

Practice Newsletter

January 2021



Happy New Year and welcome to our first newsletter of 2021.

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.

There has been an increase in the number of patients missing their telephone appointments with our clinicians. Calls from the practice can come from the practice number, a withheld number or telephone numbers from different areas. If it is around your booked telephone appointment please ensure you answer. If you miss the call you may be asked to rebook this in the next routine slot which would not be the same day.

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.

Sicknotes should now be ordered via our website by selecting request sicknote on the econsult pop up. Our website is www.teamsmedicalpractice.nhs.uk

Telephone appointments can be booked in advance or can be booked on the same day. This is by ringing the practice at 8am. Once our telephone slots for that day have been used we will offer calls from doctors based elsewhere if appropriate (this would depend on your symptoms and is only suitable for new problems).

Ongoing problems we would advise you book in advance with the clinician who has been dealing with that problems for continuity of care.

Prescriptions – any items that you have had prescribed by the practice before should be ordered via our prescription line on 01914608472. Some items such as new medication, controlled drugs and medication you have not had for a while may not be on your repeat list but should still be ordered on the prescription line by stating the items on the prescription line. Please ensure you clearly start your name, date of birth or address and the items you require. Items that aren't on your repeat list can take longer to process than a regular repeat prescription.

Gateshead Sexual Health Service Update. To request a sexual health telephone consultation:

- Call the sexual health appointments line on 0191 2831577 between the hours of 08.45 and 12:15
- People under 19: If unable to contact sexual health services during morning telephone slots, further telephone appointment capacity has been added to support young people in education & home learning between the hours of **15:00 -17:00 every Wednesday afternoon.**
- Telephone consultation with Gateshead Sexual Health will discuss if the patient has symptoms that require urgent care, to request a sexual health test or to book contraception appointments including implants.
- As part of the telephone consultation, patients will be asked to provide their name, address, DOB & telephone number and will receive a call back from the nursing team, usually the same day.
- During each telephone consultation the nursing team will either arrange an appointment for patient to attend clinic, signpost the patient to the online home testing facility, other services, or provide advice on how to self-manage their condition.

Online Home Testing & Condom Kits Available For Home Delivery

This new online offer is a quick way to test, very discreet and is completely confidential, delivered direct to the specified address when completing the online demographic form. The home testing kits are delivered in plain packaged envelope's by Royal Mail meaning NHS will not appear on the outside of the envelope. Kits are sent by standard post meaning that no signature is required and will fit through a standard letter box. The home test involves providing a blood sample (if a person chooses to be tested for HIV & Syphilis) or a urine or swab sample for Chlamydia & Gonorrhoea testing. Home testing kits are delivered complete with instructions, a freepost return envelope and are posted back to us by standard Royal Mail. This online test offer is available for both male and female's over the age of 16+

Please visit our Sexual Health website to order www.gatesheadsexualhealth.co.uk

Service users requesting home delivery of condom kits:

To order condom kits direct: Please visit <https://www.stsft.nhs.uk/services/sexual-health-services/request-condom-pack>