

Commissioning

You may have heard about the latest government changes to how the NHS is run, announced in the 2010 White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS'. The aim is to make services more responsive to local health needs and encourage closer working between health services and social care.

For GPs, this means grouping together into Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) which, over the next couple of years, will take over the responsibility for designing and commissioning local health services including:

- Routine hospital care
- Urgent and emergency care
- Most community health services
- Mental health and learning disability services

CCGs will work with patients, local GPs, and local hospitals as well as the local authorities. Every local authority is setting up new Health and Wellbeing Boards to ensure that Clinical Commissioning Groups are meeting the needs of local people. The membership of these boards will include representatives from:

- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Directors of Public Health
- Children's Services
- Adult Social Services
- Elected Councillors

- Healthwatch (representing the views of patients, carers and local communities)

St Luke's is part of the Harrogate and Rural (HaRD) CCG, covering Harrogate, Ripon, Boroughbridge and Nidderdale. 6 local GPs across this area have been appointed to the board of the HaRD CCG. One of them is Dr Sarah Hay who will be working for the CCG one day a week. She will continue to work at St Luke's as well.

HaRD is actively seeking input from local charities and voluntary organizations to help them decide local priorities. It is likely that Patient Participation Groups (PPG) from each practice will also be involved in some way. Please join the St Luke's PPG if you would like to have your voice heard.

Flu Immunisations 2011/12

To date we have given 946 flu immunisations but there are still a number of eligible patients who have not yet had one. It is not too late - please ring the surgery and book an appointment with the practice nurses or health care assistant.

Surgery Opening Times

Monday	8:00am - 7:00pm*
Tuesday	8:00am - 6:00pm
Wednesday	8:00am - 6:00pm
Thursday	8:00am - 6:00pm
Friday	7.30am*- 6:00pm

*Extended hours for people who work

St Luke's Surgery



Winter 2012



Contacting the surgery

St Luke's Surgery

Mowbray Square Medical Centre

Harrogate

HG1 5AR

Tel: 01423 503035

Fax: 01423 562665

Email: stlukesadmin@gp-b82076.nhs.uk

Have you looked at our website?

www.stlukesdoctors.co.uk

Out of Hours Services

To speak to or see a doctor at night or at weekends please telephone **0845 0568060**

The service is open 6pm-8am on weekdays and 24 hour cover on weekends and Bank Holidays.

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR PRACTICE LIST IS CURRENTLY OPEN AND WE WOULD WELCOME REGISTRATIONS FROM NEW PATIENTS

Staff News

Catherine Marley, our receptionist, has gone on maternity leave – her baby is due mid-January. We hope everything goes smoothly for her and look forward to her return in the autumn.

Meanwhile, we have **Andy Ashton** filling in on reception in Catherine's absence.

We also welcome **Abbie Greenwood** as our new Health Care Assistant.

Employee of the Quarter is **Practice Nurse Charlotte Lee** – for her hard work, helpfulness and willingness to take on new responsibilities.

Research

Did you know that St Luke's is involved in research? Over the last couple of years we have been involved in several trials including:

- the 3C-cough study – this trial is trying to establish which patients really need antibiotics for cough symptoms
- Venus IV - a trial concerned with compression bandaging of leg ulcers
- ACUDep – this study is looking at the role of acupuncture in treating depression

The trials are all under the auspices of the Primary Care Research Network, which is part of the National Institute for Health and is funded by the Department of Health. The aim of the PCRN is to “support research in primary care to make patients, and the NHS, better”

The Practice would only ever take part in a trial that it felt could benefit St Luke's patients and we will not disclose any of your health records without your permission. You will always be asked for consent

before inclusion in a trial and it is absolutely fine if you would prefer not to participate.

Prescription charges

The current prescription charge is £7.40/item. If you are not exempt from prescription charges and are on regular medication a pre-payment certificate (PPC) is likely to work out cheaper.

- From 1 April 2010 a three monthly PPC costs £29.10. This saves you money if you need four or more items over three months.
- A 12 month certificate costs £104.00 and saves money if 15 or more items are needed over a 12 month period.

The prescription prepayment certificates (PPCs) are available by 10 monthly direct debit installment payments. PPCs allow patients to obtain all the prescriptions they need for £2 per week. Find out more using the link below:
<http://www.nhs.uk/nhsengland/Healthcosts/pages/Prescriptioncosts.aspx>

Patient Questionnaire

With the help of our patient participation group we have designed a questionnaire for our patients to see whether they are happy with the care we provide. We will be inviting patients to complete the questionnaire early in the new year.

We would be grateful if you would take the time to fill one in if you are asked. We hope to use the answers to improve patient care at St Luke's.

If anyone else would like to be involved in the patient participation group please ask at reception for more details.

Bowel Cancer Awareness Campaign Goes National

A campaign to increase awareness of bowel cancer will start in January following a successful trial. The 'Be Clear on Cancer' awareness ads will aim to make people aware of the early signs of bowel cancer and make it easier for them to discuss this with their GP.

In England, bowel cancer is the third most common type of cancer. An estimated 33,000 new cases are diagnosed each year. 13,000 people die annually from bowel cancer. In men, bowel cancer is the third most common cancer after prostate and lung cancer.

Bowel cancer can be present for a long time before any symptoms appear. If bowel cancer is detected before symptoms appear, it is easier to treat and there is a better chance of surviving the disease. This is why the NHS has introduced a screening programme for bowel cancer to try and pick up bowel cancer at an early stage. Patients between the ages of 60 and 69 are invited to get a stool sample checked for blood every 2 years.

Symptoms of bowel cancer include blood in the stool (faeces), a persistent change (>3 weeks) in bowel habit, abdominal pain and weight loss. If you experience these symptoms please arrange to see your GP.

see:<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Cancer-of-the-colon-rectum-or-bowel/Pages/Introduction.aspx>