

# Upton Group Practice

## Newsletter Autumn 2022



### Queen Elizabeth II

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. She was a remarkable, much loved and hugely respected figure and was renowned throughout her reign for her unwavering leadership, dedication and service to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. We express our heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family at this very sad time.

### FAREWELL to our Senior Partner – Dr Tom Partridge

Dr Partridge is stepping down from his role as Senior Partner at the end of August after 28 years as a Partner at Upton Group Practice and 9 of these as Senior Partner. He will continue to work with the practice for a couple of days a week until the end of November when he retires from General Practice.

We are sure that you will join us in wishing him every happiness for the future and we thank him for all the work he has done for and with the practice and our patients over many years.

Dr Gina Annett will be taking on the role of Senior Partner from September and we wish her every success.

### Covid-19 Autumn Booster vaccines

We are running the Covid autumn booster campaign separately from our Flu campaign this autumn. Patients aged 50 and over will be eligible for an Autumn booster of the Covid Vaccine and we are working with our Partner practices in Healthier West Wirral Primary Care Network to offer the Covid boosters from the start of September to the end of December via Greasby Library.



Patients will be contacted in reducing Cohort order starting with patients over the age of 80. We are using the Accubook text booking system that we have used previously for offering Covid vaccination and our booking team will be in contact by telephone with those who are not able to book online.

**Please do not ring the practice to enquire about Covid vaccination** – when it comes to your age cohort you will be contacted by text to go online and book or we will ring you, or write to you if we cannot make contact by telephone.

You can also book via the National Booking service or at other local booking centres.

<https://www.wirralccg.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine/covid-19-vaccination-walk-in-clinics/>

### How to access appointments

Unfortunately during August we have been unable to offer the Econsult service as we have not had the staff to triage the consultations. We have now re-opened the service. Go to

<https://uptongrouppractice.webgp.com/>

Demand on the practice is rising consistently and we ask patients please to note that we employ a range of options in providing support to our patients. All contacts with our Reception team are put on the Triage board to be reviewed by a GP so our Reception staff will need to ask you for some information to help prioritise your care.



If the problem is **routine** and triage confirms that you need a GP or Nurse appointment then we will try and book you in as soon as possible **but at busy times this may be up to 2 weeks ahead.**

If GP Triage assesses that you need an **urgent appointment it will be on the same day.**

**Please note that our Reception staff may arrange any of the following on the advice of our clinicians:-**

*Phone call appointment with a GP*

*(this may be arranged by text or by reception calling your landline).*

*A text with links to relevant information.*

*An appointment with our Nurse.*

*An appointment with our Clinical Pharmacist.*

*A text request or call from reception -for you to book in for tests directly with follow up phone call as needed e.g. blood tests, urine sample, ECG etc.*

*Redirection to another provider –such as a pharmacist or Walk-In Centre.*

*Face to face appointment with a GP if necessary*

**Please bear with them – they cannot offer appointments we do not have.**

**The following services can also be accessed to support your care needs:**

- NHS 111
- Local Community Pharmacies
- Urgent Treatment Centre
- In the event of an emergency, your local A&E unit

**Please consider self-care in the first instance for minor issues such as a sore throat or sickness.** For most minor ailments you can contact a pharmacy for advice and then let us know if the problem gets worse or does not get better after a few days.

**Nurse appointments and Phlebotomy appointments:** For all Practice Nurse or blood test appointments, please phone Reception to book in.

**For prescription requests** The preferred method is to order online via Patient Access or the NHS app or you can email your request to us at [cmicb-wi.n85013Prescriptions@nhs.net](mailto:cmicb-wi.n85013Prescriptions@nhs.net) Prescriptions take 2 working days to process so please order in plenty of time.

**Urine specimens**– please see our website details at <https://www.uptongrouppractice.co.uk/advice/test/>



### Congratulations

Congratulations to our Lead Practice Nurse – Julia Thomas – on passing her prescribing course and achieving her qualification as a Nurse Practitioner. Julia is now able to see patients with minor ailments and infections. Our Reception Staff will book appointments with her as appropriate.

### Flu appointments 2022

As happened last year we encourage all patients over the age of 50 to have a vaccination and vaccination is also recommended for patients under 50 who are in the following “at risk” groups:-

- \*Chronic respiratory disease – including asthma
- \*Diabetes
- \*Kidney illnesses
- \*Chronic liver disease
- \*Chronic Neurological disease
- \*Care workers
- \*Heart disease
- \*Weakened immune system
- \*Main carer for an elderly or disabled person
- \*Pregnant ladies
- \*Obese patients (BMI of 40 or over)



**We are holding two large clinics in the practice on Sundays.**

The first is on **Sunday 9 October between 9am and 3.30pm**

The second clinic will be held on **Sunday 16 October – again between 9am and 3.30pm**

**We are taking bookings now. Please contact us on our flu line 0151 351 5637 between the hours of 10am and 2pm to book your flu appointment.**

More information is available at [National flu immunisation programme 2022 to 2023 letter - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/107222/national-flu-immunisation-programme-2022-to-2023-letter.pdf)

### Child Flu vaccination

We are also vaccinating children aged 2 and 3 at 31 August 2022 and all parents of eligible children will receive an invite letter in the next month or so to make an appointment. All other children will be vaccinated via schools flu vaccination programmes.



### Health Promotion - alcohol

Within the next few months we will be sending out the links below so anyone who wishes to can check out their alcohol use. It will be a full practice message to any patient who has a mobile phone number and is for patients to use (or not) as they wish.

Download the Lower Your Drinking app on Google Play  
([https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.LYD&hl=en\\_GB&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.LYD&hl=en_GB&gl=US))

Download the Lower Your Drinking app from the App Store (<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/lower-my-drinking/id1289594577>)

**Our practice website is [www.uptongrouppractice.co.uk](http://www.uptongrouppractice.co.uk)**