

April 2014 – Surgery Newsletter



As I write this the relentless rain and wind seems to have finally let up battering the UK and I noticed the daffodils in full bloom driving into the village this morning. I 'm sure that we must've had our fair share of rain and we won't see many of the traditional April showers will we?

The partners have asked me to remind patients about the rules for home visits, as these have been increasing a lot lately. This is impacting on appointment availability for all patients and the already huge workload the doctors have to cope with. **Doctors will only visit patients at home if they are genuinely housebound and unable to get to the surgery.** Not having transport is not a reason to request a visit. We cover nearly 20 square miles of countryside and the time taken to visit just one patient often takes a doctor up to an hour. 6 patients could be seen in the surgery in this time, so it really is not fair on other patients if a visit is not necessary. Please think carefully before you request one and do not be disappointed if the on call doctor decides it is not appropriate. If it is necessary we will of course visit as soon as possible.

Following on from last month's newsletter the Government's Care.data project has now been delayed yet again until the autumn. They say this is the final delay which gives you all plenty of time to let us know if you object to your anonymised records being used in this way. On this subject we've been asked to explain this in layman's terms quite a lot in the last few weeks and I think the best explanation I've heard is that if you trust the Health & Social Care Information Commission to make sure this information is looked after then you shouldn't worry, if not then ask us to put a code on your record which will prevent your information being used in this way.

Don't forget that the Patient Participation Group meeting will be on the third Thursday of every month at 6.30pm in the Great Bentley Village Hall. The group needs new members and fresh ideas, so please come along on 17th April!

Richard P Miller – Practice Manager



"Be prepared, stay healthy and enjoy your trip!"

Are you thinking of going abroad for a holiday or maybe volunteering or back packing far away from home? Whatever your plans are, don't forget to visit us **6 to 8 weeks** beforehand for expert advice. You may need a course of vaccinations which can take several weeks to complete to ensure that you have adequate protection. Before coming to see one of our practice nurses, please ensure that you have completed one of our travel forms which you can pick up from reception or download from our website. These help us to assess and plan your vaccination requirements and if you may be at risk of mosquito borne diseases like malaria. We have an up to date price list available on request for vaccinations not covered by the NHS and this information is also available on our website. We are a fully accredited yellow fever centre for both our own patients and the public at large. A travel health consultation also includes plenty of advice including accident prevention, reducing the risk of food, water and blood borne diseases, insect & animal bite prevention and advice about insurance. There are some useful websites you can visit: www.nathnac.org, www.fco.gov.uk and www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk for further information. We look forward to seeing you to help ensure you stay healthy so you can enjoy your holiday!

Sister Bonnie Beard – Practice Nurse