



NewsWATCH

The Watlington & Chalgrove GP Practice Newsletter



Issue 011

Email us at: wat.chal@nhs.net - Website www.watlington-surgeries.nhs.uk

March 2014

PPG Members

Watlington

- Roger Beattie
- Josephine Carrington
- Jenny Tindale
- Doreen Hobbs
- Shirley Brown
- Beryl Parkinson
- Jacky Wagstaff
- Marian Davis

Chalgrove

- Neil Topping
- Evelyn Chakera
- David Lee
- Ann Reed
- Lesley McCourt
- Gill Walker
- Lynn Baker
- Peter Grout
- Helen Moss-Black
- Audrey Mainwaring

If you have any issue that you would like raised at a PPG Meeting, please contact any of the above or email us.

Special points of interest:

- Share & Share Alike
- CQC Success
- OCCG Changes
- Local Forum Update
- Advice for 60+
- This Year's Survey
- Any Asthma Issues?

Contact Us By Email

wat.chal@nhs.net

Don't Panic! !!!

As we think Corporal Jones would have said about **Sharing Information**.

We must admit, it's a bit like the Hokey-Cokey! In March 2012 we told you all about Summary Record Cards - an electronic record of the medicines you take, allergies you suffer from and any bad reactions to medicines you have had.

The purpose of these is to allow medical staff to be able to access this information in an emergency if the surgery is closed or you are away from home.

Patients were given the option to opt out of having this record if they so wished.

Well, it now looks as if we may be asked if we want to opt out of another set of records....or maybe not....there is still a lot of discussion going on as you may have seen in the press.

Earlier this year you should have received a leaflet through your door '**Better Information Means Better Care**'. The plan is to collect information on patients' medical histories (identifying information

removed) so that a picture can be built up of the quality of the treatment and care that patients receive across the country.

The data collected would also help determine patterns in diseases, the effectiveness of different treatments and the quality of the services available.

This would in turn lead to better identification of people at risk, more effective management of conditions and the optimising of resources.

Copies of this leaflet are available at the surgeries or on the NHS website: www.nhs.uk and there is a fuller explanation on our website as to the implications of these proposals.

The advantages to the health of the nation are obvious but there is some opposition arising from concerns about the anonymity of the information and who might be able to access it once it has been uploaded onto the database. The debate goes on but remember if and when this does go ahead you will have to actively opt out as before. We will keep you posted.

Make Sure You Understand the New Sharing Information Proposals

CQC Inspection - We Passed!

The Care and Quality Commission (CQC) is the regulator of health and social care in England. Part of its function is to carry out inspections to determine whether or not a care provider is meeting essential standards of quality and safety. On 9th January the CQC carried out a routine inspection of our Practice. The overall report was excellent with very positive comments on all areas inspected. The Inspector noted only two actions that were needed to fully meet one of the specified standards and these have already been undertaken. The staff at both surgeries should be congratulated on the standards achieved at this Practice. If you would like to know more about this inspection and the findings visit www.cqc.org.uk

OCCG Re-structure

It's "All Change!" again! The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) has voted to change the structure of its senior management to include a Chief Executive with managerial experience who will lead the clinical aspects of commissioning and have both the Accountable Officer role and be the Clinical Chair.

Dr Joe McManners was appointed to this new role last month. He is a GP based in Headington. There is currently an Interim Chief Executive, Ian Wilson.

You may remember that we had planned to hold a public meeting last September to update patients on the recent changes that have been taking place in the NHS. We then decided to postpone this until the New Year as things were still changing and - as they are still changing - we have decided that it makes sense to wait until things are more settled before explaining how the new changes will affect us as patients. Meanwhile, if you have any queries visit the OCCG website, or email us on wat.chal@nhs.net with your question and we will endeavour to find someone who knows the answer!

Locality Forum Update

Our Practice is part of the SE Oxfordshire Locality Forum - 10 Practices who meet together regularly to act as a channel of communication between the patients and the OCCG. Resources, good practice, patients' views and the impact of new initiatives are some of the areas discussed at the meetings.

This puts the focus on local concerns but gives us as a group greater power to fight for - or sometimes against - changes.

Three members of our PPG attend the meetings and feed information back to the whole group. And we then feed it back to you via the Newsletter.

At the last meeting there was a lot of discussion on the use of technology within a surgery.

- Would we prefer to be greeted by a smiling Receptionist or a computer screen?
- What did we think of consultation by e-mail?
- Would we like our appointment slot flashed up on a screen in the waiting room?

There is no doubt that we need to keep up with the times but equally a lot of us like the personal touch. What is your view on the role of technology in your Doctor's appointment? E-mail us on wat.chal@nhs.net

Over 60? Need Some Advice?

Why not visit the Drop-in Information Point in Watlington - every second Thursday of the month from 9.30a.m. - 11.30a.m. starting Thursday 13th March - telephone Milly on 07827 235417 for more details.

Not free on Thursdays? Then why not visit the Pop-in Café - second Tuesday of each month from 2.00p.m. - 4.00p.m. in the Sports Pavilion in Watlington. Telephone 07977 605443 or visit the Practice website on www.watlington-surgeries.nhs.uk for more information.

Benefits, training, grants, respite care, support groups, useful connections, equipment etc, etc. There is plenty of advice available if you just know where to look.

Patient Survey

Every year a survey is conducted with the aim of measuring how satisfied patients are with their GP Practice. This year's survey results are now back and the PPG are in the process of writing up the report on the findings. As in previous years, patients at our Practice have indicated that they are very happy with the level of care that they receive. The full report will be available on the Practice website www.watlington-surgeries.nhs.uk at the end of March. Don't miss it!

Our next meeting will include a presentation by one of our GP's about asthma. If there are any questions you would like answered, points raised etc., please let us know. The PPG should primarily be a two-way link between the patients and Practice to put questions/concerns to the Practice as well as advising patients about issues that may be of interest/affect them directly.