

# COOMBE MEDICAL PRACTICE

www.coombemedicalpractice.co.uk

## *Summer Newsletter 2016*

### **Emergency contact**

Some patients have tried to contact me via the pager during office hours or when I am not on call. **Please always call the landline (0208 605 0044) first.** The message will inform you who is on call and the appropriate number to call. Colleague doctors may be on call.

A fee is charged for missed appointments, and for those cancelled less than six hours. Details on our website.

### **Meningitis B (not to be confused with Meningitis C)**

We offer the new vaccine (Bexsero) to protect against Meningitis B. **Meningitis B** is responsible for 90% of meningococcal infections in the UK. It is fatal in one in 10 cases. It remains a serious threat to children, teenagers and young adults. The vaccine will help protect against meningococcal meningitis and septicaemia. I do consider it important to make parents aware that there is a vaccine which prevents against this devastating disease.

### **Prescriptions**

When a repeat prescription is required for on-going medication, it is appreciated if at least five days' notice is given. I need to check the medical records to see whether the medication is intended to be repeated; whether a blood pressure or blood test is required; and to ensure safe clinical monitoring. This also allows enough time for us to post the prescription to you.

### **Flu jabs**

Winter may seem a long way away... If you would like a Flu vaccination please call the Practice and reserve your jab as we will have a limited supply.

### **Referral**

A number of patients pre-book an appointment with a specialist and then contact me requesting a referral letter. This is poor clinical practice – I need to see a patient first to ensure that the correct diagnosis is made and the appropriate specialist is then chosen. Insurers insist that the referral has been sanctioned by the GP – this should be prior to the appointment. Notice is required - especially for lengthy referral letters.

### **Medical cover**

Coombe Medical Practice will be closed from Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July until Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August. Dr Markovic will be covering the Practice.

*Wishing you all a relaxing Summer.*

*Dr Michael Barrie*