

Barn Close Surgery Newsletter

38-40 High Street, Broadway, Worcestershire, WR12 7DT

Tel: 01386 853651 Website: www.barnclose.co.uk



Issue September 2020

The NHS requires medical practices in the UK to have a Patient Participation Group attached to their practice. Such groups are made up of patients who volunteer to serve on the PPG committee. They are in effect 'Friends of the practice'. Their role is to help and support the practice.

Guide to NHS Services

NHS Choices: NHS Choices provides comprehensive health information, helping you to make the best choices about your health and lifestyle: www.nhs.uk

NHS 111: If you need medical help fast but it's not a life-threatening situation, you can call the NHS 111 number. You can call 111 any time of the day, any day of the year. The call is free from landlines and mobiles.

Pharmacies: - As well as dispensing prescriptions, pharmacists provide a range of services and can give 'on the spot' help and advice on minor ailments such as: coughs, cold or flu; skin conditions; allergies; aches and pains; indigestion; diarrhoea; help losing weight or giving up smoking. To find your nearest pharmacy visit: www.nhs.uk
Due to the Covid19 Pandemic the Improved Access Appointment System is not operating. Hopefully it will resume when things return to "normal". We will keep you informed.

COLLECTION OF MEDICATION/PRESSCRIPTIONS

Patients can collect their medication or prescription at the rear of the surgery building which is clearly signposted. Please maintain social distancing while waiting.

Opening hours are Monday to Friday as follows:

10.00am – 1.00pm - 2.00pm – 6.00pm

Annual Influenza Injections

The arrangements for the 'flu injections are slightly different this year because of Covid-19.

THREE sessions will take place at The Lifford Hall in Broadway and there will be very limited home vaccinations ie: for those who are physically housebound NOT for persons shielding.

The first session will be on Friday September 25th and this is **strictly limited** to patients who are in the **shielded group**. If you are in this group you should have received a letter giving you your appointment time.

There are two other sessions for non-shielded patients, they are Saturday September 26th and Saturday October 10th, however the first 30 minutes at the start of these clinics have been allocated to 'shielded' patients who are unable to attend their initial date/time on the 25th September. Bookings appointments for these dates opened on August 10th. Please attend as close as possible to your appointment time in order to maintain social distancing.

When you attend for your injection :-

- you should enter the building by the **front** entrance
- you will be **met** and **directed** to the **correct clinician** depending on your age (under 65 or over 65) and your surname
- you **must** wear a face mask or some form of face covering
- you should come **alone** unless it is absolutely necessary to have someone to assist you
- please wear clothing with short sleeves and remove coats or other layers when entering the building.
- you will then be asked to **leave** the building via the **rear exit** into the car park thus maintaining a one way system

Please contact the surgery if you do not wish to have a 'flu injection so your records can be updated.

Flu Communication for Midlands GP Practices

The following information was sent to all GP Practices in the Midlands on August 20th 2020 by **National Health Service England**:

Please note people in the **50-64-year old age group will not be vaccinated until November and December**, providing there is sufficient vaccine. No appointments will be offered for this age group until then. This is to ensure that those who are most at risk are vaccinated first.

Those who are 50-64 and are in one of the other groups which is eligible for the flu vaccination, for example with a health condition which puts them at risk from the flu, should be invited earlier.

Doctors

Dr N Townshend	(m)
Dr E Billings	(f)
Dr J Hughes	(m)
Dr C Nyenyenzi	(f)
Dr L Clare	(f)
Dr S Bourns	(f)

Meet the Doctor – Dr. Sarah Bourns

I started at Barn Close Surgery in January.

It has been challenging with the Covid-19-related changes to the way we work, but I have been made to feel very welcome by the wonderful Barn Close team, and by many of our patients. I'm looking forward to things settling down and to working in the new building!

I completed my GP training in Gloucestershire, and worked at my old training practice in Cheltenham for just over 2 years before deciding that I wanted a more full time job and was recommended to apply for the job at Barn Close.

I have a broad background of experience and interests, but I have a particular interest in dermatology.

I completed the Cardiff university dermatology diploma last year and am hoping to continue developing my skills in dermatology and one day minor surgery.

PPG Members:

Chair & Secretary - Marion Davies
Hazel Bartlett
Derek Gibbons

Vice Chair - Margaret Harrington
Sue Stephenson

Practice Manager - Jean Taylor
Terry Waldron

Accessibility

If you require

This newsletter in an alternative format, please contact

Practice Manager
jean.taylor13@nhs.net

Age Concern

The new times for Age Concern Surgeries at the Signpost Broadway Offices will now be:

1st and 3rd Mondays
of each month from
10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Recycling Inhalers

You can recycle your inhalers when they are empty at Boots and Morrisons.

