

Summer 2014

Influenza Vaccination

Our annual flu vaccination supply has been received and we are currently vaccinating all eligible groups. You will receive a letter from the health board advising you if you are eligible. Please make an appointment for one of our flu clinics if you wish to be vaccinated. We will be running a Saturday morning clinic on 19th October for those who struggle to attend within normal working hours.

Online Prescriptions

We now have our online prescription service up and running for requesting repeat medications. You need to register for this service at reception. This will help workers to order their prescriptions from home or work at any time of the day or night.

Appointments System

We have changed our appointments system again. There is no perfect system and no matter which system we use there are complaints. However we did notice that there were more complaints than previously regarding the recently trialed system, of all appointments being "book on the day". We have therefore reverted to a system where 50% of appointments are pre-bookable and the remainder are for on the day and emergencies.

Protected Learning

The Practice will be closed for teaching purposes on Wednesday 18 June, 3 November, 22 October 2014 from 1pm with NHS24 covering General Medical Services telephone 111.

NHS Inform

NHS Inform is a new health information service designed to give you access to the information you need, when you need it. You can find it online at www.nhsinform.co.uk or over the phone on 0800 22 44 88 (8am - 10pm).

Bowel Cancer Screening

There has been recent coverage in the press of the survival rates for cancer being lower in the UK than many other Countries. This is down to many factors including the late detection of Cancers Limiting Survival. The Scottish Government is keen to improve this by increasing the awareness of the early symptoms of cancer and to encourage people to participate in the available Screening programmes.

One such programme is the bowel cancer screening programme it is open to those aged 50-74 and involved stool samples being tested for blood every 2 years. Although this may sound unpleasant, it is a quick and easy test. If everyone invited to take part did so - 150 lives a year in Scotland would be saved. Currently though only approximately half of those invited do so.

We are keen to improved these figures and would be interested to know why those who haven't taken part chose not to.

If you want more information on how to take the samples or order new test kits phone 0800 0121 833 or go online www.bowelscreening.scot.nhs.uk or speak to one of your GP's - Dr Bishop is the lead GP for Strathmore Surgery and would be happy to discuss.