

NHS Update – November 2010

Re-appointment of NHS Wiltshire Chair

Tony Barron has been re-appointed to serve as Chair on the PCT board from 1 January 2011 until 31 December 2014. The appointment has been made in accordance with the OPCA Code of Practice.

Comprehensive Spending Review

Everyone working in the NHS is acutely aware of the need to make our budgets go further in the future. Nationally, the NHS is required to make £20bn savings per annum over the next three years, and the money will be reinvested back into patient care. We are working closely with our local partners to think carefully about how we can play our part in that process by delivering care differently in the years ahead so that we can reduce costs and improve quality.

Consultation Documents

The Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley, has published two further consultation documents seeking views on proposals set out in the White Paper, *Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS*

“Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control – A consultation on proposals” and “Liberating the NHS: An Information Revolution - A consultation on proposals”. The documents are available electronically at www.dh.gov.uk/liberatingtheNHS

“Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control – A consultation on proposals” envisage choice of treatment and healthcare provider becoming the reality in the vast majority of NHS funded services by no later than 2013-14.

The second consultation “*Liberating the NHS: An Information Revolution - A consultation on proposals*” is about transforming the way information is, collected, analysed controlled and used in NHS and adult social care services.

These consultations are opportunities to seek the views of patients, the wider public and the NHS, about the challenges that lie ahead, how we can successfully address them, and how we best take forward the choice and information commitments.

The consultation period for both documents will close on 14 January 2011 and we encourage anyone interested to contribute.

Staying healthy this winter

The NHS is gearing up for its busiest season of the year. Common viruses such as flu and the ‘winter vomiting’ bug, norovirus, often take hold just as the cold weather starts to bite, causing extra challenges to our health services. One of the

biggest problems is keeping viruses from spreading, and NHS Wiltshire is asking people who may be infectious to **stay at home and use the phone**.

Flu vaccinations

GP practices around the county have started running flu vaccination clinics. This year the vaccine contains protection against H1N1 (no longer considered a pandemic, but one of this season's predominant strains of flu) as well as other strains of the virus. One simple injection should provide complete protection, and we're urging anyone who hasn't already been vaccinated to contact their GP.

Norovirus – stopping the spread

The 'winter vomiting bug' Norovirus caused serious disruption in hospitals across the southwest last winter, and NHS Wiltshire, together with our hospital colleagues, is urging everyone to play their part in preventing the spread of this distressing illness as this year's winter season looms.

We are all asking anyone who has had vomiting or diarrhoea in the last 48 hours not to visit friends or relatives in hospital or in a care home.

If you do have diarrhoea and/or vomiting, the advice is also to ring your GP's surgery if you have any concerns – and NOT to go to the surgery. The triage nurse or GP on call can tell you over the phone if you need to be seen – in cases where the patient is a child, for instance, or has another medical condition that could lead to vomiting – and this will avoid bugs spreading through busy waiting rooms.

Apart from hospitals, schools are one of the main breeding-grounds for vomiting and other bugs. If your child vomits or has diarrhoea, it is vital to keep them away from school for a full 24 hours from the last attack.

Finally, as norovirus is extremely infectious, keeping hard surfaces clean and washing hands thoroughly is very important. More detail on norovirus is available from the [Health Protection Agency](#).

NHS Stop Smoking Walk-in Clinic for Devizes

NHS Wiltshire have opened a new Stop Smoking Walk-in Clinic in Devizes in order to meet the increasing demand for people wanting to quit.

The Devizes Stop Smoking Clinic will run as a "walk-in" clinic every Tuesday between 1.30pm and 3pm in the Outpatients Clinic at Devizes Hospital.

There is no need for people to make an appointment, people can simply call in, and they will be seen by a Specialist NHS Advisor.

Win for Wiltshire in health awards

NHS Wiltshire's Head of Primary Care, Jo Cullen has won a regional award for leading the team which brought about a new, single out-of-hours GP service for the whole of Wiltshire.

Beds have reopened at Savernake Hospital

All 24 inpatient beds at Savernake Hospital have re-opened.

The Annual General Meeting and Board meeting of NHS Wiltshire will be held on Wednesday 17 November at 10am - **2010 at Southgate House**. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Papers are published a week before the meeting on www.wiltshire.nhs.uk or on request from Stacey Saunders, NHS Wiltshire (tel: 01380 733839, email: stacey.saunders@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