

Fosse Medical Centre (FMC) Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Newsletter – Winter 2022/23 Issue 46



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*** IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT STREP A ***

If your child has been prescribed antibiotics there is a Boots stock website that the general public can access to help you find the nearest Boots store that has that antibiotic in stock. www.boots.com/online/psc

CERVICAL SCREENING

Cervical screening (also known as a smear test) checks the health of a woman's cervix. The cervix is the opening of the womb from the vagina. It is a test to help prevent cancer.

All women between the ages of 25 to 64 should be invited by letter to have a smear test.

During the appointment a small sample of cells will be taken from the cervix. The sample is checked for something called HPV that can cause changes to the cells of the cervix. If HPV are not found then there is no further action. If the HPV are found the sample is checked for any changes in the cells of the cervix. These can be treated before they get a chance to turn into cervical cancer.

The nurse or doctor who carries out the procedure will explain everything to the patient.

Cervical cancer is a risk to anyone with a cervix who has any sexual activity with any person. The chances of surviving cervical cancer are greatly increased the earlier it is spotted which makes cervical screening extremely important.

Fosse Medical Centre has created special clinics to encourage women to come forward to have their smear tests. These clinics should be more convenient for working women. Women can make their appointment at a time that suits them.

Let's be frank, smear tests are the sort of medical procedure that no one looks forward to.....it can be a bit uncomfortable. However, the benefits outweigh any inconvenience a hundred times!

We urge all women who have received an invitation to come and have a smear test....it literally could save their life.



Patient Participation Group

The PPG is a group of patients that communicate with the surgery to help to improve their services. If you would be interested to join the group please contact the Chair – Jane Rudon at janerudon@virginmedia.com for more information. We would particularly welcome BAME, LGBTQ+ and younger patients. Please get in touch! We are a friendly group so come along.

DO YOU NEED AN INTERPRETER?

Many patients at Fosse Medical Centre do not have English as a first language. Indeed, some are new to English and cannot communicate easily in English at all. If you, a family member, friend or neighbour needs to have a medical appointment, this is what should happen.....



If you are helping a non-English speaking person make an appointment, please tell them that they need to bring an interpreter with them. If that is impossible, they should make the appointment on the phone or come into the surgery and tell the receptionist that they need an interpreter. The surgery will endeavour to find an interpreter. Booking an appointment online is not appropriate as there is no online facility to ask for an interpreter.

If there is an issue with providing an interpreter, a telephone interpreter can be arranged.

The surgery considers it to be clinically best practice if the appointment is face-to-face rather than a telephone appointment.

Please pass this information to non-English speaking friends and family.

PATIENTS WHO DID NOT ATTEND APPOINTMENTS

It is very important that patients attend the appointments that they have made. It is such a waste of time, money and expertise if patients Do Not Attend (DNA). Fosse Medical centre is carefully monitoring non-attendance and may contact patients who miss appointments.

Here are the DNA statistics for September, October and November.

If you can no longer attend your appointment, please let the surgery know so that someone else can use it.

	<u>Number of missed appointments</u>	<u>Hours wasted</u>
September	239	49.5
October	213	45.4
November	253	54.6

PLEASE BOOK YOUR VACCINATIONS

Fosse Medical Centre is well organised at inviting people to come to receive their vaccinations, whether they be for flu, covid, shingles or childhood vaccinations.

Please respond promptly to these messages and contact the surgery to make an appointment.

Please help yourself to keep healthy.