# WIMBLEDON VILLAGE SURGERY AUGUST 2024

# **NEWSLETTER**

**Practice Manager’s Preamble** Welcome to this edition of our newsletter – and apologies for the delay since the last edition was released – summer holidays and catching up on the backlog of work has meant I have been somewhat remiss in completing the newseletter of late. It has been a busy couple of months for the practice so there are lots of information to cram in. As ever, available from reception but are also available on our website: [Wimbledon Village Surgery - Newsletters](https://www.wimbledonvillagesurgery.co.uk/pages/Newsletters)

**Staffing / Recruitment** We welcome a few new members of staff to our team over the last month or so. A warm welcome to Dr Anthony Free who will be with us for 3 days a week. We also extend a warm welcome to Dr Sara Kamran – a GP Registrar who will be with us for the next 12 months. We also welcome back a previous employee, Sarah Fairbairn, as our Practice Nurse. Sarah will be working Tuesdays/Wednesdays and Fridays. Finally, we have recruited x2 additional administrative staff to boost our numbers to manage the every increasing workload.

**We are a ‘Safe Surgery’** We believe that all members of the public should be able to access a GP when needed. Therefore we will not refuse anyone wishing to register whether they are lawfully in the UK or not – everyone is eligible to register. Nationality is not relevant; we will also not discriminate on grounds of race, gender, social class, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability or medical condition. Reception will not ask for immigration documents and will not share information with the Home Office

**Failing to attend appointments** The vast majority of patients obviously attend their booked appointments. However, failing to show up for your appointment or only informing within a short time frame us that you are unable to attend or no longer need the appointment, means that we are unable to re-allocate the appointment to someone else who needs it. On average, we have recorded nearly **30hours of clinicians time per month are wasted** due to patients failing to attend. Please ensure you attend your appointment or provide us with more than 24 hours notice if you need to cancel.

**Phlebotomy Services** To cater for increased staff numbers and therefore clinical room demand, we have converted a section of the foyer area into a small room for patients attending for a blood test. This will be up and running from Monday 12th August 2024

**FLU Season** This year, NHSE and declared that the vaccination programme for FLU is to commence during October, instead of September. This is because evidence shows that the flu vaccine's effectiveness can wane over time in adults. Holding clinics from October means vaccines will be administered closer to the time that the flu season commonly starts and to when it peaks in December or January. However, pregnant women and children will be eligible for their Flu Vaccination in September.

Thank you for your patience and support in obtaining your flu vaccine – we will be holding a number of flu vaccination clinics here at the practice and look forward to welcoming you for these at that time.

**Are you a Carer?** If you have caring responsibilities, it can be helpful to prove your role to access some types of services and support. We would like to identify potential Carers to ensure we can assist you and with extra support or public services available. All carers are also eligible for routine immunisations, including a free Flu vaccine. We have added ‘Are you a Carer’ onto our registration paperwork and also encourage all potential carers to make themselves know to us. We can also highlight services and support for ‘young carers’. Please get in touch with us to discuss.

**Healthy Start** If you’re more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, you may be entitled to get help to buy healthy food and milk. Please visit this website: [Get help to buy food and milk (Healthy Start)](https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/)

If you’re eligible, you’ll be sent a Healthy Start card with money on it that you can use in some UK shops. We’ll add your benefit onto this card every 4 weeks.

You can use your card to buy:

* plain liquid cow’s milk
* fresh, frozen, and tinned fruit and vegetables
* fresh, dried, and tinned pulses
* infant formula milk based on cow’s milk

You can also use your card to collect:

* Healthy Start vitamins – these support you during pregnancy and breastfeeding
* vitamin drops for babies and young children – these are suitable from birth to 4 years old

**Health Promotion** We will post various health promotion content here in the newsletter, relating to ‘hot-topics’ or National Campaigns currently running. This month we would like to highlight the following:

**Blood Cancer** affect the production of blood cells. There are 3 main groups – leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma. Within these groups there are different types.

Cancer research UK has information of these types on their website: [Blood cancers | Cancer Research UK](https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/blood-cancers?gclid=4543072f8b5b1bdad296619d8cd3106d&gclsrc=3p.ds&msclkid=4543072f8b5b1bdad296619d8cd3106d)

**Patient Suggestions:** Please write to us at wimbledon.villagesurgery@nhs.net with any suggestions you may have on how we could improve our services! Don’t forget to check out our website at [www.wimbledonvillagesurgery.co.uk](http://www.wimbledonvillagesurgery.co.uk)