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**The Meadowhead**



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## **Group Practice**

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### **Newsletter September 2013**

**Dear Patients**

**PLEASE NOTE THE OLD SCHOOL SITE WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013 DUE TO ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE WORK BY NORTHERN POWERGRID. LOWEDGES SITE WILL BE OPEN AS NORMAL AS WILL ALL TELEPHONE LINES.**

#### **Staff Changes**

We would like to welcome back Dr Lucy Cox, who we have employed as our Salaried GP. Dr Cox works 4 sessions per week at the Practice.

We would like to say goodbye to Dr Sam Martin, our GP Registrar who moves on in his training and Dr Amreena Mariadassou our GP Registrar who has now completed her training and has moved on to a permanent position in Rotherham. We would like to wish her all the very best.

We would like to welcome Dr Jo Watson-Smith and Dr Caroline Barclay who are our new GP Registrars.

We would also like to welcome Kate Partridge, who has recently joined us as a Health Care Assistant and Jo Sendel as a new member of the Reception Team.

#### **FLU Season**

Flu Saturday this year will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> October from 08:00 am onwards. If you are eligible, please book now through Reception or online. We will also be holding clinics both before and after this date.

#### **Healthy Childrens Flu Vaccination**

This year for the first time healthy children aged 2 and 3 years will be offered the flu vaccination (children aged two or three years on 1 September 2013). This will be in the form of a safe and effective nasal spray vaccine which is easy to give and painless. All eligible patients will receive an invite in due course. Visit [www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu) for more information.

#### **Shingles Vaccination**

The new national shingles immunisation programme has been introduced by the Department of Health to help protect those most at risk from shingles and its complications. The shingles vaccine is recommended for 70-79 year olds; however as the vaccination programme will be phased in over the next few years not everyone will be eligible for the vaccine this year. Therefore people who are aged 70 and 79 are eligible for vaccination from September 2013. Other age groups will be introduced in the future to ensure all people aged 70-79 are offered vaccination against shingles. All eligible patients will be receiving a letter in the near future. This vaccination can be given at the same time as the flu vaccination, please ask if you are eligible. For more information about shingles, treatment and shingles vaccination visit NHS choices at [www.nhs.uk/conditions/shingles/pages/introduction.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/shingles/pages/introduction.aspx) or visit [www.shinglesaware.co.uk](http://www.shinglesaware.co.uk)

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## **Clinical System**

The Practice is updating its Clinical System to be more integrated with Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, Community Nursing Team, Out of Hours, 111 and other Community Teams. During the migration period of **17<sup>th</sup> October – 21<sup>st</sup> October** from our current Clinical System to the new system, we will be operating on a purely 'emergency only' basis. Any patients needing an appointment during this period will be placed on triage as usual and the Doctor will allocate an appointment. There will be no pre-bookable routine appointments after the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013 and patients are kindly requested to ring for any future routine appointments after the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013 when we have the new system installed. There will also be appointments available on the internet after 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013.

We will not have the ability to print routine prescriptions between the dates of 17<sup>h</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013 and therefore any repeat prescriptions requested after 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013, we will automatically issue 2 months to ensure patients have enough medication.

*The Partners and Staff would like to ask for your patience and understanding in this time of change.*

## **Diabetes Talk**

A talk on Diabetes will be held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013 at 7.00 pm at Greenhill Methodist Church. Dr Egdell and Practice Nurse Helen Baker will be there to answer questions on this ever increasing chronic disease. Tickets will be available from Reception along with a slip if you would like to submit a question to the Practice for answering on the night. Please come along, bring a friend – everyone welcome! Tea, coffee and biscuits provided.

## **NHS Choices**

We would like hear your views about the service you received recently from the surgery. Please leave a comment on our NHS Choices site at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) and enter our postcode S8 7RL. Thankyou!

## **Practice Website**

The Practice Website enables our patients to book their appointments online and shortly you will be able to your prescriptions on our new integrated Clinical System. The Practice Website [www.meadowheadgrouppractice.co.uk](http://www.meadowheadgrouppractice.co.uk) is updated on a regular basis and patients will find lots of useful information for example dates of when we are closed for training. Please take a look and you can also use the NHS Choices link to give feedback about the Practice. **WATCH THIS SPACE FOR OUR NEW LOOK WEBSITE SHORTLY!!!**

## **NHS 111 service**

NHS 111 is a new service that's being introduced to make it easier for you to access local NHS healthcare services in England. You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is a fast and easy way to get the right help, whatever the time.

NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

You should use the NHS 111 service if you urgently need medical help or advice but it's not a life-threatening situation.

Call 111 if:

- you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency
- you think you need to go to [A&E](#) or need another NHS urgent care service
- you don't know who to call or you don't have a GP to call
- you need health information or reassurance about what to do next

For less urgent health needs, contact [your GP](#) or [local pharmacist](#) in the usual way.

For immediate, life-threatening emergencies, continue to call 999.

*Our aim is to offer the highest quality medical care to our patients in  
Sheffield and North East Derbyshire.*