



# Winter 2009 Newsletter

October, 2009

Tel: 01335 343784

We welcome your comments regarding this newsletter or any other aspect of our service. You can make your opinions heard via our Practice Manager – Mrs. Lindsey Stockton – 01335 301241 [lindsey.stockton@nhs.net](mailto:lindsey.stockton@nhs.net)

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## Staff News



### Doctors

Since September this year, Dr Sheona Macleod reduced the number of days that she works at the practice; this is due to her appointment to the role of ‘Dean of General Practice’ for the East Midlands Region. She is now working at the practice on Tuesdays.

Dr Helen Maxwell Jones has been working two days at the practice to provide locum GP cover, however, Dr Maxwell Jones will be leaving us in the spring. We wish her the best of luck for the future.

Dr Summer Scullard and Dr Jason Talathi are our current GP Registrars; they are both experienced doctors near the end of their GP training. We really enjoy having registrars at the practice and appreciate your support in helping them to become fully fledged GPs!

### Nurse Practitioner

Debbie Finnikin, our nurse practitioner has undertaken specialist training to become a Nurse Practitioner and has many years experience in the treatment and management of common illnesses. Debbie has the skills to diagnose and treat lots of common problems such as coughs/chest infections, sore throat, ear problems, eye problems, cystitis/urinary tract infections, skin complaints/rashes, wound infections and head lice/threadworms.

You can either make an appointment with Debbie or attend one of the drop-in clinics that she has available, please ask our receptionists for further details. Debbie can also offer advice on the telephone, if appropriate.

## *Our new Premises - an update*

We are pleased to say that construction work of the new building is running to schedule, therefore we should be moving in from early winter of 2010 or the start of 2011.

The people of Ashbourne have selected ‘St Oswalds’ as the name for the hospital and Health Centre, and we shall be known as Ashbourne Medical Practice once we move.

## Swine Flu Vaccination Clinics



As you are probably aware, a vaccination has been developed to provide protection against catching swine flu. Our swine flu vaccination campaign is well underway. We have been holding clinics on a Saturday morning in order to offer those patients who are **particularly at risk** of becoming seriously unwell from swine flu the vaccination.

If you are unsure as to whether you qualify for a vaccination, please refer to the notices in the health centre or ask one of the staff for details. We will be advertising the clinic dates and times via posters in the health centre, in the Ashbourne Telegraph and on our website 'www.ashbournehealthcentre.co.uk'.

The Government is planning to offer the vaccine to all under 5s in the New Year and we will be offering this service, following this it is likely to be extended to further groups. Will do our best to keep you informed of the changes.

## Website and Repeat Prescription Ordering

The practice has its own website available at '[www.ashbournhealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.ashbournhealthcentre.co.uk)', you will find lots of useful information regarding the services we offer, and there is also a secure facility available to order your REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS on-line. Please allow 3 days notice for your order to be processed.



## Phone Access

We are currently looking at ways to improve access to our services in general. As part of this, we think that it would be really helpful if patients phone for blood test results after 2pm and wait until 10am to phone regarding routine enquires. This will help free up our phone lines for those patients requiring urgent advice first thing in the morning.

## Extended Hours

We have been offering appointments outside normal working hours since April 2008. These appointments are specifically meant for those patients who find it difficult to attend the surgery to see a GP during our usual daytime service.

From January we will be changing the timing of our extended hours clinics. This is because most patients do not wish to attend after 8.30pm, especially during the winter months.

Appointments will be available from 6.30 – 8.30pm on a Tuesday evening each week.

We will be offering slightly more appointments during the extended hours as there will now be two GPs holding these clinics.

## Training Dates

The practice closes for a number of afternoons per year to allow us to participate in educational updates and to generate ideas to try and improve the service we offer. We will be closed on the following WEDNESDAY afternoons in 2010:

13th January, 17th February and 17th March

During this time Derbyshire Health United will provide urgent cover. The telephone number for DHU is 0844 412 239.



## Christmas & New Year Closure

This year the practice will be closing at 2.00pm on Christmas Eve and re-open at 8.00am on Tuesday 29th December.

We will close again at 6.30pm on New Year's Eve and then re-open at 8.00am on Monday 4th January.

Emergency cover, during this time, will be provided by Derbyshire Health United (DHU).

Don't forget to order you repeat prescriptions, well in time for the Christmas Holidays.

*We would like to wish all our patients a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*