

# THE BANKS AND BEARWOOD GAZETTE

Feb 2016

## Staff News

Dr Veronica Ward will be on sickness leave for 4-6 weeks from the start of February, recovering from a surgical procedure on her hand. We wish her a speedy recovery!

## New Staff

Despite the recruitment difficulties that exist, the Practice is pleased to announce the arrival of 2 new members of staff.

Mrs Siji Emmanuel joins the Practice in February as a Prescribing Nurse Practitioner. Siji will run morning clinic sessions seeing patients who request same day appointments. Siji is able to prescribe and will have immediate access to a GP should further intervention be required.

Dr Catherine Hill will be taking up a permanent position as a GP with us in early March. Dr Hill will work 5 sessions per week, predominantly at the Banks Surgery in Winton, though she will also offer fortnightly sessions at Bearwood.

## Feeling the Pressure

Most patients will be aware of reports in the national news about the ever increasing pressure facing the NHS. These pressures need also to be set against the backdrop of a worsening recruitment crisis within GP Surgeries. The onset of winter illnesses (which have affected an increasing number of patients, as well as our own clinical and non-clinical staff) has only exacerbated the situation for us. During these difficult times, we are grateful to our patients for their patience and we are sorry if you have experienced any delay in getting through to the Practice or in arranging an appointment.

## **Help us to help you...**

Many of the requests we receive each day for 'Emergency' or 'Same day' appointments do not clinically require a GP appointment. Coughs, colds, sore throats and earache are all self-limiting illnesses and the vast majority of the time your body will get better on its own, without requiring a trip to see your doctor. **Antibiotics will not make you better any quicker.**

The Practice has produced useful guides to winter illnesses for both adults and children, which we hope patients will find helpful in deciding whether it is necessary to see a GP. Copies are available in the waiting rooms.

There is also a Patient Self Help Page on our website which has links to other useful NHS websites. Visit us at [www.bearwoodmedicalpractice.co.uk](http://www.bearwoodmedicalpractice.co.uk) and click on the Self Help page found at the bottom of the Home page. The winter illness guides can also be found here.

Pharmacists are also able to help patients manage many minor ailments / illnesses and this could prevent the need to see your GP and possibly a lengthy wait in the waiting room.

Please use our service wisely; do you clinically need to see a GP?

## **GP Registrars**

As a Practice we feel it is important to support GPs during their extended training and to this end, Dr Jasvinder Kandola starts a 6 month GP Registrar placement with us on February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016. Dr Kandola will see patients at both the Banks and Bearwood sites.

Dr Stephanie Treadwell has now completed her 6 month placement with us and we have bid her a fond farewell as she embarks on the rest of her GP training and forthcoming motherhood!

## **Bowel Cancer Screening**

The NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme offers screening every two years to all men and woman aged 60 to 74. The Programme invited eligible patients to participate in an initial screening test, called the faecal occult blood (FOB) stool test, which aims to detect blood hidden in the faeces (stool). Patients are sent a kit which allows them to send a small stool sample back to be analysed. A positive FOB test does not diagnose bowel cancer but indicate that further investigations are needed at a local screening centre.



Across Dorset, bowel cancer screening uptake is 66.5%, but uptake amongst our own registered patient is slightly lower at 64.5%. Patients should not be embarrassed to participate in this important screening and we would encourage all eligible patients to take part.

## **Fitness to Work Certificates - Anonymised Data Extraction.**

Anonymised data on the use of fit notes is being provided to the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) on behalf of the Department of Health and the Department for Work and Pensions. This will enable the Department for Work and Pensions to undertake research analysis to inform policy relating to employment and sickness absence, including evaluation of Fitness for Work.

The data to be extracted will be non-patient identifiable on extraction (i.e. when it leaves the GP Practice) and anonymous on publication and will not contain any personal information that can be used to identify you. The data collected includes the type and duration of fit note; recommendations for adjustments to enable a return to work; diagnostic codes; geographical area and gender. Data will not be collected before Wednesday January 27<sup>th</sup> 2016. Historical data backdating to 1 December 2014 will be collected in the first extract, subsequent extracts will be on a weekly basis until the end of August 2018.

If you object to your data being extracted please ask Reception for a Confidential Data Extraction Opt Out Form.