



BEACON SURGERY BULLETIN

Welcome to our third quarterly bulletin. Keeping you up to date with the latest news from the Surgery and information relating to your health that may be of interest to you.

In this Issue:

1. News from the Surgery

A regular feature letting you know the latest news from the Surgery and, in this issue, an update to our telephone system

2. Advanced Nurse Practitioners

An introduction to what our ANPs do and how they fit into the practice team

3. Meet Liz Sadler

Liz is one of our experienced Advanced Nurse Practitioners and we look at what she does and some of the patients Liz has treated

4. Focus on Health Issues

Autumn is coming and so are flu vaccinations

Surgery News

Since our last update we have suffered the national IT failure that impacted on so many businesses and then soon after there was a national problem with our telephone supplier and clinical system. We are sorry for the inconvenience that these national problems have caused.

We have recently had an upgrade to our telephone system which will allow you to request a call back from the surgery. When the queue is particularly long there is an option to press 9 to obtain a call back. This keeps your place in the queue and we automatically call you when you have reached the top of the queue. This is an automated process so if you ask for a call back please ensure you are available to answer your phone.

We now have a new GP registrar Dr Priyah Murugaiyan who started with us on 8th August. Dr Priyah will be with us for the next few months.

From September there will be a new vaccination available to patients who turn 75 and those aged 75 to 79. This is to protect against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

RSV is an infectious disease of the airways and lungs causing symptoms similar to a cold, including cough, sore throat, sneezing, runny or blocked nose.

Generally the RSV vaccine will not be offered at the same time as the COVID or flu vaccinations and is in addition to these vaccinations.



Advanced Nurse Practitioners

The Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) role is now an established and integral part of General Practice Teams. At Beacon Surgery we are fortunate to have 2 ANPs, Liz Sadler and Sam Lunniss. This is helping us to see and treat more patients than ever before.

Our ANPs have all completed extensive training to enable them to see a wide variety of patients and can see all patients except those under 1 or who are pregnant.

Our ANPs regularly:

- Prescribe medication
- See patients with undiagnosed, undifferentiated medical conditions and make treatment decisions, including ordering necessary investigations
- Refer patients to secondary care

Liz Sadler



Liz has been with us for almost 2 years and has over 20 years' experience seeing a variety of patients for urgent needs and chronic disease management.

Before coming to Beacon Liz worked at a number of practices and completed her Nurse Practitioner Degree in 2017.

Liz works alongside the GPs and our other ANP Sam and we have been looking at some of the patients Liz has treated over the past few months to try and give an idea of the breadth of patients our ANPs see, diagnose and treat.

Among the many patients Liz has seen, she has:

- diagnosed middle aged patients with high blood pressure and successfully treated them with medication to regulate their hypertension
- helped women struggling with menopause symptoms of insomnia, hot flushes and mood swings to improve their quality of life
- treated children with conditions such as urine infections, chest infections, coughs, colds and ear infections
- supported patients with long term respiratory problems such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease suffering from additional complications
- referred patients to hospital for X rays or further tests which cannot be done at the surgery
- when needed, referred patients onto hospital consultants for more complex treatments
- admitted patients to hospital via A&E when they have required emergency treatment

Autumn is coming and so are the flu vaccinations

It seems like we have only just got our summer but plans are already underway for the flu vaccination season which will start in the autumn. Our appointments will be available to book from the beginning of September.

The NHS are starting the general flu vaccination season on 3rd October 2024.

Some patients are able to have their flu vaccination earlier (from September 2024 subject to availability of the vaccine) if they are pregnant (especially if you are near your due date) or if you are due to have treatment that will weaken your immune system such as chemotherapy.

Beacon will not have vaccines available in September and we will start vaccinations in October.

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