

December 2010



Beech Tree Surgery

Newsletter

Extension to our Main site

Work has now started on the extension to our main site. We are aware of the difficulties this is causing with regards car parking & we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.



We have tried to ease demand on the car park by making alternative arrangements for staff and where possible staggering start/end times of surgeries. For example, some afternoon surgeries now run 2.00/2.30 – 4.00/ 4.30 as opposed to 4.00—6.00.

There are things that you can do that may avoid any inconvenience, for example.

- Depending on your problem you do not necessarily have to see a doctor face to face. We offer pre-bookable telephone consultations with doctors and this can save you a visit to the surgery.
- Prescriptions - Most, if not all local chemists will collect your prescription from us, you can then collect your medication from them without the need to attend the surgery. This can be arranged via a local pharmacy of your choice

National NHS News

 The recent Comprehensive Spending Review highlighted the coalition governments methods of dealing with the financial deficit the country faces. The public sector faces severe cuts although on the face of it the NHS has escaped lightly with “front line services being protected”.

In real terms the NHS will receive a 0.1% rise per year, however this does not take account of the fact that the NHS must make savings of around £6 billion pounds per year for the next 3 years.

We fear these cuts will ultimately affect the level of care the NHS can provide. The government has already abolished the plans for expanding entitlement for free prescriptions and in providing 1:1 care for cancer patients. It seems inevitable that “low priority elective surgical procedures will be cancelled & waiting times will increase. The number of staff working within the NHS will decrease and planned hospital developments will be postponed.

Dr Taylor

Sadly, and after 15 years of dedicated service Dr Taylor has decided to move on from Beech Tree Surgery. We all wish him well in his future endeavours.

Due to this, from January 2011 we have had to make a number of changes to the days and locations where doctors usually work, details will be available shortly.

North Yorkshire NHS News

North Yorkshire & York Primary Care Trust (NYYPCT) is the organisation that deals with the funding of medical care in the County. The PCT's annual budget is £1.3 billion with an overspend at 30 September 2010 of £17.9 million. Unless action is taken this could rise to £33.8 million by 31 March 2011.

The PCT have a statutory obligation to achieve financial balance as such their priority is to achieve significant short-term saving whilst maintaining essential services for the 800,000 residents of North Yorkshire. The PCT board have announced plans to address this financial risk with various actions being taken, these include:

- Halting IVF procedures for the final quarter of the financial year – current waiting list will be honoured but no new patient will be added unless in exceptional circumstances
- Reducing prescribing costs by around £1.1 million (see below)
- Reducing the amount of money paid to voluntary sector organisations in the final quarter of the financial year by £150,000
- Stopping a number of procedures/services currently carried out in some primary care settings and returning this activity to local hospital trusts when required
- Reducing the amount of money spent on agency staff, corporate building costs and management costs with up to 60 posts being made redundant

Unfortunately, if these actions fail to produce the savings expected then we are likely to face severe cuts to our funding which will affect the level of service we provide to patients.

Medication



NYYPCT have asked all practices across N Yorkshire to review the use of specific drugs in an effort to ensure prescribing is making use on NHS resources. This intense 30 day programme is part of ongoing reviews that have taken place over the last few years. We have written to all patients who have been affected by this review.

Our prescribing policy (what medicines you can get on prescription) is based on the following:

- We are obliged to ensure the medicines we prescribe are as cost effective as possible
 - Medicines must have clinical evidence to support their effectiveness
 - We prescribe a supply of medication to last 28 days - This is to minimise waste
 - We will **NOT** automatically issue prescriptions if they are ordered early, our computer system tells us when your medication is due. Please help us help you by not over ordering or ordering too early.
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Coughs & Colds

Most simple coughs, colds and sore throats can be treated at home, perhaps with the advice of NHS Direct or your local pharmacy and there is no need to contact us. If your symptoms persist we operate a Minor Illness Clinic led by our 'duty team' for same day appointments.



And finally.....

We welcome two new members of staff to the surgery, Karen Wardle & Caroline Draper. They will be dealing with the clinical data held on our IT systems. A role which under the present system of performance management & use of IT in recording information about patients is becoming increasingly important.

Sadly we say goodbye to Dr Murphy who has been with us for a number of years. Dr Murphy leaves us at the end of December in order to take up a partnership at a practice in Goole. We wish her well in her new role.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year



