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# Autumn Newsletter 2022

**Flu & Covid Vaccinations 2022:** Our Flu clinics are now set up and available to book.

We can also book patients in for a **covid booster** at The Nadder Centre, Weaveland Road, Tisbury, Salisbury SP3 6HJ

## Who can have the flu vaccine?

The flu vaccine is given free on the NHS to adults who:

- are 65 and over (including those who will be 65 by 31 March 2023)
- have certain health conditions
- are pregnant
- are in long-stay residential care
- receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person who may be at risk if you get sick
- live with someone who is more likely to get a severe infection due to a weakened immune system, such as someone living with HIV, someone who has had a transplant, or is having certain treatments for cancer, lupus, or rheumatoid arthritis
- are frontline health workers
- are social care workers who cannot get the vaccine through an occupational health scheme at work

Starting from mid-October, people aged 50 years old or over (including those who will be 50 years old by 31 March 2023) can have a free NHS flu vaccine. This is so at-risk groups can be offered vaccination first.

**Shingles:** You are eligible for the shingles vaccine if you are aged 70 to 79. In the 2021 to 2022 financial year, adults become eligible at 70 years old and all those who have previously been offered the shingles vaccine remain eligible until their 80th birthday.

There is a chart available on the reception desk that clearly shows who is eligible.

Any patient who has reached their 80th birthday is no longer eligible for the vaccine.

**Pneumonia Vaccination:** If you have not had your pneumonia vaccination and you are aged over 65 or between the ages of 2 and 65 with a chronic disease, please contact the surgery to arrange an appointment. This vaccination is a 'one off' unlike the influenza vaccination and you will only need to have it once.

Silton Surgery would like to thank **Bourton and Silton Charity** for the very generous donation to help us buy lifesaving equipment in the form of a new defibrillator and a 24-hour ECG machine.

The defibrillator sends an electric pulse or shock to the heart to restore a normal heartbeat following life threatening cardiac arrhythmias. If a heart suddenly stops the defibrillator can help it beat again.

The 24-hour ECG machine can be attached to someone's chest for 24 hours to continuously record an electrocardiogram (ECG). It can check for any irregular heartbeats or palpitations that do not happen very often. This can help diagnose heart conditions and get people the correct treatment and medication. Therefore, helping save lives and saving our patients travelling to Salisbury Hospital for this test.

So, "thank you Bourton and Silton charity for the very kind a useful donation which will help the local community."

We have also received a very generous cheque in memory of a patient who sadly passed away this year. The surgery is currently working out the best way to use the donation and aid the patients at Silton Surgery.

**Paying for prescriptions:** If you are not exempt from NHS prescription charges you must pay upon collection of your medication, the charge is currently £9.35 for each item. You can pay using: Cash, Cheque or BACS. Unfortunately, we have had a few occasions recently when patients have promised to pay via BACS when they get home, but we have never received the payment.

**Booking Appointments:** If your condition is non-urgent you can expect to see a GP within two working days, **although you may have to wait longer if you wish to see a particular GP**. If you do not need an appointment within two working days, you also have the option to book up to 8 weeks in advance if this is more convenient for you. Thus, appointments are in two categories either 'pre-bookable' up to 8 weeks ahead or 'available on the day'. The latter are reserved for **urgent cases on the day**. **'Available on the day' appointments cannot be released earlier by the receptionist as this would prevent urgent cases from gaining access.**

We also have a number of Book-on-the-week appointments. You can book a telephone appointment with a GP if you cannot/or are unable to attend the surgery.

**Each person attending the surgery needs a separate appointment.**

If you have attended hospital and require dressings or removal of stitches, please book as soon as you know. Practice Nurse appointments are usually booked up ahead of time. If you wait until the day before you need the appointment, we will

struggle to accommodate you. You may have to attend a Minor Injury Unit or A&E instead.

Unfortunately, patients are cancelling their Practice Nurse appointments at late notice. This usually means the appointment is wasted.



### **Private Non-NHS services**

Some services provided by the Practice are not paid for by the NHS. In these cases, a fee is charged to the patient which is payable either prior to or on completion of the work e.g.

- HGV, PSV, employment, sports or driving medical examinations
- Sickness or accident insurance claim forms
- Private healthcare forms
- Holiday cancellation claim forms
- Firearms certificates

Please note that some of these fees are also subject to VAT @ 20%.

Requests for letters, such as support for benefits applications (including housing) and absence from school or work, fall into this category and will attract a fee.

As this work falls outside the NHS, the GPs must find the time to do it outside their allotted clinical time. We try to complete the work within **ten working days**, but this may take longer if pressure of clinical work intervenes.

GPs no longer act as counter signatories for passport applications or complete Blue Badge Applications.

**Travel Vaccinations:** The Practice also provides a comprehensive Travel Clinic that includes general travel health advice, malaria prevention advice and immunisation recommendations.

A few of the travel vaccinations are not provided by the NHS and therefore the patient will need to pay for the vaccination/s before we order them in. We always recommend that patients complete and return a travel questionnaire to the surgery at **least 8 weeks** before they plan to travel.

Fees for all private services are available from Reception or the Practice Nurse.

Payments can be made by either BACS, cheque, or cash. **Please note we do not have the facility to accept debit/credit cards.**