



**I have some great news to announce at the start of this New Year about our practice nurse Bonnie:**



Bonnie has been given the prestigious title of Queen's Nurse (QN) by community charity The Queens Nursing Institute (QNI). The title is not an award for past service, but indicates a commitment to high standards of patient care, learning and leadership. Nurses who hold the title benefit from developmental workshops, bursaries, networking opportunities and a shared professional identity. Dr Crystal Oldman, Chief Executive of the QNI said *"Congratulations are due to Bonnie for her success. Community nurses are expert professionals who make a vital contribution to patient health and wellbeing every day. As a National charity the QNI can share innovation and best practice, supporting nurses to deliver excellent healthcare to patients in local communities"*.

***I'm sure that you'll all join us in being very proud of Bonnie and congratulate her on her recognition when you see her!***

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There are just a couple of things I need to remind patients of this month. Please remember that unless we have full written and signed authority on record, we are unable to discuss anything about a patient with their carers, family members or even their husband, wife or partner. This is the law and we cannot make any exceptions. All we need is a dated letter addressed to the surgery, listing the full name and relationship of the person being given the authority to discuss matters with us. This needs to state what authority is being given i.e. full authority to discuss all aspects of health and medical care, or just information regarding prescriptions.

**Important information about a change in our travel health service:** – Due to increasing pressure on our limited resources, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, our travel health service will be changing. We will now only be able to provide limited travel advice and access to vaccinations available free on the NHS only. We will no longer be able to provide administration of private travel vaccines such as yellow fever, Japanese encephalitis, rabies, Hepatitis B, Meningitis ACWY. These will have to be sourced through private providers. It is also very important that patients contact us as early as possible. Some vaccines need to be administered well before you travel. Ideally patients' should seek advice 8 weeks before travelling.

<p><b>The first meeting of the Patient Participation Group for 2018 will take place at 6.30pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at the Great Bentley Village Hall.</b></p>
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