Would you like to be notified when a new edition of this Newsletter is published?

If so, please sign up at:
www.barnclose.co.uk
Just click on 'Newsletter Sign Up'. It is on the home page towards the bottom.

Covid-19

Barn Close Surgery remains affected by the current Covid-19 Pandemic. We are operating as a "Blue" site for telephone and video consultations and an "Amber" site for face-to-face consultations if clinically necessary.

Despite the "opening up" of other elements of society, General Practice is following NHS England Guidance. We are a "high risk" site due to the potential spread of Covid-19 by unwell patients.

The NHS wants General Practice to continue to operate a system of "Total Triage" with phone and video consultations. This means you will be offered a face to face GP consultation only if the GP speaking to you feels that it is necessary and only if seeing you face to face will change the clinical management. This is likely to be in place for the near future.

We obviously would prefer to see all patients face to face, but we have to abide by the rules.

Barn Close is an Amber zone for face-to-face consultations for non-respiratory or cardiac conditions. Appointments are limited due to the need for reducing face-to-face consultations and social distancing requirements. If it is felt that you would benefit from a face-to-face consultation we will give you strict instructions about how and where to attend.

Our Red zone (for possible Covid-19 patients) is currently operating at the Riverside Surgery in Evesham. We will advise you whether you need to attend the Red zone on the basis of your presenting condition.

We are still here to deal with all your medical problems so please contact us as normal if you need medical care.

Bowel Cancer Screening

- About one in 20 people in the UK will develop bowel cancer during their lifetime.
- It is the third most common cancer in the UK
- Regular bowel cancer screening has been shown to reduce the risk of dying from this by 16%.

At present men and women aged 60 to 74 are offered screening every 2 years.

However the risk of bowel cancer rises steeply from around age 50 to 54 and rates are significantly higher among males than females. Evidence shows that screening people at a younger age would enable more bowel cancers to be picked up at an earlier stage, where treatment is likely to be more effective and survival chances improved. Starting screening ten years earlier at 50 will help spot more abnormalities at an early stage that could develop into bowel cancer if not detected.

It has been recommended that this screening should be extended to people aged 50 to 74 using the faecal immunochemical home test kit (FIT). FIT is a new test due to be rolled out into the national bowel screening programme in the autumn and will initially be offered every 2 years to men and women at the current age range of 60 to 74. FIT is easier to use than the current test and is more accurate in detecting potential cancers.

The current test involved taking several samples over a several days but the new test only involves taking one sample. It is simple to do and done in the privacy of your own bathroom so no embarrassment!

So if you are in the 60 to 74 age group, do not be surprised if a different test lands on your doorstep and if you are younger expect to be involved in this testing in the near future.

IMPORTANT UPDATE ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This is the last Surgery Newsletter that will be delivered to all households in Broadway. The Newsletter will still be produced and paper copies will be available at the Surgery when you collect your medication and hopefully some other venues depending on if/when they re-open.

However, the most convenient way to access the Newsletter is on the Barn Close Surgery Website. – <http://www.barnclose.co.uk> Scroll down to Newsletter Sign Up, left click on it and you will be directed to enter your details. When you do this you will be notified when a new Newsletter is published.

To read the Newsletter - go to the Surgery Website and scroll right down to until you get to "Barn Close Surgery Newsletter" in large grey letters. Left click on this and a list of newsletters will come up on the left hand side.

NHS Prescription Charges – How to Save Money

At the bottom of this page is information on NHS prescription charges including the Prescription Prepayment Certificate.

This costs £29.65 for three months or £105.90 for twelve months which is also payable, at no extra cost, over 10 monthly installments by direct debit.

This means that if you are regularly prescribed just one item per month you will be saving money and the certificate allows you to have as many items prescribed in the life of the certificate as your doctor wishes – there is no upper limit. You can also order a certificate by phone and it will be valid from that day, useful if you suddenly get a large multi-item prescription!

There are no restrictions on which medicines your doctor can prescribe for you and still be covered by the certificate.

So, for example, if you get two items per month on a regular basis and two more one-offs throughout the year you will save £130.

Surgery Opening Times

Mon to Fri 8.00am – 6.30pm

Appointment Line:

8.30am-1pm & 2pm - 5.30pm

Weekends: Closed

Dispensary: 8.45am–1.00pm
2.00pm –6.30pm

Surgery Contact Details

Main Line 01386 853651

Fax 01386 853982

Out of Hours 111

District Nurses 0300 123 7593
(now part of the Neighbourhood Team)

NHS Prescription Prepayment

A prescription costs £9.15 per item – but prepayment costs:

£29.65 for 3 months – card payment

£105.90 for 12 months – card or Direct Debit
(10 monthly payments of £10.59)

www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/help-nhs-prescription-costs/prescription-prepayment-certificates