

CROWN STREET SURGERY

AUTUMN 2013

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NEXT PATIENT GROUP MEETING—TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER AT 7.00 PM
ALL WELCOME

Flu clinics

It's that time of year again! We recommend the annual flu vaccination for all patients aged over 65 plus those under 65 who suffer from the following conditions:

Diabetes, Heart disease, Stroke, Kidney or Liver disease, Chronic lung disease, Cancer, Immuno-deficiency (HIV, or spleen removed),

Asthma if you take regularly inhaled steroids.

If you are **pregnant** or a **registered carer**, you are also entitled to the vaccination.

This year all clinics will be **pre-bookable**.

Sat 5th October (for working patients) 9.00-11.30

Tuesday mornings throughout Oct-Nov 8.30-12.00



NHS health checks

Everyone is at risk of developing heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease and some forms of dementia. The good news is that these conditions can often be prevented, even if you have a family history of them. NHS Health Check can help you by assessing your risk of developing these health problems and giving you advice on how to reduce it. The NHS Health Check is for adults in England between the ages of 40 and 74 who have not had a check in the last 5 years. You may have received an invite from the surgery via text or phone over the past few weeks and we encourage all patients who are invited to attend. If you would like to have a health check please speak to reception who will book an appointment for you.

MATT



Your health is so good, you could even survive a brief stay in hospital!

Shingles vaccination programme

GP surgeries across the UK will begin to offer vaccination against the varicella zoster virus to around 800,000 adults aged 70 and 79 across the UK.

The nationwide campaign aims to vaccinate all 70 and 79-year-olds against the disease. 71-78-year-olds will be invited a little later.

Shingles can be a nasty disease for older people and can lead to long-term health problems for around 14,000 people each year. This new vaccine can prevent some of the most serious cases, giving people the chance to live without the discomfort and pain that shingles causes.

If you are aged either 70 years old or 79 years old please speak to reception who will book you an appointment with the nurse.

Practice News

Dr Shah will be commencing her maternity leave in mid October, her clinics will be covered by Dr Rachna Savani. Dr Choi is also expecting a baby and will be taking maternity leave from mid January.

On the reception team we welcome Iman, a gap year student who is applying to study medicine in London next year.

Sharing of Personal Medical Information

Information about you and the care you receive is shared, in a secure system, by healthcare staff to support your treatment and care. The NHS needs this information to plan and improve services for all patients. Being able to link information from different places care is received such as GP, hospital and community services helps provide a full picture. Information such as postcode, NHS number (but not name) will be used to link records in a secure system so your identity is protected. Information which does not reveal your identity can then be used by others, such as researchers and those planning health services to provide the best possible care for everyone. How information is used and shared is controlled by law and strict rules are in place to protect your privacy.

Benefits of sharing information

- Find effective ways of preventing, treating and managing illness;
- Guide local decisions about changes that respond to needs of local patients;
- Support public health by anticipating risks of particular illnesses and conditions, and help us to take action to prevent problems;
- Improve the public's understanding of the outcomes of care, giving them confidence in health and care services; and Guide decisions about how to manage NHS resources fairly so that they can best support the treatment and management of illness for the benefit of patients.

Only the minimum amount of information will be used to help improve services and patient care. The way information is used will always be in line with the law, national guidance and best practice. Reports published will never identify a particular person.

Do I have a choice?

Yes, you have a right to prevent information about you from being shared or used for any purpose other than providing your care, except in special circumstances. *If you do not want information about you to be shared outside your GP practice, ask your practice to make a note of this in your medical records.*

If you are happy for your information to be shared, you do not need to do anything. If you have concerns or are not happy for your information to be shared, speak to your practice.

You can get more information about this from the practice or at www.nhs.uk/caredata

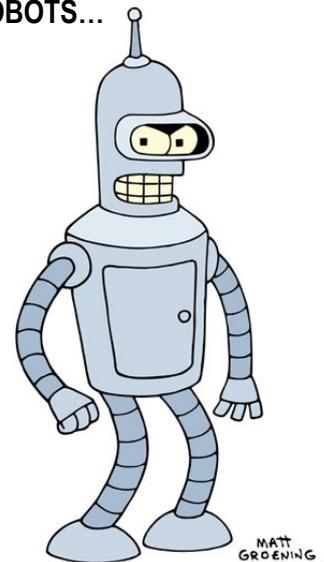
Further government spending cuts and how it affects you

In the latest news on NHS spending cuts, new government initiatives are attempting to save £1.5 billion by using NHS money more smartly and more efficiently. In doing this the government is considering hundreds of small ideas that can cumulatively eliminate waste, a major focus is on prescription medicine. In general practice the government aim is to switch suitable patients from brand name drugs to their generic alternative.

Over the past few weeks prescribing advisors from the CCG have visited practices and performed audits on GP prescribing. We have had auditors visit Crown Street over the past weeks and they will continue to do so over the coming months. Patients may notice when they collect their prescription that the medicine may look different and there may be a different name on the label. This is a result of the prescribing advisors switching many brand name drugs to a generic alternative. Generic alternatives always contain the same active ingredient as the medicine previously used. Generic drugs are usually cheaper because there are fewer research and development costs, but they go through the same detailed safety and quality requirements. GPs are encouraged to prescribe medicines by their generic name. This is because generic medicines are usually as effective as the branded versions, but can cost up to 80% less. This frees up NHS resources to pay for other treatments. It also gives the pharmacist the widest choice of products to dispense.

In America, where patients pay for their own healthcare, studies show that many people actively seek to buy the generic alternative rather than the brand name drug. This is because brand name drugs cost on average over three times more than their generic counterparts. While the doctors at Crown St understand and sympathise with our patients who may not be happy with the drug switches we encourage patients to consider the enormous price difference between some drug brands. We also urge patients to consider what they would do if they had to cover the cost of the medicines themselves. The long-term goal here is to help keep the NHS afloat so that in the future a healthcare system purely funded by the patient does not become a reality in Britain.

**PLEASE BE WARNED THAT
DUE TO A SHORTAGE OF
ROBOTS...**



**SOME OF OUR STAFF ARE
HUMAN AND MAY REACT
UNPREDICTABLY WHEN ABUSED**