

Welcome to our second feature in the Brading Buzz. The intention is to give an insight into any changes and challenges the practice faces, new developments and hints and tips about how we can work together to make the patient / practice journey as smooth as possible

**FLU Season**

I know that we have only just finished our summer holidays But the FLU vaccination season will be with us by the end of September. This year’s season has been complicated by the Government issuing two vaccines one for the under 65’s who have a underlying health condition such as chronic heart, kidney, liver or respiratory disease and one for the over 65’s with the over 65 vaccine only available from one supplier. As a consequence of this our supply has been split over the months of September, October and November (40%,20%,40%) The practice has had NO say in how this has been organised but we have been assured that all practices and pharmacies have been treated equally. We will be running a combination of walk-in and bookable clinics which should be available from mid September onwards Please try to have your vaccination at the practice !

Historically good summers have been followed by a harsh winter and the early long range forecasts suggest that this will be so this coming winter. Each year around 10,000 people in the UK die from the consequences of flu. The two different vaccines have been designed to best protect those people in the specific age ranges

**Why is it important to have your vaccination at your GP surgery?**

The practice is set a Target for the number of patients on its list that have received a vaccination and has to make monthly returns to the Department of Health of those totals. If you have your vaccine elsewhere it means we have extra administrative work to complete without extra funding

Each vaccination attracts a fee that helps the practice fund our nursing team through the rest of the year. Every vaccination that is done outside the practice means NHS funding going to the Private Sector (Lloyds, Boots, Tesco etc)

We are told the number of vaccines that we should order, if patients have the vaccination elsewhere we will have surplus vaccine that we may not get our money back for thus making a loss for the practice.

As the holder of your complete medical record we are best placed to ensure you have the correct vaccine at the best time. By having the vaccination in the practice we also have an opportunity to give other health related advice that is pertinent to your circumstance.

Repeat Prescribing

Over the next few months the practice will be moving those long term prescriptions that are stable in nature onto the Electronic Repeat Dispensing system which should be more a convenient way for patients to collect their medication …more to follow in the next issue of the Buzz

Andrew Moulam Practice manager