



## **October 2018 – Surgery Newsletter**

I know I wrote about it being flu vaccination season last month, but I will again this month too! Because deliveries are being phased over a longer period this year we still have a major flu clinic left on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, so if you are eligible and haven't yet had your flu vaccination, please give us a call as soon as you can and get your appointment booked. We also run some ad hoc weekday clinics too, but at the time of writing I cannot tell you the exact dates as they will depend upon our stock levels and delivery dates.

### **NEW!! North East Essex Extended Access Evening Appointments:**

Although we started this last month, being all very last minute the details were not available to include in the September newsletter. As part of the North East Essex GP Network, our partner practice Mayflower Medical Centre in Harwich is able to provide our patients with 26 GP and Minor Illness appointments every week from now through until the end of March 2019. Obviously to make use of this a patient must be able to travel to Harwich, but if those who could did travel and make use of these, then this would help to reduce the waiting times for everyone else.

These appointments are offered Monday to Friday and will be at either 7.30pm or 7.45pm. The GP appointments can be for anything you would normally see a GP for here, but the minor illness appointments are always booked by via our triage system.

### **NEW!! Physio First Appointments:**

Another new scheme that we are trialing for the next 12 months is offering appointments with a physiotherapist one afternoon a week here at Great Bentley Surgery. Along with other practices in the GP Network, we have commissioned this service, so that patients' with musculoskeletal issues can be booked directly in to see a physiotherapist, helping to reduce demand to increasingly scarce GP appointments. Initially all of these appointments will be booked by our GPs via the triage system.

*It's important to understand however, that the funding which is paying for these new services is non-recurrent meaning that once the pilots have finished, there may not be additional funds to continue with these services. It's important therefore, that patients follow our advice and use these services as much as possible.*

### **Winter is coming!**

Winter is nearly here, so we want to remind patients that many minor ailments resolve themselves in time and do not need medical attention. You will get good professional advice from your local pharmacist, so please do use their services and help us keep our GPs time for our very sick patients. Pharmacists know when it's important to see a GP, so there's no chance of something important being missed.

### **Patient Participation Group**

This month the patient participation group will be meeting on Thursday October 18th at 6.30pm at the Great Bentley village hall.

**Richard P Miller**  
**Practice Manager**