

## **June 2015 – Surgery Newsletter**



I hope everybody found last month's newsletter interesting? It was a departure from the norm, but we felt that with the NHS being very high on the political agenda, you all deserved to know a few facts about how general practice is being affected by politics. The newsletter certainly seemed to touch a nerve, as an electronic copy was shared around the country on

Facebook and Twitter many thousands of times and reached over 400,000 people! I am writing this month's newsletter on Election Day, so I still have no clue of the result and if reports are anything to go by, I may still not know who the new government is by the weekend!

### **Named GP**

Moving on from the politics of the Election, from 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 we are required to allocate a named GP to every single patient under the age of 75 (we did a similar exercise last year for over 75s). This has been completed early, but you need to be aware that this will make absolutely no difference to the service we provide you or which doctor deals with your health matters. To be perfectly honest it's an administrative change only and we will not be notifying every patient of their named GP, as this would cost several thousand pounds in postage! You can still see whichever doctor you choose for routine appointments and all related admin will still be dealt with by your usual doctor. The only time you may not be able to choose the doctor you see will be for urgent same day appointments as this is covered by a different on call doctor every day. This is the same as it's always been however.

### **Travel Vaccinations**

We are very close to the holiday season now, so I would like to remind anyone who has plans to go abroad to check now if they need any vaccinations. Many holiday jabs need to have a course completed over weeks rather than days, so please take action now rather than leaving it to the last minute. We have a Travel Health Questionnaire that we need to be completed and returned, so that your needs can be assessed prior to booking any appointments. You can call into the surgery to get a copy, or you can download one from our website on the 'Our Documents' page.

### **A new idea!**

After running out of subjects for guests to write about in these newsletters, we've decided to try something a little different. We will be running a small article on keeping healthy, which will include ways to get exercise (not gym related and more fun!) along with suggestions for keeping healthy in other ways. We aim for it to have a strong bias towards things to do in this area and for free, so that everyone can take part. We are hoping that across the year, there will be something for everyone, and maybe, all of you might find something you really enjoy and will keep up regularly! Watch this space...

### **Patient Participation Group (PPG)**

The week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June is PPG awareness week. We will have members of the committee in the surgery waiting room every morning talking to patients about what the PPG is all about and trying to get more people involved. If you've never come before, please come along at 6.30pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June to the Great Bentley Village Hall and find out more!

**Richard P Miller - Practice Manager**