

# Horncastle Medical Group

## Newsletter

June 2017

Welcome to the Practice Newsletter. The Practice welcomes any articles you may wish to see in print – suggestions for articles may be left with a Receptionist or emailed to:

[horncastle.medicalgroup@lpct.nhs.uk](mailto:horncastle.medicalgroup@lpct.nhs.uk)

### Announcement – New GP Partner

Dr Campbell–Owen, who many of you will already have seen as a locum GP, will be joining the Practice as a full time GP Partner on 11 September 2017. Dr Campbell-Owen trained at Leicester Medical School and completed her GP training in Northamptonshire before relocating with her family to Lincolnshire. Prior to being a Doctor, she worked as both a nurse and midwife in the Leicestershire area. Dr Campbell-Owen is very much looking forward to joining the Practice full time in September.

### Appointments

We are sure you are aware the NHS is going through a very difficult time and the demand for appointments is ever increasing. You can help by:

- Implementing appropriate booking of appointments as listed below:

ROUTINE appointments are available for such things as pre-existing conditions, medication reviews, results and other non-urgent medical conditions. These appointments are usually available up to six weeks in advance via telephone, on-line booking or calling into the surgery.

URGENT (same day) appointments should only be taken for medical needs such as shortness of breath, infections, rashes and poorly children – conditions which cannot wait for a routine appointment.

- Making full use of online services
- Cancelling appointments you no longer require, enabling us to offer it to someone else

### Meningitis ACWY

All teenagers aged 17 and 18 years old (born between 01/09/1998 – 31/08/1999), most of whom will be leaving school in summer 2017, are now eligible for the Meningitis ACWY vaccination. The Practice will soon be contacting this cohort of patients with an invitation, however, please feel free to book an appointment today if you wish to have one.

### Polite Notice

Where possible, please try and avoid posting samples through the letterbox overnight or over the weekend. Samples can be placed in the sample cupboard to the left of the main reception counter during surgery opening hours, 08:00 to 18:30. Please ensure all samples are labelled correctly with a name and DOB.

## Medicine Waste

Did you know? Unused prescription medicines cost the NHS in the UK an estimated £300 million every year. This could pay for:

11,778 MORE Community Nurses or  
80,906 MORE hip replacements or  
19,799 MORE drug treatment courses for breast cancer or  
300,000 MORE drug treatment courses for Alzheimer's or  
312,175 MORE cataract operations

### How Can You Help?

#### Only order the medicines that you need

Please let your GP or Pharmacist know if you've stopped taking any of your medicines

Check what medicines you still have at home before re-ordering

Think carefully before ticking all the boxes on your repeat prescription forms and only tick those you really need

Please also remember that your medicines are prescribed only for you; it's not safe to share them with anyone else.

#### Remember that unused medicines cannot be recycled

Even if you never open them, once medicines have left the Pharmacy, they cannot be recycled or used by anyone else.

Please take your unused medicines to a Pharmacy for safe disposal.



### SMS Reminders

Don't want to forget an appointment?

Sign up for SMS messaging today to receive confirmation and a reminder (one day prior) of all appointments you book. (Must be over 16)

### Non-Attenders

The number of non-attenders remains unchanged, therefore, over the coming months the Practice will be implementing a stricter DNA (Did Not Attend) policy. Please ensure you cancel all unwanted appointments.

## **NOT REGISTERED FOR ONLINE SERVICES?**



GP online services are quick, easy and secure.

Book GP appointments and order prescriptions at the touch of a button.

**To enable us to register you, please bring 2 forms of identification (photo ID and proof of residence) into the surgery so that we can give you the information to register for online services.**