



## Swallowfield Medical Practice

### Winter Newsletter 2022

#### Covid & Influenza Vaccinations

If you believe you are due a Covid vaccination and we have not yet contacted you, please call and let us know. If we can contact patients by mobile phone and have their permission to send SMS messages, then this is the usual way for us to contact you. We will also phone you; we can email and as a last resort we will send you a letter. As with previous Covid vaccines, we have no control over the number or make of vaccines that we receive but if in doubt, check us out.

We have both type of Influenza vaccines available (for those under 65 and over 65 years of age). We are running an additional catch-up clinic on the morning of Sat 10th December in the surgery for pre-booked appointments only. Again, if you believe you should have had your vaccination, please do not hesitate to let us know.

#### Building Work

We are currently in the process of having another Treatment Room built at the surgery to assist us in seeing more patients. For the short term however, this has a negative effect as we have had to close off our main treatment room, therefore two of our nurses will be working out of our Shinfield site on daily basis. Please can we ask for your patience whilst this work takes place as it is likely that our main surgery may have noise, rubble and dust which may cause some disruption.

#### Buzzers for Patients

If you have asked for or been given a buzzer when attending for an appointment and you **DO NOT have a car**, please let a member of the reception team know. Buzzers are used for those patients who believe, or we believe may have an infectious condition such as Covid. They are also used by and available for use by patients who are at high risk of infection (patients on cancer treatment for example). If you don't have a car but need a buzzer, please let us know. Some patients have fed

back that they have been outside with their buzzer, but waiting in the carpark in the elements, which is not what we want. If you have no car, we need to know so we can find you somewhere to wait for your appointment without risk to yourself or any other patient in the waiting room.

## **Staffing Update**

Dr Whittaker is now on Maternity Leave; we wish her well and look forward to her return next year. We are pleased to confirm that from January 2023 Dr Ghaffar will be increasing the number of days he works with us: he will be working all day Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday going forward. From February 2023 Dr Bates will be our GP Trainer, which means that we will have GP Trainees working with us. Our first trainee is a female doctor, due to start in February 2023 and who is currently an ST3. A ST3 doctor has completed a minimum of ten years training, working as a doctor, and is now in their specialist training period. She is currently working with a practice in Hampshire, and we are sure she will be a valuable addition to our team.

## **Ear Wax Removal**

Due to changes within the NHS, we are no longer able to refer patients for Ear Syringing. Whilst we also cannot recommend services, we have been made aware of a local clinician who is qualified in Micro suction techniques. This clinician can carry out home visits to those patients who are unable to travel to the clinic and whilst the service is not on the NHS, we have been assured the charges are very competitive.

Well, that's about it for now.

I don't think any of us can believe how fast this year has flown by. We hope this newsletter finds you all in the best of health and keeping safe and warm.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

**From  
the whole team at Swallowfield Medical Practice**