

News from Holbrook and Shotley Surgery

Training days

Our next training afternoons will be on Thursday 24th May and Thursday 28th June. The practice will be open for patients to come in to collect/drop off prescriptions and book appointments/make enquiries at reception. However, there will be no clinical staff on site and our telephone lines will be switched over to the out of hours' service on these afternoons to allow staff training. Please ring 111 for advice if your query cannot wait until the following day. In an emergency, dial 999.

Car parks

Please take care when entering and exiting our car parks as we have had a few incidents reported where cars have been driving too fast. We have also had a couple of reports of cars being damaged but no details have been given to reception. Cars parked in the surgery car parks are done so at the owner's risk.

Changes to long term condition checks

We have made some changes to the way we monitor your long term conditions. All checks will now be annual including those for diabetics. For patients with diabetes we will call you in to see the nurse once a year and after your appointment you will be phoned by our Diabetes Nurse Specialist with the results of your blood test to discuss and changes to your treatment plan. You will then be advised when your next blood tests will be due (normally after six months) and you will just need to attend for the blood test. Again the Diabetes Nurse Specialist will telephone you with your treatment plan.

Medication Reviews

Our clinicians are legally obliged to monitor your medications on a regular basis. For patients on 4+ medications this is every six months, for those on less than 4 medications, this is annually. If your health and medication is not monitored we are not able to prescribe this safely to you so please help us to help you and book your appointment when asked to. You may need to have a long term condition check with the nurse, as above, but many of the medication checks we can do by telephone. Please check with reception to see what is needed.

Pneumococcal and Shingles Vaccinations

We are now able to give these vaccinations throughout the year instead of just during our flu season.

The pneumococcal vaccination is offered routinely to patients aged 65 and over and only one vaccination is given for life. You will need to decline this each year if you do not wish to have it. The shingles vaccination is offered routinely to patients aged 70 and over and again this is only needed once.

Both vaccinations greatly reduce the effects of these illnesses, which can be incredibly serious and painful. We will contact you the month after your 65th or 70th birthday, as appropriate, so please look out for your letter and book your appointment with reception.

Julia Smith
Practice Manager
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