIDS
 - some people who've recently had a stem cell transplant, radiotherapy, chemotherapy or an organ transplant
 - people taking certain medicines that severely weaken the immune system

How do I get a Shingles vaccine? If you are a patient who fits the above criteria and have not received a shingles vaccination please contact reception who will confirm your eligibility and book an appointment with one of the practice nurses.

You are eligible for the Autumn Covid booster if you are:

- aged 65 years old or over (you need to be 65 years old by 31 March 2024)
- aged 6 months to 64 years old and are at increased risk
- living in a care home for older adults
- a frontline health or social care worker
- aged 16 to 64 years old and are a carer
- aged 12 to 64 years old and live with someone with a weakened immune system

How do I to get a Covid vaccination? The National Booking Service is responsible for the invitations and provision of COVID vaccinations this year. Appointments can be booked via: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/covid-19-vaccination-services/book-covid-19-vaccination/> or by phoning 119.

A very limited service is also being provided by South Warwickshire GP Federation. SWGP will initially be looking to provide vaccinations to patients over 75 years of age. SWGP will be sending invitations out and holding just 2 clinics at the medical centre. SWGP can be contacted by selecting 5 on the surgery telephone options.

In the previous Newsletter, Dr Briggs announced her retirement after 26 years of service in Henley. Her clinics will be covered by Dr Stephen Dawson, who has already worked at the Medical Centre for 12 months, and will increase his sessions from 3 to 6 and by Dr Nadia Syed, who we welcome back from maternity leave in November.

For some time there have been occasions when patients have not been able to park in the 6 allocated medical centre bays in Prince Harry carpark. It is impossible to police when this occurs. The PPG have been working with the SDC (who manage the car park) to try and improve the situation. 'Reserved Parking' signage was written on the tarmac across the bays over a year ago, and now the council have installed new clearer, larger signs behind each bay. Whether this helps, only time will tell. Hopefully other car park users will respect our patient needs. And a special thanks to Mike Rice our SDC Councillor for making this happen!

