

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 16th July until Monday 1st August. Dr Markovic will be covering the Practice.

Wishing you all a relaxing Summer.

Dr Michael Barrie