
Patient Group News



Shortage of BD blood bottles

No doubt many of you will have seen the news about the national problems experienced by Becton Dickinson who supply the bottles we use for the storage and transportation of blood for testing.

We have been asked by NHS England and the local CCG to stop all but the most clinically urgent blood tests here at the surgery.

This puts the GPs in a very difficult position with deciding on priorities for the use of our remaining stock of bottles. Fortunately we still have a reasonable supply at the surgery so can continue to process those tests which are assessed as the most crucial for safe patient care.

We understand that this will be a worry for patients affected by a delay to their testing, and we will do our best to catch up with testing as quickly as we can when supplies resume.

Delay to Flu vaccine delivery

A further challenge has presented itself as we start the flu season. We have been advised by Sequiris (one of our flu vaccine suppliers) that there will be a delay of around two weeks for our first delivery of the vaccine intended for patients over 65 years old.

Sequiris cite shortage of delivery drivers as one of the main problems.

We hope the delivery will come by the end of September, but please keep an eye on our website for an update.

We hope that the vaccine intended for patients under 65 will arrive a little sooner, but frankly nothing is certain at the moment.

Our plan is to swing into action as soon as the jabs land in Yatton Keynell, and we will hope to catch up by putting all hands on deck and setting up flu clinics at short notice.

We learnt a lot about putting on clinics at very short notice during the Covid vaccination programme - we will put this experience to good use in this year's flu campaign!

Face to Face appointments with the GPs

I thought it was worth clarifying that our GPs are seeing patients face to face in the surgery every day, and have been doing so all through the Covid pandemic.

The GPs always carry out a telephone consultation in the first instance, arranging a face to face appointment whenever a physical examination is indicated. The face to face examination is often on the same day wherever possible.

We are seeing more patients face to face now compared to this time last year, in the knowledge of the increased protection afforded by the vaccination programme.

The GPs really miss seeing everyone in person, and occasionally complain about working 'in a call centre'!! They look forward to the day when it is safe to bring the usual number of patients into the building, and I know that many patients feel the same.

We keep the 'Covid safe' arrangements under regular review and will keep you posted about any changes.

Sadly the North Wiltshire area is in a bit of a 'hot spot' for Covid cases, and we are seeing multiple new cases diagnosed daily. We still have to be very careful on behalf of the most vulnerable patients who we see both at the surgery and on home visits.