



St. George's Matters

The Newsletter of the St George's Medical Centre Patient Participation Group

Summer 2013

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WHO'S WHO

The PPG Members

Chair

Milly Wright

Vice Chair

Lorraine Mahabir

Secretary

Sonja Pearson

Patient

Representatives

Kate Gratwick

John Howe

Barbara Poole

Practice Liaison

Jeanette Hudson

GP Members

Dr Naylor

Dr James

Business Manager

Melissa Howard

THE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Following the promotion during March when members of the PPG were in the surgery talking to patients, we are pleased to report that the Virtual Group now has over 100 members across all ages. Our thanks to all we met whether you 'signed up' or not. The welcome and help we received from both staff and patients was extremely encouraging. Virtual Group members will be receiving a short email survey regarding the new 24hour booking service and the replies will enable the Practice to evaluate the system.

If you would like to be part of this please email your name to the email address below and a member of the PPG will contact you by email with full details.

Remember there is no commitment to attending meetings—just a few minutes periodically to complete surveys and to keep you informed.

Together we can help shape future health services in Wirral

Email: stgeorgesppg@hotmail.co.uk

FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS.....



How many of you remember how St. George's medical Centre began? During the PPG Promotion week we had the opportunity to speak with many patients and listen to their memories of the Practice! One lady has been a patient for over 48 years and can remember when a small group of Doctors joined together in the building (previously a Baby Clinic) across the road from where St George's is now. Prior to that all doctors were sole practitioners practising from their own private houses. (Remember sitting round the wall in the front room eyeing everybody up so that you made sure you went in in the right order! No appointment systems then!) Moving to the present premises, organised number cards replaced the Doctor popping out of his room to call you and after further extensive building work on the annexe, which was officially opened on 23rd April 2009, we now have computerised appointment systems—self booking, self signing in— and a screen calling us and 'telling us where to go! Add to that the number of Doctors, Specialised staff and the numerous services available the general consensus is that St George's Medical Centre is one of the best!

**FOR FULL DETAILS SEE THE 2013 PATIENT SURVEY on the website.
www.stgeorgesmedicalcentre.com**

Special Points of Interest:

- * PPG Virtual Group
- * The beginning.....
- * Repeat Prescriptions
- * Save money for the local NHS?
- * Phlebotomy Service
- * The Staff

A NEW WAY TO GET YOUR MEDICINES AND APPLIANCES

The Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) is an NHS service. It gives you the chance to change how your GP sends your prescription to the place you choose to get your medicines or appliances from.

What does this mean for you?

If you collect your repeat prescriptions from your GP you will not have to visit your GP Practice to pick up your paper prescription. Instead your GP will send it electronically to the place you choose saving you time.

You will have more choice about where you get your medicines from because they can be collected from a pharmacy near to where you live, work or shop.

You may not have to wait as long at the pharmacy as there will be time for your repeat prescriptions to be ready before you arrive.

Interested? The first step is to nominate your pharmacy and /or appliance contractor (if you use one)

'Pop in' to your pharmacy/appliance contractor of choice that offers EPS or your GP Practice and ask them to add your nomination for you.

Full Explanation Leaflets are available from the Reception Desk at the surgery and at Pharmacies throughout Wirral.

**UNUSED PRESCRIPTIONS
COST THE NHS £300 million
every year!**

THIS COULD PAY FOR.....

**11778 more Community
Nurses**

or

**80,906 more hip
replacements**

or

**19,799 more drug treatment
courses for breast cancer**

or

**300,000 more drug
treatment courses for
Alzheimers**

or

**312,175 more cataract
operations.**

HELP US TO REDUCE THE ISSUE OF WASTED MEDICINES AND SAVE MONEY FOR YOUR LOCAL NHS.

- Only order the medicines that you need
- Please let your GP or Pharmacist know if you have stopped taking any of your medicines
 - Check what medicines you still have at home before re-ordering
 - Discuss your medication with your GP or Pharmacist on a regular basis
- Think carefully before ticking all the boxes on your repeat prescription forms and only tick those you really need.
- If you need to go into hospital please remember to take all your medicines with you in a clearly marked bag

Remember that your medicines are prescribed only for you! It is not safe to share them with anyone else.

**REMEMBER UNUSED MEDICINES CANNOT BE RE-CYCLED
HAND THEM TO ANY PHARMACIST, WHO WILL DISPOSE OF THEM SAFELY!**



The Phlebotomy Service at St Georges continues to be provided by the Community Health.

Appointment Times

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - 8.30am to 12noon
Tuesday - 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Please make your appointment with Reception –if these times are not suitable alternative arrangements can be made.

STAFF NEWS

A big welcome to St. George's new Business Manager, Melissa Howard, who joined the practice in December 2012.

Melissa attends the PPG meetings and ensures that the group is involved and informed of any new developments, services, consultations etc .

PPG Email Address: stgeorgesppg@hotmail.co.uk