

Mitcheldean Surgery Newsletter

June 2018

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New Data Protection Regulations UPDATE

Contact Us

Tel: 01594 542270

Option 1 to cancel an appointment

Option 2 for Reception

Option 3 for Dispensary

Option 4 for the Medical Secretaries

Gayle Sykes, Practice Manager

Tel: 01594 545320

General Fax: 01594 544897

Dispensary Fax: 01594 545325

Mitcheldean Surgery

Brook Street, Mitcheldean

Gloucestershire, GL17 0AU

Website

www.mitcheldeansurgery.co.uk

If you have any comments regarding the Surgery, please send these to us via the Contact Us page of our website, or contact Gayle Sykes, Practice Manager, on 01594 545320.

Surgery Closure

PLEASE NOTE: We will be closed from 12.30 pm on Wednesday 20th June 2018. If you need **urgent** assistance when we are closed please call the usual Surgery telephone number – 01594 542270 - and your call will be transferred to the Out of Hours Service.

New Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and what you need to do - UPDATE

You will have read about the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which came into force on the 25th May 2018. This is a new regulation that determines how your personal data is processed and kept safe and the legal rights that you have in relation to your own information.

On Monday 21st May 2018 during an interview with the BBC, Mr Steve Wood, the Deputy Information Commissioner, made the following statement:

“For a service like a GP Surgery where they have already got an important relationship with their patients it shouldn't be necessary for them to go out and get consent from the patients. The patients have a clear understanding when they sign up to the Surgery about the interaction they will want to have. There may be options where information can be provided in the Surgery about how people want to contact them but it shouldn't be necessary to do a blanket contact of all their patients because it is an intrinsic part of providing information to patients about the service.”

Having already undertaken a significant amount of work in preparation for the new Regulation, and the fact that many patients have already completed consent forms, as a Practice we have taken the decision to continue with our consent gathering campaign and to switch our clinical systems to “explicit consent”. The information we have received so far has been confusing, open to interpretation and at times contradictory. As a Practice we want to ensure we have covered every eventuality and there is no possibility of being found non-compliant in the future.

Consent forms can be obtained from Reception at the Surgery, or downloaded from our Website at www.mitcheldeansurgery.co.uk. We apologise for any confusion this may have caused.

Changes to the Prescribing of Over the Counter Medicines

NHS England have announced some changes with regard to NHS prescribing of a range of medicines, vitamins and minerals that are available to buy over the counter from Pharmacies and Supermarkets which will come into effect on the 31st May 2018. This follows a National consultation and subsequent NHS England Guidance that recommends over the counter medicines associated with a number of minor, short term conditions, which are either self-limiting or can be self-treated by the individual, should no longer be routinely prescribed by GP Surgeries but purchased by the patient.

With effect from this date, **your GP will no longer be able to issue prescription medication** for the following conditions:

Acne - Mild	Diarrhoea	Ringworm
Athlete's Foot	Ear Wax	Skin – mild dryness
Burns or Scalds – Minor	Eyes (dry or tired)	Sore throat (lozenges or sprays)
Cold Sores (No Acyclovir)	Haemorrhoids (Piles)	Sun Protection
Colic	Hay Fever (mild/moderate)	Sunburn
Conjunctivitis	Head Lice	Threadworms
Constipation (infrequent) - Adult	Hyperhidrosis (excessive sweating)	Thrush – Oral
Coughs & Colds	Indigestion & Heartburn	Toothache/Teething
Cradle Cap	Insect Bites	Toothpaste (high Fluoride)
Cystitis – Mild	Mouth Ulcers	Travel Sickness
Dandruff	Nappy Rash	Verrucae
Dermatitis - Mild	Pain associated with Minor Conditions (aches and sprains, headache, back or period pain)	Warts

This change applies to medicines for the above conditions, together with a range of vitamins and minerals, unless there is a medical deficiency. A full list of the conditions and the current NHS England guidance can be found at www.gloucestershireccg.nhs.uk/otc. Further information is also available on our website – www.mitcheldeansurgery.co.uk.

There are exceptions, which include:

- Patients who are prescribed an over the counter medicine for a long term or more complex condition, or
- Where a Clinician considers that a patient's well-being could be affected due to health, mental health or significant social vulnerability.

A full list of exceptions can be found using the link above, or can be collected from Reception at the Surgery.

The CCG estimate that the annual prescribing cost for these medicines in Gloucestershire alone is around £2 Million, and this money could be put to better use to support vital healthcare in the county.

If you feel you need medicines for any of the above conditions, your first point of contact should be your local Pharmacy, who will be happy to advise you on appropriate treatment as required.

We appreciate this may cause some inconvenience to patients, but this is a National initiative which affects all GP Surgeries and as a Practice we are duty-bound to follow the guidance issued by NHS England.

Thank you.