



Spencer Street Surgery

Patient Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2021

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FLU SEASON

As a result of non-pharmaceutical interventions in place for COVID-19 (such as mask-wearing, physical and social distancing, and restricted international travel) influenza activity levels were extremely low globally in 2020 to 2021. As a result, a lower level of population immunity against influenza is expected in 2021 to 2022.

In the situation where social mixing and social contact return towards pre-pandemic norms, it is expected that winter 2021 to 2022 will be the first winter in the UK when seasonal influenza virus (and other respiratory viruses) will co-circulate alongside COVID-19.

Seasonal influenza and COVID-19 viruses have the potential to add substantially to the winter pressures usually faced by the NHS, particularly if infection waves from both viruses coincide. The timing and magnitude of potential influenza and COVID-19 infection waves for winter 2021 to 2022 are currently unknown, but mathematical modelling indicates the 2021 to 2022 influenza season in the UK could be up to 50% larger than typically seen and it is also possible that the 2021 to 2022 influenza season will begin earlier than usual.

Influenza vaccination is therefore an important priority this coming autumn to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with influenza, and to reduce hospitalisations during a time when the NHS and social care may also be managing winter outbreaks of COVID-19.

The national influenza immunisation programme aims to provide direct protection to those who are at higher risk of influenza associated morbidity and mortality. Groups eligible for influenza vaccination are based on the advice of the (JCVI) and include older people, pregnant women, and those with certain underlying medical conditions.

Practice Closures:

Staff Training from 1pm

14th October 21

17th November 21

13th January 22

10th February 22

16th March 22

Contact 111 when the surgery is closed. 999 if it is an emergency

FLU SEASON continued

The expanded influenza vaccination programme that we had last year will continue in 2021 to 2022 as part of our wider winter planning when we are likely to see both influenza and COVID-19 in circulation. This means that as a temporary measure the offer for 50 to 64 year olds will continue this year to protect this age group, as hospitalisation from COVID-19 also increases from the age of 50 years onwards.

As a temporary measure, the programme will also be extended this year to 4 additional cohorts in secondary school so that all those from years 7 to year 11 will be offered vaccination. Vaccinating children reduces transmission of influenza and JCVI have recommended that expanding into secondary schools would be cost-effective, particularly if COVID-19 is still circulating.

Spencer Street Surgery Flu Clinics

We are hoping to have 2 Saturday drop in clinics during October to vaccinate the majority of our eligible patients, however, vaccine delivery will not be confirmed until 7 days before they arrive leaving the time we have to advertise clinics and invite patients rather tight.

We use SMS texting to invite those eligible patients who have a mobile number registered at the practice and those without mobiles will receive a letter invite. Please look out for these and call the surgery to update your mobile number if it has changed. There will also be flu clinic updates on the following platforms:



www.spencerstreetsurgery.co.uk



@spencerstreetGP



@spencersturg

We will once again have a controlled vaccination environment with a 1 way system in place plus enough staff to see you through the process as safely and efficiently as possible. We look forward to seeing you.

