

News from Holbrook and Shotley Surgery

Flu clinics

At the time of writing we have had only one of our four flu clinics, which was very well attended with over 350 patients being vaccinated. Last year we had just under 300 patients attend for the first clinic. A few emergencies during the clinic and the additional patients meant that the wait was a little longer than normal, for which we apologise.

Patient Confidentiality

Please note that we can only give information to a relative or friend if we have authorisation from the patient. If we ask to speak to the patient to give us this authorisation, please do not get annoyed with our staff as they are only protecting your medical information. If you wish us to give your information to someone else, please ensure you drop us a line to give us authorisation. This will avoid any issue at a time when perhaps you are unable to give authority.

Thanks from Maggie Leggett

Maggie would like to send her thanks for all the good wishes, cards and gifts she received on her retirement. She's enjoyed her years meeting you all and 'doing her bit' for the surgery and extends her good wishes to you all for the coming years.

Apologies

Our regular drugs supplier had IT issues in September, which meant that no drugs we ordered came through. Our lead dispensers acted quickly to use another company for a few days and to minimise the disruption to our patients but we apologise if you were adversely affected by this.

Training days

Our next training afternoons will be on Thursday 16th November and Wednesday 13th December when we will be shut from 1pm. Please ring 111 for advice if your query cannot wait until the following day. In an emergency, dial 999.

Antibiotic Prescribing

Antibiotics don't work in up to 90% of sore throats. Don't worry if your sore throat lasts for up to a week – that's perfectly normal. Rather than asking the doctor for an antibiotic, ask a pharmacist about treatments to relieve sore throat symptoms. That way you're helping to stop antibiotic resistance – so antibiotics work when you really need them.

Julia Smith
Practice Manager