

Norbury Medical Practice - Patient Participation Group

Notes of Meeting held at 2.15pm on Monday 12th November 2018

Present

Dr Noreen Chaudery
Dr Kalpesh Shah
Mr Ian Acaster
Mrs Kay Coles
Mr Mike Phillips
Mr Rasiklal Shah (Practice Manager)
Mr Rasiklal Shah (Pharm)
Mr Mohammed Sheikh
Mrs Eunice Shepherd
Mr John Taylor

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Sue Biggs, Mr Syed & Mrs Chris Farouk, Mr Howard Hill, and Mr Andrew Smith.

1. Introduction.

MP welcomed everyone to the meeting and indicated that the main agenda items at this meeting would be to have:-

- (i) an update on how the 'flu jab programme is going, and
- (ii) an update on NHS proposals re items which should no longer be routinely prescribed in Primary Care

2. Update on how the 'flu jab programme is going.

NHS England have set a 'flu vaccine uptake ambition in 2018/19 as follows:-

Groups

Aged 65 years and over	75%
Aged under 65 'at risk', incl pregnant women	At least 55% in all clinical risk groups
School aged children (in reception & years 1 to 5)	An average of at least 65%
Preschool children aged 2 and 3 years old	At least 48%

Unfortunately there have been delays in supplies of the relevant vaccines which may have impacted on the uptake rates. Some patients may also have concerns about the efficacy of the vaccines given the reporting of the limited effectiveness of last year's vaccines.

RS(PM) tabled a report (dated week ending Sunday 4th November 2018) on the situation at Norbury Medical Practice showing the ***Eligible Patients, Remaining Patients to Vaccinate and Vaccinations to meet National Ambition.***

The report also showed the ***Variance to the uptake this time last year***, that indicated several Groups are not doing as well as last year, including the "65 and over" group and the "Pregnant Women" group.

The Practice will continue to encourage patients to have the "Flu Jab" through all the usual communications channels – website, posters, text messages, messages on prescriptions, PPG Newsletter etc.

3. Update on NHS proposals re items which should no longer be routinely prescribed in Primary Care.

In the year prior to June 2017, the NHS spent approximately £569 million on prescriptions for medicines which can be purchased over the counter from a pharmacy and other outlets such as supermarkets. Annually, the NHS spends £4.5M on dandruff shampoos, £7.5M on indigestion and heartburn, and £5.5M on mouth ulcers.

NHS England therefore called on Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to curb prescriptions for over-the-counter (OTC) medicines for a condition:-

- that is considered to be self-limiting and so does not need treatment as it will heal of its own accord
- which lends itself to self-care ie that the person suffering does not normally need to seek medical care but may decide to seek help with symptom relief from a local pharmacy and use an over-the-counter medicine.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) subsequently asked for a nationally co-ordinated approach to producing commissioning guidance.

As a result, NHS England carried out a public consultation for a period of 12 weeks, from 20th December 2017 – 14th March 2018 and issued guidance on 29th March 2018.

The recommendations cover 35 minor, short term conditions, including dandruff, indigestion, mouth ulcers, travel sickness and coughs and colds. Vitamins/minerals and also probiotics have also been included as items of low clinical effectiveness which are high cost to the NHS. The total list of 37 conditions for which prescribing should be restricted is attached.

But there are exemptions including for patients where the clinician believes that they will struggle to self-manage because of medical, mental health problems or significant social vulnerability. The guidance also does not apply to long-term or more complex conditions who will continue to get their usual prescriptions. The recommendations also point out that people who receive free prescriptions should not automatically be excluded from the new guidance.

GP practices are currently awaiting a national policy to be issued based on the NHS recommendations but in the meantime would use discretion about issuing prescriptions for over-the-counter (OTC) medicines.

4. Any Other Business

NC indicated that the disruption within the Health Centre as a result of the building programme being carried out is likely to go on longer than hoped and may now extend to the end of February 2019.

NC also indicated the Norbury Medical Practice is recruiting a Pharmacist in December 2018 to provide expertise within the Practice.

JT said that there was an article recently in the Daily Mail re “Virtual GPs”.

5. Date of Next Meeting

We normally meet every two months, on the third Monday of the month, to avoid the Practice meetings and it was agreed that we should convene the next PPG meeting on the third Monday in January 2019 – **Monday 21st January 2019 starting at the usual time of 2.00 pm.**

Michael J Phillips
Chairman