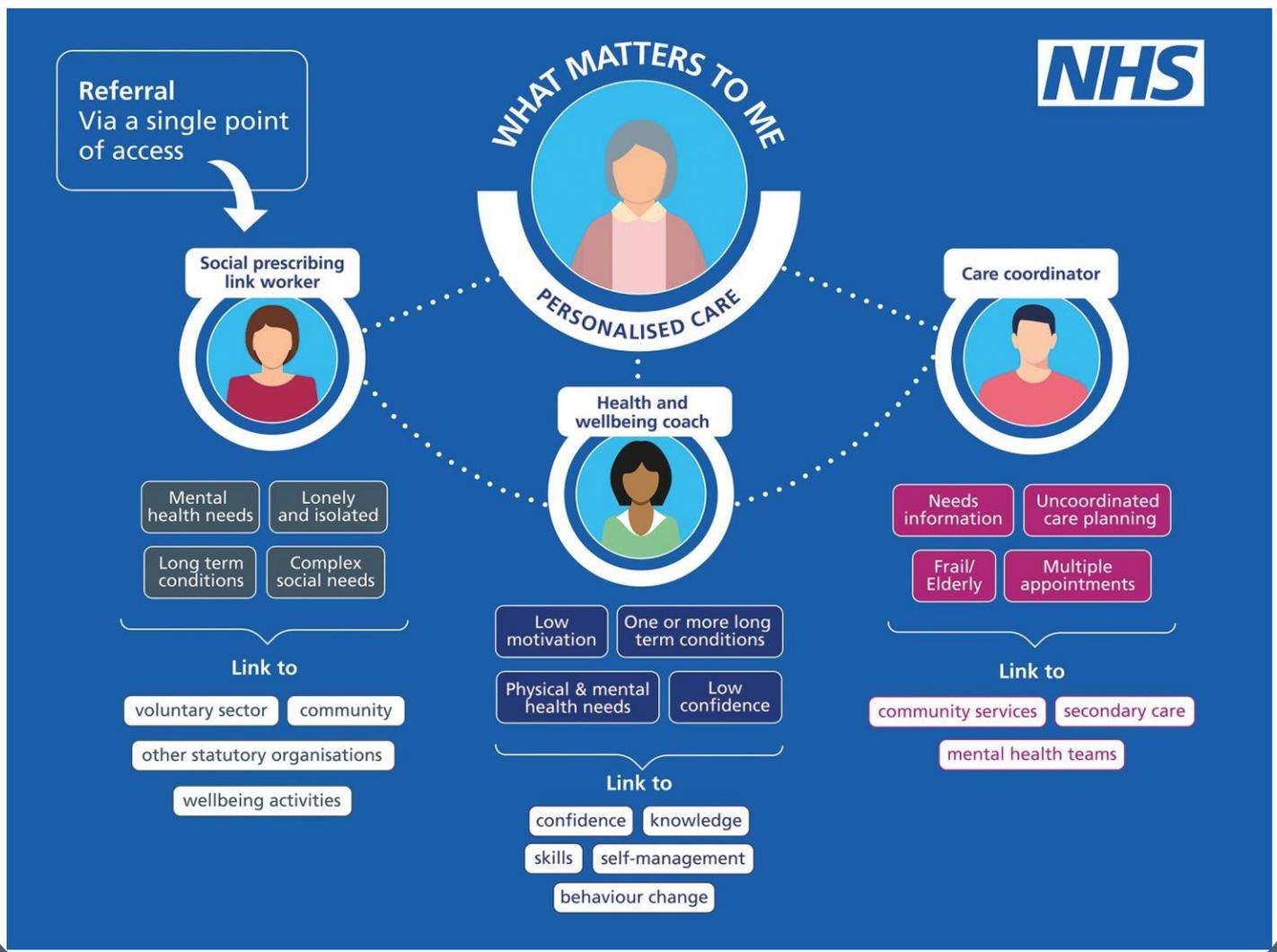
Long Term Condition (LTC) Care Coordinator

In the June issue of our patient newsletter we introduced our Social Prescribing Team. This month we would like to introduce another service which links in with the Social Prescribers, our LTC Care Coordinator Role

Our Care coordinator, Carla Brockbank, will play an important role within the practice to proactively identify and work with people, including the frail/elderly and those with long-term conditions, to provide coordination and navigation of care and support across health and care services.

The care coordinator role will ensure patient health and care planning is timely, efficient, and patient-centred. The role will include responsibilities for the coordination of the patient's journey through primary care and secondary care. This is achieved by bringing together all the information about a person's identified care and support needs and exploring options to meet these within a single personalised care and support plan, based on what matters to the person.

Welcome to the team Carla.



PRACTICE STATISTICS

Calls:

Jan = 8668

Feb = 8665

Mar = 12200

Apr = 11966

May = 11312

Jun = 12060

Jul = 10465

Aug = 9512

Online Consultations:

Jan = 48

Feb = 52

Mar = 49

Apr = 74

May = 67

June = 77

Jul = 152

Aug = 80

Friends & Family

Aug = 96% of our patients would recommend our service to friends & family



*"We welcome your feedback—
please visit our website, write to our
Assistant Practice Manager or drop
a note in at the desk"*

COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Our team is currently working through the information and guidance published around the Covid Booster jabs. As we will be following the JCVI cohorts – as we did originally – we are asking people to wait to be called by the NHS for their booster.



Please do not call the Practice as you cannot be booked in for a covid booster jab.

Anybody who has not had their **first or second** covid jabs can book via <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Or drop in to any walk-in sessions – more information here <https://northcumbriaccg.nhs.uk/dropins>

or on the national 'grab a jab' site <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/find-a-walk-in-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-site/>

We would encourage everyone aged 16 or over to ensure they have both first and second jabs – there must be an eight week gap between jabs.

People will be called for their boosters by the NHS – jab 3 – in line with the priority cohorts identified by the Joint Committee of Vaccines and Immunisations (JCVI).

