

The Staploe Medical Centre – News Autumn 2014



Staff News – We are pleased to advise that **Kelly Woodroffe** has joined us as a Healthcare Assistant.

Flu reminder: Our flu clinics are now in full swing for our patients over 65 or in a clinical “at risk” group (including diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, heart disease, liver disease, kidney disease). We still have one Saturday left for walk in clinics which is **Saturday 22 November from 8.30 – 11.00am – NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY**. Alternatively you can come down between 11.45am and 12.30pm Monday-Friday or ring to make an appointment.

Nasal Flu Vaccine is available for all children aged 2, 3 and 4. Please ring to make an appointment or attend the clinic on Saturday 22 November.

Health Checks - If you are invited for an NHS Health Check you'll be asked a set of standard questions and offered a series of routine tests that will help identify your risk of developing heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, type 2 diabetes and certain types of dementia. **Who qualifies for an NHS health check?** - If you're aged between 40 and 74 and have not already been diagnosed with vascular disease or treated for certain risk conditions, such as high blood pressure or cholesterol, you will be invited for your check every five years. **Why do I need an NHS Health Check?** Everyone has a chance of developing heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, type 2 diabetes or certain types of dementia. The NHS Health Check will help you and your GP or health professional to identify your risk earlier. You will be given advice on what action you can take to lower your risk and improve your chances of a healthier life. If you think you qualify and have not had one, please check with Reception.

Blood Pressure Machine – Please make use of the blood pressure machine in the Waiting Room.

Grim News on funding!

Services - As nationwide austerity bites, NHS England plans progressive cuts in our funding per patient starting with a 1.73% cut in the next year rising steadily to 11.32% in 4 years. We will continue to work as hard as we can, but it is unlikely that we can weather cuts of this magnitude without it affecting the services we provide.

Premises and parking - Your practice services more than 19000 patients from premises designed for 13000! With Soham and surrounding villages continuing to grow, the pressure on parking and clinical space is only going to grow. NHS England has rejected our application for funding to enlarge the car park and to develop the property at 59 Brewhouse Lane for clinical use. Parking is such an urgent priority that we will open up the space around 59 Brewhouse Lane as an overflow car park. At the same time we continue to press NHS and the Council for support to extend eastwards into the proposed Eastern Gateway site.

Patient Participation Group - We are looking for people to be involved with this Group and to attend meetings as required. The PPG's contribution to the practice will become more important as the funding cuts bite – please consider carefully whether you are able to support your practice in this way.

Music – Following the patient survey we have taken notice of patient opinion and music will be returning to the Waiting Room soon.

Some interesting statistics – On average we receive 352 calls per day with an average answered ring time of 25 seconds. Over the past three months, 843 appointments have been wasted through patients not attending! Some of these could be avoided by signing up to SMS (Text messaging) where you will get reminders of your appointments. If you cannot attend your appointment please telephone Reception so your appointment can be reallocated to somebody else!