

**Birchwood Medical Practice  
Patient Participation Group Meeting  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 – 6pm**

Attendees: (ZW) – Deputy Manager  
(SB) – PPG Member  
(PM) – PPG Member  
(CB) – PPG Member  
(TO) – PPG Member

Apologies: (KR) – Practice Manager  
(AG) – PPG Member  
(LH) – PPG Member  
(RA) – PPG Member  
(DC) – PPG Member

## **1 Welcome**

Everyone introduced themselves to the meeting. Everyone welcomed our new member, TO to the group.

Apologies noted above.

## **2 Covid Vaccination Update**

ZW advised that vaccine uptake had been reasonable and the clinics were starting to fill up, however there is an element of vaccine fatigue. We would be focusing on a smaller cohort this time:

- Patients 75 and over
- Care Home Residents
- Patients who are immunosuppressed

ZW advised that the current vaccine being used is SpikeVax.

SB asked about shingles update. ZW advised that the guidance is as follows:

- The age range for those with very serious immunosuppression has dropped to age 50. The general population age range is being slowly dropped down to 60 but over a 10 year period so that vaccine stocks are not depleted too quickly. This year we are continuing to be able to vaccinate those turning 70 and up to age 80. We are also able to include those who will turn 65 01.09.2023 and 31.08.2024. So if your date of birth is between 01.09.1958 and 31.08.1959 we will text you after your birthday to invite you in.
- Further details can be found at : <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccination/shingles-vaccination/>

## **3 New Registrars**

ZW explained that as we are a teaching practice, we have a regular change over of Registrars who

all spend between 4 – 12 months with the Practice as part of their GP Training.

New Registrars are:

Dr Oseghale Ojobo – ST2

Dr Abyrami Sivanandarajah – F2

#### **4 NHS App Drop in Sessions**

Drop-in sessions continue to be offered to patients to offer patients support in setting up the NHS App. The last few clinics were fairly busy but generally very well received.

#### **5 Members Contribution**

PM gave an overview of a recent issue he had with a prescription.

ZW advised that unfortunately there are lots of stock shortages at the Pharmacists which are causing lots of issues for everyone. Also, tasks are often sent to a GP but then the task is just completed and not always sent back to the Reception Team to update patients with outcomes.

ZW gave an overview of the APEX and how Birchwood is part of the Apex PCN and explained how we work together to offer appointments outside of normal surgery hours.

#### **6 Any Other Business**

ZW stated that DC has prior commitments on the first Thursday of every month so wondered if future meetings could be avoided on this day.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

To be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 6.00pm.