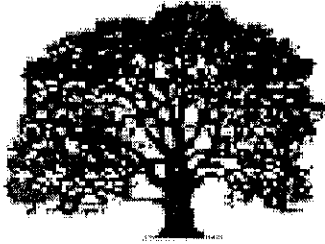


November 2011



Beech Tree Surgery

Newsletter

GP Commissioning

Due to changes within the NHS we are now part of a GP Commissioning Group, the Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group (VOYCC). This group is responsible for commissioning services for patients in this locality whilst at the same time managing cash limited budgets and ensuring financial balance.



Fortunately, the Strategic Health Authority have officially written off the historic N. Yorkshire debt of £18 million and will provide further support if financial balance is achieved this year.

This is a mammoth task, for example, we pay hospitals for every appointment you may have, for any procedure/operation/test you have etc. Every drug you use we also pay for. All this must come from a fixed budget. Put simply.....if budgets are exceeded than cuts must be made in other areas in order to achieve financial balance.

Nationally there is a push to redesign services & to create new ways of working within the community in order to prevent patients being admitted to hospital or ensure they can be discharged from hospital as soon as possible.

At present VOYCC have instructed us to review referrals we make to ensure they are appropriate, to check on all admissions to hospital (inc patients who attend A&E) and to ensure we do not overspend our drugs budget (see below). From January 2012 a GP will work in A&E at York Hospital to ensure those attending are really in need of A&E or whether they should be seen elsewhere.

If financial balance is not reached this year (2011/12) then it is likely further cuts in funding will need to be made.

Medication



Our drugs budget for this year is just over £2.3 million. This must pay for all medication, vaccinations, dressing etc we prescribe for you. Historically the majority of practices in N Yorkshire have overspent their budget, this cannot happen this year.

As a standard, we issue a 28 day supply of medication . Nationally this has been shown to ensure waste is kept to a minimum. The drugs we prescribe are monitored to ensure we prescribe the most effective medicines available. You may have received a letter from us in the past regarding a change in your medication as a result of this.

You can help us by **NOT** over ordering & **ONLY** ordering medicines you need . Our IT systems tell us when your medicines are due. If it appears that you are over ordering/ordering too early, your request may be rejected until the due date.

Duration of Appointments

For many years, routine consultations with GP's have been set at every 10 minutes. This has become more & more unrealistic for us, 10 minutes being insufficient time for GP's to deal with medical problems which are increasingly complicated. This was resulting in GP's running late which from feedback we have received from patients was causing inconvenience.

We have recently increased the length of consultations for GP's working in Selby from 10 to 15 minutes. We are sure that this will provide a better service for patients attending to see a GP and early indications are that there is less need for patients to return for a review.

Unfortunately there is a downside to this. Although we have extended the length of surgery times there is still a net loss of appointments per week, as a result the waiting time to see a GP for a routine appointment has risen. Those patients requiring 'Urgent' medical attention will not be affected. Depending on their problem they will be seen either by our 'duty team' in the minor illness clinic or be triaged by the doctor 'on call'

We would like to provide a similar service at our branch surgeries of Carlton & Riccall. However this is not possible due to financial constraints & lack of space

Demand

Like all organisations at the present time the NHS faces many financial challenges. This is affecting the level of service we can provide. We receive our income from the PCT, funding this year has been cut & we expect cuts to be made next year. We have to try and make the best use of the limited resources we have.

There are things you can do to help, e.g.

- Ensure you attend for appointments you have made - last month 115 patients made appts but did not turn up. This equates to over 19 hours of appts that were wasted.
 - There are other ways of seeking advice over general health issues. NHS Direct can be contacted 24 hours per day on 0845 4647
 - Local pharmacies can provide you with advice about medicines
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Patient Reference Group

You will have gathered from this newsletter that there is a lot going on in the NHS and this will inevitably impact on us. We want to improve the services we offer and we want to involve our patients in doing this. Because we value your opinions we are setting up a group of patients who are able to give us their views, by e-mail, on a range of issues which affect the surgery and the people who use it.

We are looking for patients who represent all the varied types of people who use our services. Further information can be found at <http://www.beechtreesurgery.co.uk/ppg.aspx>

Other Services

The recent extension to our main site in Selby has allowed us to offer accommodation to other health related providers. These include;

Private Physiotherapy:	Indergaard Physiotherapy	Tel 01757 - 705511
Private Chiropody/Podiatry:	Selby Podiatry Centre	Tel 01757 - 704747
Private Counsellor:	Selby Counselling	Tel 07570 - 618297
NHS & Private Opticians:	Beech Tree Eyecare	Tel 01757 - 704300

All the above offer services from our main site in Selby

The next newsletter will be published in January 2012

For more information about the practice please check our website, www.beechtreesurgery.co.uk
