



Auchtermuchty Health Centre

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NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2015

STAFF UPDATE:

As you will have undoubtedly been aware, the past few months have been challenging for Auchtermuchty Health Centre. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience during this period.

We are delighted to announce that as of the 1st October, Dr Arnott accepted a permanent position at Auchtermuchty Health Centre. Since Dr Arnott has been a locum with the Practice for the last 2 months, many of you may have already consulted with him. We are delighted that we can continue to offer the same levels of continuity that we have all become accustomed to.

Dr Arnott will work 8 sessions per week over 4 days, and is a welcome addition to the Auchtermuchty Team.

In addition to Dr Arnott, we have also recruited an Advanced Nurse Practitioner. This is a new role and she will work 8 sessions per week (over 4 days). Lorraine Ross started her induction with the practice on the 28th September.

Lorraine has many years experience within both Primary & Secondary Care. Lorraine has relocated from Germany, where she was an Advanced Nurse Practitioner within the Armed Forces. We are looking forward to her sharing her vast experience with the Practice.

The Advanced Nurse Practitioner role will complement our existing Nursing Team, which already includes a part-time Nurse Practitioner (Mrs Nicola Anderson).

ANNUAL FLU CAMPAIGN:

Flu Clinic

Saturday 10th October 2015

0900-1300

We will be offering our annual Flu Clinic on Saturday 10th October. We respectfully request that **everyone** who is entitled to receive the flu immunisation attends this clinic.

Please be advised that if you are unable to attend the clinic, reception staff are unable to book appointments after this date. Since the Practice only receives a finite number of immunisations each year, those in clinical priority groups will be offered their immunisations first. Only on completion of these groups of Patients will staff be able to book appointments for anyone else. The impact of this may result in "low risk" groups being immunised towards the end of this year.

It is also our intention to offer the Shingles vaccination to those who are entitled to receive it this year at the Flu Clinic.

If you are unsure if you are entitled to any of the immunisations, please ask a member of staff.

WHAT IS A NURSE PRACTITIONER?

The Nurse Practitioner role combines advanced nursing skills with clinical, diagnostic and treatment skills. The role provides an alternative and complimentary source of primary healthcare, alongside services traditionally provided by a General Practitioner.

It is planned that we will offer a Nurse Practitioner Triage Service in addition to an already very successful Minor Ailment Clinic. The aim of these triage appointments is to deliver a safe, appropriate and timely consultation.

Our Advanced Nurse Practitioner will offer a triage consultation by telephone where appropriate, and will direct Patients to the most clinically appropriate member of staff.

Both Nurse Practitioners are qualified prescribers, and as such can offer required prescriptions when appropriate, without the need to see a GP.

HOME VISITS:

Home visiting is unique to the UK. No other country in the world has such a service, and the absence of such has not been shown to be harmful to patients.

Too many patients are requesting home visits that are inappropriate and unnecessary. This is having a damaging impact upon other aspects of our service.

If patients are seen at the practice, rather than their own homes, then quite simply more patients can be attended to by a given number of Clinicians.

We are responsible for assessing requests for visits on the basis of **clinical needs only.**

Social reasons, lack of transport or money are not appropriate reasons to request a home visit.