

Barnabas PPG

From: Barnabas PPG <barnabas.ppg@gmail.com>
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Attachments: PPG_Priorities_2017-19_Action+Status.pdf; Patient_Survey_2017.pdf

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To All Barnabas PPG Members ...
[Printed copies to those PPG members without email]

[If you can't read any of the attached documents, or want printed copies of anything mentioned, please contact me and I'll try to send you a copy.]

Welcome to a shorter than usual May bulletin for Barnabas PPG members.

PPG Meeting, Tuesday 6 June – Agenda

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 6 June, 1400 hrs at St Barnabas Church Hall.
As far as I know at the moment the agenda will be:

1. Introductions & Apologies
2. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Role of the Practice Manager (Matt Edwards)
4. PPG Awareness Week, Practice Survey, etc.
5. Priorities & Projects Update
6. Practice Updates
7. PPG Updates
8. Other Matters Arising & AOB

I've attached a copy of the updated Priorities & Projects list for agenda item 5.

Practice's Annual Patient Survey

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help conduct the Practice's annual patient survey. I will be sending a schedule, and more information, to all volunteers in the next few days.

We're still short of volunteers and there are gaps in the schedule – even after asking existing volunteers to do as much as possible. So if you haven't volunteered but can give us some time on 2, 8, 14, 20, 26 June, please get in touch.

Meanwhile I attach a copy of the survey questionnaire for everyone to complete. The form will also be downloadable from the Practice website during June.

PPG Information & Recruiting Sessions

Again, thank you for those who have already volunteered to help with the PPG sessions in the waiting area over the coming months. Again I will in the next day or so drop a note to those involved in the near future.

If you can help with this initiative, which involves just talking to patients about the PPG and answering their questions, please get in touch. The forthcoming sessions are:

- Morning (0900-1200) on Wed 21 June, Fri 23 June, Tue 26 September, Tue 24 October, Fri 24 November
- Afternoon (1400-1700) on Wed 31 May, Tue 25 July, Thu 31 August, Wed 13 December

And now for just a couple of general healthcare items ...

UTI Test Result Inaccuracy

According to a report in the *Guardian* on 28 April, recent research suggests the standard test for Urinary Tract Infections (UTI) used by GPs is thought to give a wrongly negative result (false negative) in around 20% of cases. The recommendation is that, as well as doing the test, GPs should treat patients presenting with an apparent UTI on a clinical assessment of those symptoms, not just on the test result. My experience at Barnabas is that our GPs do indeed treat on the symptoms, using the test to check that the correct antibiotic is being prescribed. The full *Guardian* report can be found at

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2017/apr/28/uti-test-used-by-gps-gives-wrong-results-in-at-least-a-fifth-of-cases-study-claims>.

Smokers and Obese Patients Face More Curbs on NHS Surgery

In another *Guardian* report on 22 April concern is raised that many more patients who are obese or smokers will be denied important surgery (hip and knee operations are the ones quoted) until they make "lifestyle changes". While such patients can be at greater risk from general anaesthetic, these actions are seen by many as a method of rationing. The article quotes this as

already happening in Yorkshire, although I know of cases in Ealing and Harrow where this appears (from the outside) to also have happened in recent years. Again the full *Guardian* report is at <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/apr/22/nhs-letter-more-rations-on-operations-obese-smokers>.

And then the stream of healthcare news was reduced to a trickle due to the purdah leading up to the General Election on 8 June. If you are eligible to vote in the General Election, please do so – the country is at a crossroads and everyone's opinion (yes, including yours!) is important; that's how democracy works.

More next month, by which time we will have a new government and maybe some good news for the NHS.

Keith

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