Pencester Surgery

Patient Participation Group Meeting

Tuesday 5th March 2024

Minutes

Those present: Julie Hooper [Practice Manager], Michele Goodwin [Reception Supervisor], Julie Willis [Prescribing Nurse], Mike West [Chairman], Geraldine Butchers and Georgette Rapley.

1. There were no apologies for absence.
2. The minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed.
3. Flu vaccinations – sufficient to meet all requirements. We have now finished our flu campaign for this year. The order for flu vaccinations is done a year before the clinics take place so it is very much a guessing game as to how many we are going to need. Our vaccinations for the over 65 year olds have now all been used but we still have a small stock of vaccinations for those under 65 years old. The chemists always receive their vaccinations a few weeks before we do so it remains an ongoing issue that, although the clinics are organised well in advance, we will still lose patients to be vaccinated elsewhere.
4. Covid vaccinations. The winter booster clinics finished ahead of schedule at the end of November. We have now been notified that the spring booster clinics will commence on the 15th of April. These will again be held every Saturday but there is a possibility that they will also be on every Sunday.
5. Jess’s Law. This is legislation calling for a patient’s case to be elevated for review after the third contact with their GP surgery about a condition or symptom. We discussed that our patients have the option of seeking a second opinion from an alternative GP as we now have six partners. We also have two prescribing nurses and a nurse practitioner for further advice. Patients registered with a single handed practice would be disadvantaged and not have this option.
6. AOB
* Pharmacy first. Patients can now get treatment for seven common conditions directly from their local pharmacy, without the need for a GP appointment or prescription. The pharmacy First scheme was launched by the government and NHS England on the 31st January 2024 to give patients quick and accessible care and ease pressure on GP services.
* Pencester Surgery patients now have the option of being seen at Sandgate Road Surgery in Folkestone in the Winter Pressure Clinic. The improved access clinic at Buckland Hospital is still running and is nurse led.
* The role of a Physician’s assistant was discussed and the fact that patients should be made aware that they are not seeing a GP.
* Next meeting Tuesday 9th July at 2.30pm