

COOMBE MEDICAL PRACTICE

www.coombemedicalpractice.co.uk

Summer Newsletter 2015

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.

Appointments

When calling for an appointment do please be specific as to whom the appointment is for and the problem so we can allocate sufficient time. It is always difficult when extra family members are squeezed into a single appointment without prior notice. We are always happy to see extra family members but please speak to Roopal beforehand. Travel advice/immunisations should not be sought in a normal appointment – please speak to Roopal who will plan a travel itinerary. This would be helpful to avoid the appointment becoming hurried with the attendant risk of mistakes.

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

New Meningitis B jab

The majority of families with children/teenagers have now had the new Meningitis B vaccine with us. This was launched last year. The vaccine will help protect against meningococcal meningitis and septicaemia. It is a course of vaccinations, depending on age. For those who have not given their children the vaccine please call for an appointment.

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.

Referral

If a referral to a specialist is needed please make an appointment to see me first. I need to see and examine the patient 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 first – this should be *prior* to the appointment with the specialist. I cannot backdate an insurance form for self-referrals.

Flu jabs

Winter may seem a long way away... If you would like a Flu vaccination please let Roopal know.

Fees

It is appreciated when accounts are settled promptly. Interest will be charged to accounts outstanding by more than two weeks. As stated at the foot of each invoice, payment can be made by BACS. Please check the website for current fees.

Wishing you all a relaxing Summer,

Dr Michael Barrie