



JUNE 2023 Surgery Newsletter

JUNE IS CERVICAL SCREENING AWARENESS MONTH

Cervical screening is one of the best ways to protect yourself from cervical cancer. Cervical screening (a smear test) checks the health of your cervix. It's not a test for cancer, it's a test to help prevent cancer. All women and people with a cervix aged **25 to 64 should be invited by letter.** People aged 25 to 49 receive invitations every 3 years. People aged 50 to 64 receive invitations every 5 years.

How cervical screening helps prevent cancer

During the screening appointment, a small sample of cells will be taken from your cervix. The sample is checked for certain types of human papillomavirus (HPV) that can cause changes to the cells of your cervix. These are called "high risk" types of HPV. If these types of HPV are not found, you do not need any further tests. If these types of HPV are found, the sample is then checked for any changes in the cells of your cervix. These can then be treated before they get a chance to turn into cervical cancer. If abnormal cells are not treated, they may turn into cervical cancer. The nurse will be able to tell you at your appointment when you can expect your results letter.

How to book a Cervical Smear Test

You'll be sent an invitation letter in the post when it's time to book your cervical screening appointment. **Once you have received this letter, all you need to do is contact the Surgery on telephone number 01206 250691 and book an appointment with one of our Practice Nurses.**

Prescription Requests

We have over 6,500 patients on repeat medication which normally require regular monthly prescriptions. Our Prescription Clerks are trained to deal with medication requests and can also help patients who may have an enquiry about their medication.

In order to ensure we are able to turn all requests around within three working days, our Prescription Clerks are not able to speak to patients at reception face-to-face, so please do not come into reception and ask to speak to someone about medication.

Our Prescription Clerks can be contacted between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm Monday to Friday by telephoning the main Surgery number 01206 250691 or 01206 257557 and choosing Option 2 for prescriptions. If you go into the hold queue, to avoid waiting for the Prescription Clerk to answer, you can press 1 and leave your name and number for them to ring you back. If you contact the Prescription Clerk before 3.00 pm then you will get a call back on the same day. If it is after 3.00 pm then you will be called back on the next working day.

All requests for medication need to be made in writing allowing at least three working days, as we do not have the capacity to take medication requests over the telephone.

You can request your medication by emailing the Prescription Clerk on: holliesprescriptions@nhs.net, by dropping in a written request into the prescription box next to the front door, or via your on-line account.

Once you have put in your request and allowed three working days for us to process this, then you can collect this from your nominated pharmacy. Please do not ring the Prescription Clerk to check if your prescription has been issued as you will need to contact the Pharmacy about this.

Your help with managing prescription requests is much appreciated.

Surgery Training Afternoon

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12 noon on Wednesday, 28 June 2023 for staff training. If patients require urgent care on this afternoon, then this is available by contacting 111 for assistance.

Patient Participation Group Meetings

There will not be a Patient Participation Group meeting in June.

Sue Mitson – Operations Manager