**Beechwood Medical Practice Patient Group Meeting**

**Minutes - Tuesday 20th August 2024 at 6pm**

**Attendees –** Trisha Jackson, Cheryl Benson, David Rowe, Barbara Davies, John Lawrence, Pat Foster, Sue Lewis, Monica Grizzle, Sarah Monteith & Sarah McKay

**Apologies –** Pawel Capik & Rowena Sutcliffe

1. **Welcome to the meeting, introductions and apologies**

**2. Minutes and matters arising from the last meeting**

* Website design – we will be in touch with Pawel and David shortly – it is all going ahead, and we will be in contact before we go live to get feedback from patients.
* Phone system – the installation has been delayed, until the end of Sept /beginning of Oct – The upgrade is required for us to be compliant with the imposed changes to the GP Contract. The requirement is for practices to have a phone system that has a call back facility and the ability to provide detailed data reports for NHSE review.
* Shingles – CB asked can you pay to have a shingles vaccination? Initial thoughts you would need to contact a private GP and see if that is something they offer. (Post meeting note – Chemists are offering service too £230 for one vaccine, £460 for two) SMc advised Shingles eligibility is as a pt turns 70 or 65 after 1st Sept 2023 they will be invited to have a vaccine. It is a one-off course of 2 vaccines (normally given 6 to 12 months apart). Anyone over 70 would have already had invites as we have been offering to over 70’s for some years. Anyone over 65 will be offered when they turn 70. Only other pts this Is currently offered to is anyone with a compromised immune system that is over 50 years old.

**3. Update from Healthwatch/ One Care PPG representative**

-Health Watch has been re-commissioned – it is going back to the Care Forum for the next 5 years. Health Watch England would like to take over the commissioning of the local Health Watches. As the money that should go to support local Health Watch services is not ringfenced.

-Bristol PPG forum – Ron Mendel – Shared a statement of support for GP collective action. This was supported by our own PPG.

SMon asked if the group would be happy if she posted this on the PPG noticeboard downstairs – to which all agreed – **ACTION will pass to CB** to add a statement to say group endorses it.

-SMon advised that Beechwood has not actually decided yet as to what action we will take. There is a meeting soon, with representatives from all practices, to talk about what the options are and what the outcomes could be. We have seen a list of suggested actions GPs could take and these are what will be discussed. Our GP’s want to be heard, but they do not want to do anything that will impact our patients. Potential actions might be not engaging with new initiatives, reverting to traditional methods of managing referrals, not sharing data.

**4. Feedback/Discussion items from patients**

Electronic Repeat Dispensing – what is it/how does it work? -DR raised that he had been advised his eye drops were going onto eRD, but not his medications, which would seem more relevant.

SMc advised this was something we were encouraged to use more during Covid and have been trying to start this slowly. We are now signed up to a project working with One Care to help us move more pts, who are on stable medications across to eRD. (or sometimes called Batch Dispensing).

The idea is that you have your annual review and then doctor says it would be appropriate to use eRD for your medications. This means the GP will issue the whole years’ worth of medications electronically. This does not mean you go the pharmacy and get given a whole year’s worth. What happens is you go to the pharmacy, and they give you your first 2 months supply and 2 months later you just go back to pharmacy to get the next two months’ supply without having to order them through us or the pharmacy. The pharmacy should tell you when they have issued you with your last script and prompt you to order through us again (the hope being this coincides with your annual review too). Advantages for you is that you do not need to order meds every 2 months and advantage for us is less prescription requests coming through and less time GP needs to spend on issuing prescriptions. Current disadvantages for pt are that once your medication has gone onto eRD you cannot see it on the NHS app / online access apps to reorder it – so would mean ordering another way when you need to at the end of the year (this has been raised as an improvement suggestion for the App developers)

Repeat Prescriptions – SL asked how do pt order repeat medication.

SMc advised: -

* Ideal way for us and less work for pt is through the NHS app or online access,
* we also have a page on our website that gives you a link to a form to complete (you do need to write in each medication you want) and this comes across to us as an email to process.
* You can email our prescriptions mailbox directly – but do need to tell us your name and date or birth and what medication you require.
* Can hand in paper requests at reception (or box outside) – again need to add all your details to these.

 Details of the various options are all listed on the website. [www.beechwoodmedicalpractice.co.uk](http://www.beechwoodmedicalpractice.co.uk)

**5. Practice updates**

* New phone system (Being installed in September) – covered above.
* Our practice stance on GP action in response to this year’s NHSE contract financial uplift – talked about above.
* Staffing update – Grace our pharmacist had a baby boy, and we are expecting her back in around 9 months. We are advertising for a new Practice Nurse, as we did employ two part time nurses in March. One has since left and the other is due to go on maternity leave in October.
* Website progress – talked about above.
* Flu and Covid autumn campaigns – Flu soft start with 1st Sept for pregnant women and kids only – Everyone else is from Thurs 3rd Oct onwards. Some slight change to the groups eligible for Covid this year (Carers and household members of immunosuppressed, will not be offered Covid this year, but can still have Flu)
* RSV – is a vaccine that protects against Respiratory Syncytial Virus. RSV affects an estimated 64 million people, and causes 160,000 deaths, worldwide each year. Anyone turning 75 after 1st Sept will be invited for a vaccine and anyone 75 to 79 will also be invited to have one before end of Aug 2025. This is a one-off vaccine, like pneumonia.
* Mpox – Alerts to be aware of patients presenting with fever, flu like symptoms and if have been travelling, particularly in Africa, or have been in close contact with people recently returning form Africa. Incubation period is about a week before sign of rash start to appear. Anyone with unusual rash we will be asking for photo’s first as ideally do not want them to attend the surgery. It is thought method of transmission is by close skin to skin contact with an infected person, rather than aerosol droplets. More advice being issued daily.

**6. Date for next meeting – Tuesday 26th November 2024 at 3pm.** The group had previously suggested that an earlier meeting time might be preferrable during the dark nights. We will try this earlier time for our November meeting and review again at that point.