

NHS Update - March 2010

NHS continues to encourage vaccination as NPFS stands down

Wiltshire's Director of Public Health, Maggie Rae, is calling for people who have been invited for a vaccination against Swine Flu to take up the offer.

The National Pandemic Flu Service (NPFS) stood down on 11 February 2010, seven months after it was launched at the height of the first wave of the pandemic. From this date the online and phone self-care service stopped. People with suspected swine flu should stay at home and contact their GP who will be able to authorise antivirals as appropriate.

Wiltshire welcomes the Electronic Prescription Service

Every working day in England, 1.5 million paper prescriptions are issued by doctors and health professionals – and of these, about seven out of 10 are repeat prescriptions.

To handle this number more efficiently, the NHS is introducing the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) nationwide, meaning that having to call into your GP practice and fill out a form every time you need to order a repeat prescription will become a thing of the past. The new service will let your GP practice send your prescription electronically, direct to the place you choose to pick up your medication, without the need for paper. This means there is less need for people with repeat prescriptions to call into their GP practice in order just to collect the prescription form.

With EPS, a person will be able to 'nominate' the pharmacy or dispensing practice of their choice rather than the one which the GP uses. For example, you could choose to nominate a place that is convenient to where you live, work or shop – the prescription will be sent electronically by your GP and you simply show some identification and pick up the medication, without having to collect the paper prescription on the way.

Information leaflets about EPS will begin to be distributed with medicine bags through pharmacies shortly, so that people are ready for the change.

NHS Wiltshire smashes target as NHS dental places soar

NHS Wiltshire has smashed its 10% target for increasing NHS dentistry this year, achieving a 22.9% rise in the number of Units of Dental Activity (UDAs) – a total of 126,730. This means that, by the end of this financial year, around 43,000 extra patients will have been seen by an NHS dentist. The figures appear in statistics just released by the Department of Health.

Wiltshire's pioneering Neighbourhood Teams ahead of the game as Government announces more care at home

Wiltshire patients in the care of the county's 11 Neighbourhood Teams continue to report high levels of satisfaction in the second annual survey carried out by NHS Wiltshire. The results of the survey come as the Health Secretary, Andy Burnham, sets out measures to shape NHS services around individual patients.

The Neighbourhood Teams, which were introduced in Wiltshire in 2007, were among the first in the country to bring nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and others together to provide seamless, high-quality and holistic care for patients in their own homes.

Patients were surveyed in October 2009 and give the teams a ringing endorsement. When asked "how would you rate the quality of care you have been provided with by the team?", 86% of the responses scored "very good" and 13% scored "good" with 1% as "fair". 96% of patients found that the timing and frequency of visits met their needs. Responses were backed up with comments, all of which were positive.

Healthier weight in Wiltshire

Recent figures published in the Health survey for England reveal that Wiltshire children are far more likely to have a healthy weight at the age of 11 compared to children in the South West region and the rest of England, and the numbers of Year 6 children in Wiltshire who are overweight or obese is also lower than the rest of the country.

Health & Wellbeing Fairs

NHS Wiltshire and Wiltshire Council are working together to deliver a series of Health & Wellbeing Fairs across the county, to highlight the particular health issues for each of the community areas. The Fairs will give local people an opportunity to speak to health and wellbeing professionals, take some basic health and fitness tests and learn about healthy lifestyles. This will be followed by a workshop that looks more closely at the health needs of the community in order for Area Boards, Partnerships and other local groups to identify priorities to help improve the health and well being of the community.

Please contact your local Community Area Manager for details of the event in your area.
jo.howes@wiltshire.nhs.uk

The next Board meeting will be held on **24 March 2010, in the Conference Room at Southgate House, Devizes**

Papers are published a week before the meeting on www.wiltshire.nhs.uk or on request from Maggie Goodman, NHS Wiltshire (tel: 01380 733827, email: maggie.goodman@wiltshire.nhs.uk)

For further information or copies of documents referred to above, please contact Jo Howes, Community Engagement Manager, 01380 733929 or jo.howes@wiltshire.nhs.uk