



After what I think has been the hottest, driest summer I can remember for a long time, we are now fast approaching autumn and we have to get our annual flu vaccination clinics organised.

Flu vaccinations are changing this year. There will be a different type of vaccine provided to patients over age 65 compared to those eligible patients under age 65, which is based on the latest scientific evidence of the new vaccine being much more effective for older patients.

This will make organising flu clinics and administering vaccines opportunistically a little more complex than in previous years however. We've had to order the different vaccines based on the numbers of patients in each age group vaccinated last year, so hopefully this will match this year's needs. It's also as important as ever that our patients get their vaccinations from the surgery rather than elsewhere, to ensure we use our full order and help prevent any financial loss to the surgery.

Not many people know, but we have to order our flu vaccines nearly 1 year in advance. Practices had lots of problems last December/January when conflicting advice was given by NHS England regarding this new vaccine. This caused orders to need to be changed twice! The sole supplier of the new vaccine is already reporting issues affecting delivery dates this coming autumn, which is perhaps not too surprising when they are supplying every single surgery, pharmacy and other provider. To be honest with you all, I'm expecting some problems this flu season which will be outside of our control. I hope I am wrong of course, but I'm not feeling very confident at the moment. I will be keeping a close eye on all communications but I would warn that we may need to make last minute changes to clinics if our vaccine supply is affected. Crossing of fingers is the order of the day...

By having your flu jab, you are not only helping yourself, but you are also helping to protect the overall population from this nasty virus from easily spreading to vulnerable people. Call 01206 250691 NOW to book it!

Check in Screen

We are finding that many people still do not use the automatic check in screen on the wall in front of reception. This may be due to the previous one being temperamental perhaps? We had a brand new one installed about a year ago which is however very reliable and much easier to use. We would like to encourage patients' to use this more as our reception team are getting busier all the time taking up to 4,500 calls every month. You can also use the check in screen to give surgery feedback after your appointment too!

Patient Participation Group

This month the patient participation group will be meeting on Thursday September 20th at 6.30pm at the Great Bentley village hall for the first time since the summer break.

Richard P Miller
Practice Manager