

## **Abbey Medical Centre**

### **Patient Participation Group – Newsletter November 2024**

#### **Practice Update**

Dr Arthanari left the practice in March 2024. We have been part of Millman Road practice and Dr Aman Bindra of that practice has taken over in Russell Street. We have been using the services of a Physician Associate; however, we now plan to have a Doctor for five days a week, with a regular Doctor on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and a regular Locum on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We currently have approx. 2,400 patients registered. We are part of the Hollybrook Primary Care Network, which includes the Broad Street Walk in Centre and Millman and Kennett surgeries. Collectively we service approx. 30,000 patients and can provide cover 7 days a week.

Appointments can now be made either by calling the surgery. The surgery is manned from 7.45 to 6.30, 5 days a week. Alternatively, appointments can be made online.

#### **Current Issues**

We are currently in the middle of the Flu vaccine season. We have had a good response to the vaccine requests from the over 65s and for young children. However, we would stress the importance for all patients to be vaccinated. Do please contact the surgery.

We have identified 48 patients that qualify for the RSV vaccination. So far, approx. 20 have been vaccinated.

We are also undergoing the Shingles vaccination review. If you qualify, you will be contacted.

We have concluded that it is not cost effective for the practice to provide Covid vaccinations. These are being provided by NHS Direct via the pharmacies.

The practice is currently identifying patients over the age of 39 so that they can be recommended for NHS Nurses health checks. These are specifically to identify potential health risks so that early treatment can be recommended.

A practice pharmacist is available via the Millman Road practice who can assist with medication issues.

We also have the services of a Social Prescriber. They can assist with non medical matters such as benefits and housing as well as mental wellbeing. Please contact the surgery for further information.

We also now do Repeat Dispensing. Under this, those requiring regular medication can have up to six months prescribed in advance for issue by the pharmacy, rather than having to get the prescription issued every month or so. Regular medication reviews are still required.

### **Screening**

We would like to stress the importance of medical screening to identify issues at an early stage so treatment can be provided effectively. The following are particularly important:

Bowel Cancer  
Cervical Cancer  
Breast Cancer

Please ensure that you attend any such screening appointments.

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

We are keen to have new volunteers for this role. It's purpose is to meet twice a year and provide communication from the surgery to the wider patient group to keep them abreast of ongoing issues and services provided as well as keeping them up to date on more general health matters. It involves two meetings a year, including collating a newsletter for issue to the patients via the website and directly at the surgery. If you are interested, do please contact one of the current members or the surgery directly.