

# NEWSLETTER

## Keeping You Informed

Here at Burbage Surgery, we have decided that we will not be taking part in the national strike action you will have heard about. We believe that although there has been and continues to be very significant financial and workload pressure on general practice; we do not believe this is the right thing for our practice to be doing at this time. We will therefore be functioning as normal throughout any industrial action.

There are clear issues that do need addressing in general practice and the health care system in general. Funding for general practice as a proportion of NHS funding continues to fall, and we believe that a well-supported general practice should be a fundamental building block of any health care system. Supporting people throughout their lives, ensuring good health, and preventing illness is always better than treating it once it arises. Especially as the population is not only getting older but is becoming more unhealthy, and therefore the number of people with long term health conditions continues to increase.

There are 26 million people with long term health conditions, and this will likely increase by 2.5 million in the next 15 years. This is important as people with chronic conditions account for 50% of all GP appointments, 70% of hospital beds and 70% of the health and social care budget.

So, what can we all do?

Speak to your MP about supporting general practice and not just primary care networks and hospitals.

We can all try and be healthier, eat better, sleep better, exercise, reduce alcohol and stop smoking.

Support your local surgery however you can, and we will be here for you when you need us.

Thank you.

Dr James Downie

**Flu/Covid Update:** Flu jabs will be starting in **October** not September this year and are likely to be administered with Covid vaccines. Those eligible for Covid this year are adults aged 65 years and over and persons aged 6 months to 64 years in a clinical risk group. We will as always be contacting those eligible with details of clinics once we know more.

**RSV Vaccination:** There is a new vaccine programme called National Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) which is designed to protect infants and elderly people. Each year in the UK, RSV accounts for around 30,000 hospitalisations in children aged under 5 and is responsible for 20 to 30 infant deaths. It also causes round 9,000 hospital admissions in those aged over 75. The RSV programme could free up thousands of hospital bed days and help to avoid hundreds of deaths each year. Despite infecting around 90% of children within the first two years of life, RSV is relatively unknown among the public. It typically causes mild,



cold-like symptoms. However, it can lead to severe lung infections like pneumonia and infant bronchiolitis and is a leading cause of infant mortality globally.

People aged 75 to 79 years old on 1st September 2024 will be invited to receive their RSV vaccination, and those turning 75 after this date will receive an invitation once eligible. Pregnant ladies over 28 weeks will be eligible and we will be inviting them to have the vaccine in order to protect their babies.

We will be in touch with more information; we are planning to arrange some specific clinics, but will also be able to offer the vaccine ad hoc to eligible patients while they are here for other appointments.

**Appointments:** These can be booked online or via the NHS App whether it is a GP telephone or face to face consultation. Blood test appointments can be booked using the online booking system. Book these with the practice nurses, Elly and Ali or our phlebotomists, Carol Shipley and Lisa Mayland. This online system can be used to check your appointment time or to cancel the appointment should it no longer be required.

Please can everyone try to use the check-in screen in the front porch when they arrive for their appointment. This saves time queuing for reception and frees up the staff there to deal with those patients who are coming in with other queries. Thank you.

**Missed Appointments:** Please do advise us if you are unable to make a booked appointment. The appointment can then be offered to another patient and the clinicians time has not been wasted.

**Prescriptions:** Please order your prescriptions online and allow **4 full working days** for your prescription to be processed. We will send you a message via your mobile phone once the prescription is ready for collection. If you are going away please allow a little extra time for the processing to ensure your prescription is ready for your departure date. We do receive calls from patients asking for their prescription to be done by a certain date. These prescriptions then have to be brought to the front of the processing, which then pushes back the regular prescriptions. Should you need your prescription for a holiday, please advise us using the comments box during the ordering process. If you are unable to order a medication it could be because it needs to be reauthorised by the GP after a certain number of issues. These requests can be made using the comments box, which should save a call to the admin team.

**Recalls:** A red sticker on your prescription bag indicates that a recall is due on your medical records. It could be that a blood test, diabetes, asthma or medication review is due. Please book the necessary appointment online or when collecting your medication from the surgery. The admin team will be more than happy to help with your request.

**BP Machines:** If you have loaned a blood pressure machine from the surgery please, please return it as soon as you have taken your week of readings. Your £10 cash deposit will be returned and the machine will then be available for other patients to loan.

