

## **November 2014 – Surgery Newsletter**



Flu season is well under way at the time of writing (13<sup>th</sup> October) and we've already vaccinated just under 1,350 patients in just two weeks! This is 38% of all those eligible and half way towards the Department of Health's target of 75%. I'm hoping that we'll have met this target by the time you read this, but just in case we haven't and you are eligible but not had your jab yet, please call and book your appointment!

The new Electronic Prescription service is working great. All the local pharmacies are also now promoting this service as they've seen how efficient it is. Remember, you don't need to have or know anything about computers to benefit from this. Just tell a member of staff either here or at your pharmacy that you want to use EPS and they will do this for you straight away. The best thing about this (apart from making everything quicker!) is that we can see exactly where your prescription is and at what stage of the process it's in. No more hunting around for bits of paper!

As some of you may know, Di Woodward who has been with us as Reception Manager for 11 years has recently moved on to pastures new. We gave her a fantastic send off and will all miss her. I think she was on first name terms with most patients! We have been extremely lucky however, to gain Sue Mitson to replace her. Sue comes from another local surgery where she was Practice Manager, so has a wealth of knowledge and experience. I'm sure you'll all get to know her just as well over the years.

Finally the Patient Participation Group (PPG) is meeting for its first **Annual General Meeting** on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. It's important that we have as many patients and members represented as possible, so if you can make it please make a note in your diary!

**Richard P Miller – Practice Manager**

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### **New service for people with life limiting illness**

Across this area a new service has been designed to help co-ordinate the care of people with serious health problems. This service is designed for those with either a terminal illness or an illness that can be life threatening or even for those in advanced age with frailty and deteriorating health. For those facing such challenges it is vital that care is co-ordinated, both within and out of working hours, tailored to the person's preferences.

To help achieve this, a service called Single Point has been developed for North East Essex. People can register on this system via their GP if they agree it is appropriate. Information is collected from the person such as preferences about care, decisions about whether hospital care is acceptable to them and contact details of next of kin. If health care is required at any time of day or night the Single Point service can be contacted directly and the senior nurse who receives the call can manage the problem appropriately to the need.

The register is called 'My care choices' and it is designed to protect choices for those in the most vulnerable health. We hope to see that it improves the quality of care offered across North East Essex, as it has been shown to do when used in other parts of the country. If you think that you or your relative may benefit from this service please contact your GP to discuss it further.

**Dr K Chumbley – GP Partner.**