

## **July 2014 – Surgery Newsletter**



I have some exciting news about being one of the first surgeries in Essex to be part of a major new technological development in the way prescriptions are handled in the NHS. From the middle of September, the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) will be coming to Great Bentley. It will significantly streamline the process ensuring that prescriptions get to patients' nominated pharmacies within seconds. There will no longer be hundreds of fiddly bits of paper passed around the practice and the pharmacies each day which means less risk of a prescription being lost. The doctors will still need time to look at and authorise the thousands of requests we receive each month however, so we will still need notice before they will be ready. We are hoping that EPS will reduce the amount of time it takes however.

I think the easy way to think of EPS is thinking of it like a bank account. We credit money to your account; you go to your bank and withdraw your money each month. Your pharmacy is your bank and your prescription is the money. It really is as simple as that!

Some patients who are on regular stable medication use a service called 'repeat dispensing' where they get 6 months' of prescriptions at a time. This is like having a standing order where your account gets credited with 6 months' worth of prescriptions so that you can withdraw 1 each month. If anything changes during the 6 months, the doctor can change it all at the flick of a switch, making it easier for you, the pharmacy and the GP. We will be promoting all these better ways to get your prescriptions over the next few months, so don't worry if you don't understand this right now as we will explain it to everyone properly along the way.

Finally the Patient Participation Group is meeting as every month on the third Thursday which this month is 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

### **Richard P Miller – Practice Manager**

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I too have some exciting news for you this month. Great Bentley Surgery is now accredited as research ready practice and we are now ready to participate in medical research. I will be the research Lead and I have an excellent and robust team of 2 research nurses, a Health care assistant and research administrator. The high quality of medical care we enjoy today is built upon years of effort by physicians and other medical professionals investigating the causes of and potential treatments for disease. Only because of research we are in a better position to investigate, treat and deliver high standard care for patients. Research studies are important because they contribute to knowledge and progress on the treatment of diseases and disorders. Research is the fastest and safest way to find treatments that work. Our first research at the surgery was "Melatool – Q study" and this is a questionnaire based study to measure the prevalence of people at increased risk of melanoma. With association of National Institute of Clinical Research (NICR) we have already recruited 200 patients for this study. We are intending to recruit another 200 patients and we are expecting the research team to complete this low impact study before end of this month. I take this opportunity to thank the patients who have already agreed to participate in this study. Future research studies in pipeline are related to diabetes, COPD and asthma. One day we will beat cancer. The more research we do, the sooner the day will come.

### **Dr Nambi – GP Partner**