

CODFORD SURGERY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2010

We are all enjoying the passing of a long tough winter and it is a joy to see the spring flowers and hear news that the first sand martins are arriving on the River Avon in Salisbury.

WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY EVENING SURGERIES

This surgery is only for pre-booked appointments and is not a walk in provision. We hope that this will make it easier for patients who commute to see the Doctor. Appointments are available from 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm.

We do appreciate, however, that there will still be patients who are unable to access us during these hours. To accommodate those patients the NHS has funded the Salisbury Walk In Health Centre. This Health Centre is situated at Avon Approach in Salisbury and can be telephoned on 01722 331191 and operates on a first come first served basis for walk in patients. This facility will be available from 8.00 am – 7.45 pm every day of the year including weekends and Bank Holidays.

OUT OF HOURS SERVICE CHANGES

Many of you will have had contact with the Wilcodoc organisation who have been providing out of hours care for our patients for many years. This contract was recently re-negotiated and Wiltshire Medical Services have won the contract. This is a reputable company who have been operating out of hours services in the north and west of the County for some years and have been providing an administrative back up to Wilcodoc in recent years. They have now taken over out of hours services and they can be contacted on 0300 111 5717.

Our expectation is that this service will prove as effective and efficient as the previous Wilcodoc services.

CHLAMYDIA SCREENING PROGRAMME

For the last year we have been offering in the surgery and also the NHS has been inviting patients by post to be screened for Chlamydia. This is the most commonly diagnosed sexually transmitted infection in the UK but often results in no symptoms, if left untreated it can cause infertility (not being able to have children) and long term pelvic pain.

If you are sexually active and under the age of 25 the advice is to be tested for Chlamydia annually or more often in the event of change of sexual partner. No examination needs to take place. The test is performed either with a urine sample or a swab which is self administered and then posted in the envelope within the pack for analysis. The screening service will then respond with the result by post. Please feel free to ask any of the health professionals or receptionists at the surgery for a Chlamydia testing pack.

TRAVEL

We are finding the provision of travel advice increasingly difficult and challenging as many people undertake prolonged and adventurous journeys, not only as young people but also after retirement. These consultations are by necessity very involved and are increasingly taking up large proportions of our Practice Nurse provision. We have, therefore, decided to limit travel consultations only to those patients who have a permanent registration at the surgery. This means that we have decided to ask patients who are temporary residents, and this is most likely to be young people at university or at boarding school and also impulsive travellers who have made arrangements to travel within the next two weeks, to obtain their travel vaccine advice and anti-malarials through one of the travel medicine companies such as NOMAD who have offices in:

Bristol	0117 922 6567
Southampton	02380 234 920
London (Victoria)	0207 823 5823
North London (Turnpike Lane)	0208 889 7014
Central London (Russell Square)	0207 833 4114

LOST AND FOUND

Various items, including gloves and spectacles have been left at the surgery over the winter. If you think you have lost anything please ask at reception as we will be discarding these items if they are not claimed in the near future.

CREDIT CARD MACHINE

In the near future we are expecting to install one of these machines to ease payment of prescription fees and medical fees.

DISPENSARY

Could I also remind patients that the dispensary answer phone giving the times that the dispensary is open does not take messages.

Please give 48 hours notice when ordering repeat prescriptions.

Dispensary telephone opening times are 8.30 am – 10.30 am and 3.00 pm – 4.30 pm.

Dispensary lunch time closing is from 12.30pm to 2.30pm.

We would encourage those of you with computers to e-mail your prescription requests to us at dispensary.codford@gp-j83019.nhs.uk.

Please also note that the reception staff are unable to take requests or dispense medication.