

LAPAL MEDICAL PRACTICE

AUTUMN/WINTER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Emergency Treatment Centre

Work on Dudley's £2.6 million Emergency Treatment Centre has started at Russells Hall Hospital, ready to open in November this year. The brand new purpose built centre, developed in partnership with Dudley CCG, will house urgent care services. It will be right next to our existing Emergency Department, giving patients an improved single point of access and one stop shop for urgent and emergency treatment. Having the two services side-by-side means patients won't have as far to go for non-emergency care and staff will be able to work even more closely together to provide a seamless service. The new building will house a new urgent care waiting area, eight urgent treatment rooms, as well as a new Emergency Department waiting area. Paul Bytheway, Chief Operating Officer at The Dudley Group, said, "This new facility is fantastic news for Dudley, as better assessment by appropriate clinicians and less pressure on A&E supports reduced waiting times and a better experience for patients."

While the building work is underway, there will be some temporary changes to the way patients access the Emergency Department. Patients will still receive the same high quality service, but will come via a temporary waiting area to the right hand side of our existing emergency entrance.

A new drop off zone will be created outside the temporary building and visitors will then park in the main visitor car park which has been adapted with a new pedestrian walkway to allow better access.

Prescribing Policy Changes

In the last few years DHA has been encouraging patients who require medication for minor ailments to visit Pharmacy First, where a experienced pharmacist would advise you on the most suitable drug for your condition

Following a public consultation in Dudley a decision was made to stop prescribing medicines for short term, minor conditions or where there is no clear health benefit for patients on 1st August, 2017. In Dudley we spend around £2 million per year on widely available, over the counter medicines, and GPs spend an average of £5,000 every single day seeing patients who could be treated with remedies bought from a pharmacy, supermarket or shop.

Pharmacy First

Enables patients to access a free medical service at a pharmacy without visiting a doctor for minor ailments. Individuals may avail themselves 3 times a year and must have their NHS no. with them. Local pharmacies that have signed up to the service are: **Murrays Pharmacy, Halesowen Road**

Drugs that are listed for this service may be found on website www.dudleyccg.nhs.uk/prescribing

£5,000 ...the amount spent every day seeing patients who have minor ailments that could be treated with remedies brought from a pharmacy, supermarket or shop

Thank You for helping Your NHS

Changes to the Prescribing of Medicines in Dudley

NHS Dudley
Clinical Commissioning Group

For more information:
 01384 322777
www.dudleyccg.nhs.uk
 @dudleyccg
www.facebook.com/dudleyccg

Dudley CCG has made some changes to the prescribing of medicines that can be bought over the counter for common, short-term illnesses or those that have no or low clinical value. Medicines or products with no or low clinical value are those which have no clear health benefit for patients.

The changes mean that your GP will no longer give you a prescription for certain types of medicines or treatments that are readily available over the counter in pharmacies or on the shelves in shops and supermarkets.

The types of medicines and treatments that fall into this category are known as **Self Care Medicines**. These include:

- Treatments for minor ailments, including medicines like paracetamol, ibuprofen, head lice lotion and indigestion tablets.
- Treatments where there is little evidence that they have a real clinical benefit, including cough syrups, nasal congestion sprays, sore throat products and vitamin supplements.

If you need treatment for a long-term chronic condition or there are legal restrictions on the amount of medicine that you can buy over the counter from a community pharmacy, then your GP will still be able to prescribe it.

A full list of medicines can be viewed at www.dudleyccg.nhs.uk/prescribing

In Dudley the NHS has a fixed amount of money to spend. Once we have spent it on one thing we cannot spend it on another.

With your support to buy Self Care medicines from your local pharmacy, shop or supermarket, you will be helping your local NHS to save around £2 million per year.

This money can be used to protect other NHS treatments like:

- Community Nurses
- Treatments for cancer
- Treatments for dementia and Alzheimers

It costs the NHS over £40 to prescribe paracetamol and ibuprofen for short-term minor ailments through a GP consultation.

Cost to you: 25p	Cost to the NHS: £40.78	Ibuprofen tablets 200mg x 6 tablets	Cost to you: £6.99	Cost to the NHS: £49.82
		Sore throat spray 30ml		

*Costs are based on local cost for primary care only. Secondary care, community pharmacy, specialist and other costs.

When you've got a minor illness you can't treat at home, and it isn't an emergency, so you should go to your local Pharmacy for quick expert advice.

Your local pharmacist is a trained medicine expert who can offer you free, confidential advice and treatment for a wide range of conditions such as fever, bruising, cuts, teething, sprains, sinus pain and nasal congestion.

They can also answer questions about prescribed and over the counter medicines and no appointment is necessary.

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PRACTICE NEWS AND INFORMATION

Website

Have you visited our website :- www.lapalmedicalpractice.co.uk there is a host of information and we are developing it further to include more features over the coming months.

Text message reminders

We now can remind you of your appointment if you let us have your up to date mobile number or email address please check at reception that we have these details for you. You can even cancel appointments through this service which will help to avoid wasted appointments.

Online services

You can also book/cancel your appointments online and order repeat prescription as well as viewing parts of your medical records. Again if you would like to use this service please ask at reception for an access code which the receptionist will generate for you.

PPG Engagement Event

Next event planned for early March – **Date to be confirmed – Subject – Dementia**

NAMED ACCOUNTABLE GP FOR ALL PATIENTS

From 1st April 2015, all practices are required to allocate a named accountable GP to all patients. Our patients have been assigned a named GP, and you can be advised of this at your next interaction with the practice. **Please be assured that this will not impact your experience at the practice, the provision of appointments at Lapal Medical Practice, your treatment, or what GP you can see.** You may wonder why your allocated GP is not necessarily the one you see most regularly. Please be assured that you can still access all of our medical team in exactly the same way as before. Having been advised of your named accountable GP, should you have any concerns, please contact the practice.

VACCINATION INFORMATION

FLU Vaccinations – These are now being given and if you qualify and haven't yet had yours please arrange an appointment ASAP preferably before the end of the year.

Shingles vaccinations- These are available for qualifying patient's please ask at reception.

Pneumonia vaccinations – Unfortunately these are unavailable at the moment due to a national shortage but we are hoping to get some in the next month please enquire at reception.

Nasal Flu Sprays – These are available for all our child patients who were 2 or 3 years old as at 31.08.2017 please book appointments at reception.

OTHER SURGERY NEWS

Dr Smith is due to go off on Maternity Leave at the end of November for 12 months she will be replaced by Dr Rajamany for the period that she is away.

DNA's – every month we have a fair amount of people who fail to attend for their appointments please help us to help you by letting us know if you cannot attend. This will make available an appointment for someone else who may need it.

EXTENDED HOURS – Along with some of the other surgeries in the area we now offer appointments late evening/Saturday please ask at reception (you may have been seen at another practice for these)