

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

July 2011

The Health Centre
Higher Lane
Rainford

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www.rainfordhealthcentre.co.uk

DRS WEBSTER AND TWOMEY



DR WEBSTER – “SEMI-RETIREMENT”

Dr Webster will cease to be a full-time practitioner from the end of June and thereafter will work 2 days each week. He would like to thank those patients who have already expressed their good wishes, though doubtless many of you will still be seeing him again at some time in the future.

Dr Lowcock will become a full partner in the practice, but will remain working her present hours. Dr Subramanian will also continue his present role, and we look forward to welcoming Dr Helen O'Connor who will join us on a part-time basis from August onwards. We also remain a training Practice for FY2 Doctors and from August GP Registrar's

THE NHS

The all encompassing 'cradle to grave' care organisation we have become used to over the last 63 years is about to become very different. The combination of ill thought out administrative reform and political prevarication has produced absolute chaos and made future planning virtually impossible. Whatever the results of the current political arguments many of the functions we take for granted will cease to be easily available.

Some of you have already found that surgical procedures for which we have referred you have been halted whilst we apply for special funding (these are known as Procedures of Lower Clinical Priority). In many cases this funding will not be granted.

For many years now our prescribing costs have been closely scrutinised and we have been required to justify any increases in expenditure. The same scrutiny will now be applied to referrals to specialists, requiring us to carefully consider the justification for each and every NHS referral.

Waiting times for some procedures and outpatient appointments are already lengthening significantly, and there is no doubt that this will become steadily worse. Funding cuts may also begin to affect the availability of hospital services, especially as the Whiston/St. Helens NHS Trust is already in deep financial trouble due to their PFI status (i.e. they were built by private enterprise and the taxpayer has to pay large amounts of money before a single patient enters the door).

We recognise that there may, as result of all this, be occasions when these new circumstances lead to misunderstandings between patients and their doctors. We ask for your tolerance and patience whilst we adapt to these changes, and would like to be sure you that our overriding priority will always be the best interests of our patients.

FLU CAMPAIGN 2011

Following on from the successful introduction of Saturday walk in clinics (No appointment necessary) we intend to follow the same format this year. If you are over 65 you will receive notification through the post.

If you are in an "AT RISK" category and under 65 you are also entitled to a free flu vaccination. You will not initially receive notification through the post. Please do not put yourself at risk of flu and attend for your vaccination.

AT RISK categories include patients with Diabetes / COPD / CHD / Asthma / CKD / Stroke / Immunosuppression / Pregnant / Carer

We will advertise clinic times and dates nearer the time, on the surgery notice boards and on the website www.rainfordhealthcentre.co.uk



CARERS

If you are a carer, and are not already registered with the St. Helens Carers centre, and would like some support please ask at Reception and we can arrange this for you.

USE THE INTERNET TO BOOK YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT

WE NOW ACCEPT APPOINTMENTS BOOKED ON-LINE THROUGH EMISaccess. THIS NEW SERVICE WILL ALLOW YOU TO VIEW, BOOK AND CANCEL YOUR APPOINTMENT VIA THE INTERNET 24 HOURS A DAY

PLEASE ASK AT RECEPTION FOR A REGISTRATION LETTER

You can also order your repeat prescriptions via our website and there is no need to register for this service. Go to www.rainfordhealthcentre.co.uk

To help us improve our patient services we would like to up-date your contact details. Please let us know your up-to-date **mobile** and **home** telephone numbers

Thank you