

NHS Update – March 2012

Are you looking for an NHS dentist?

It's a lot easier to see an NHS dentist than you might think. In fact, there are lots of NHS dentists throughout Wiltshire who are taking on new NHS patients now, and it's very simple to make an appointment. Call the NHS Wiltshire Dental Helpline number for more information: **0845 7581926** or go to: www.nhs.uk

Bladder and kidney cancer awareness campaign launches

Bladder and kidney cancer kill more than 7,000 people in England every year - that's 20 people every day, or almost one person every hour. But cancer experts believe that with earlier diagnosis 1,000 lives could be saved each year if patients recognised the possible symptoms and visited their GP straight away.

In Bristol, Bath, North Somerset, Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, Primary Care Trusts have received a £245,000 investment from the Department of Health to raise awareness of the symptoms of bladder and kidney cancer and more importantly, to take action if people have them. The campaign is called "Blood in your pee?" and posters and leaflets will be sent to all GP surgeries to raise awareness of symptoms and to encourage people to speak to their doctor.

In Wiltshire, mortality rates from both kidney and bladder cancer are very similar to those for England as a whole, with four deaths from kidney cancer per 100,000 population in 2007-9, and five deaths from bladder cancer per 100,000 population over the same period. The number of deaths in Wiltshire could be reduced if people identify and act on the signs of bladder and kidney cancer, and get an early diagnosis.

The most common symptom of both bladder and kidney cancer is blood in the urine, which is not necessarily painful and can come and go. Anyone who notices they are passing blood in their urine should contact their GP. Other symptoms of bladder cancer include the need to pass urine very often and / or very suddenly, and pain when passing urine. Other symptoms of kidney cancer can include painful spasms in the ureters or the bladder caused by blood clots, a lump in the area of the kidney, a dull pain in the side and a persistently high temperature, which can include night sweats, tiredness and weight loss. If people are experiencing any of these symptoms they should see their doctor.

Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on 28 March 2012 at Dorothy House, Winsley, Bradford on Avon, BA15 2LE. 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 please email communications@wiltshire.nhs.uk