

Wargrave Patient Participation Group Newsletter

*The Patient Participation Group exists
to strengthen communications between patients and the surgery,
delivering positive health outcomes for the local community*

This month the PPG would like to provide a brief update on the Covid vaccination program and also news of more seminars we have planned for this year.

Covid Vaccinations

We are pleased to report that, as at time of writing (31 May) Wargrave surgery has carried out in excess of 10,000 vaccinations. Local supplies of both Pfizer and Astra Zeneca have been very good throughout the month of May and groups vaccinated include police and fire brigade. Most rough sleepers in surrounding areas of Wokingham, Newbury and Reading have also received the vaccine. Patients in their 20s have now been invited to come forward for their first jab – uptake so far has been lower than previous groups and we would encourage youngsters in our communities to come forward when they are contacted. The PPG has produced a poster to encourage uptake and you will no doubt see this in various locations throughout the coming weeks.

There is also some talk of vaccinating within schools and Dr. Jim is looking at the possibility of a trial at the Piggott School.

Communications and Patient Feedback

This last year has been difficult – both for patients and for the team at the practice. The doctors are aware that some people find new procedures, such as telephone appointments, difficult to adjust to and confusing. And there has been some feedback regarding not being able to see a doctor in person. However, the surgery is interacting with well above the national average number of patients per day and, despite very positive feedback overall, there is always room for improvement. With this in mind the practice is hoping to create a ‘roadmap’ to help everyone understand the process of contacting the surgery and getting appointments. More of this in our next newsletter.

Seminars

Dr Dan Alton delivered a presentation on 25th May outlining how the NHS is planning for a future where the emphasis is on prevention of many conditions – in other words proactive rather than reactive healthcare. He explained how this national initiative is already in practice locally – targeting at risk groups within local communities. If you missed it and would like to catch up on this very

interesting topic, please email lisa@pursuitnha.com to receive a recording of the presentation.

The PPG is planning two, possibly three more seminars this year. The next will be in late July to be lead by our newest GP, Doctor Faye Hext - more of this in our next newsletter. And we are very pleased that Hugh Whitfield, Consultant Urological Surgeon, has agreed to give a talk on Men's Health Issues in October. We very much hope this will be 'in person' rather than on Zoom.

Meantime ***The Bell Surgery*** in Henley is delivering a Zoom presentation about ***Ovarian Cancer*** on 22 June between 6 and 7.15pm.

In England 33% of women are diagnosed with early stage ovarian cancer. The presentation will cover early diagnosis, symptoms, common pitfalls and diagnostic delays and opportunities to improve diagnosis in primary care. There will also be the opportunity to ask questions.

To book your place, please contact Janet Waters, PPG Chair at jwatersassociates@btinternet.com or on 07730 468561.