

Practice Newsletter

February 2021



Changes in the practice – last week we said goodbye and good luck to Dr Hubbard and Dr Aspray who have now moved on to their next placements for their GP training.

We have welcomed Dr Latimer (male GP) and Dr Horton (female GP) to the practice. It is Dr Latimer's first time working at this practice but Dr Horton returns to us after previously working here just last year.

COVID 19 vaccinations – we have a dedicated team to organise appointments at Blaydon Primary Care Centre for covid vaccines. We ask that you wait to hear from us. We are contacting patients in the following order

1. Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
2. All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
3. All those 75 years of age and over
4. All those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
5. All those 65 years of age and over
6. All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality. This also includes those who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill.
7. All those 60 years of age and over
8. All those 55 years of age and over
9. All those 50 years of age and over

Carers (aged 18 – 64) paid and unpaid please see category 6. If you provide paid or even unpaid care and are between the age of 18 to 64 please let us know so we can add this information to your records. Unless you do that we will not know you are a carer and you would need to wait until your own category is contacted.

Carers (aged 65 and over) you do **not** need to let us know as your age category would come first before the carers category.

Housebound patients – we do not know when vaccines for housebound patients will be available but we will be in touch with you as soon as we know more.

Please do not contact the practice we will be in touch with you.

Practice Closures - Please note the practice is closed between 1pm-2pm every Monday and closed all afternoon from 12.30pm on the following dates for staff training: -
Wednesday 17th March 2021

Would you like to sign up for newsletters by email or to receive letters from us by email instead of by post? You can also book appointments and order medications online too. Please speak to reception.

Changes to pill checks – we ask that all patient visit our website and complete an econsultation to renew your contraceptive pill prescription. This will then be passed to our contraception team who will then let you know if you need to attend for an appointment or if they can send the prescription directly to the pharmacy.

There has been a recent increase in the amount of verbal abuse our reception staff are receiving. We understand it can be frustrating that we are unable to offer face to face appointments initially and that the way the practice is working is different than how it used to be before covid however it is unacceptable to abuse our staff because of this. We are following guidance from the government and the partners at the practice provide us with protocols we need to follow.

We offer telephone appointments which can be booked in advanced, same day phone appointments which are released at 8am each morning and also there is lots of self help advice on our econsult section on our website where you can find information about common problems or submit an econsult to us for the clinician to give you advice. There are also lots of minor ailments that the local pharmacists can provide advice and treatment for.

The length of time to wait for appointments for our GPs, Nurse Practitioner, Practice Nurse and Health Care Assistants is longer than usual, this is due to our clinicians helping with giving patients the covid vaccines at Blaydon Primary Care Centre.

We no longer offer ear syringing at the Practice.

We advise to speak to a local pharmacy for advice as they can offer medication for this under the minor ailments scheme (if you do not pay for prescriptions treatment offered under the minor ailments scheme would be free also). Also find below information on self treatment of ear wax.

<https://www.teamsmedicalpractice.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Self-treatment-of-ear-wax.rtf>

If these options have been tried and you continue to have problems then it would be best to book a routine telephone appointment with one of our clinicians who would then decide if you need further treatment or referral to a specialist.