

## Barnabas PPG

---

**From:** Barnabas PPG <barnabas.ppg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 18 March 2018 15:16  
**Subject:** Barnabas PPG Monthly Bulletin, March  
**Attachments:** BB21\_COLOUR\_2up.pdf; Open\_Forum\_1.pdf; Ebulletin MARCH 2018.pdf

You are receiving this email as a member or associate of Barnabas PPG.

If you no longer wish to be a member of this group, or receive these emails, please reply to this email with UNSUBSCRIBE in the Subject line.  
[Please do NOT use "Reply All".]

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 the March bulletin for Barnabas PPG members. Apologies, yet again, for this being slightly later than planned, but at least this time there is good reason as I'm recovering from a heavyweight contest with this year's flu bug.

### Open Forum & PPG Meeting – 10 April

Our next meeting is on the afternoon of Tuesday 10 April. This meeting will incorporate the first of a series of **Open Forum Meetings**. At each of these meetings we will have an invited speaker to talk about a particular aspect of healthcare and answer your questions. Everyone is welcome: patients, carers, and Practice staff.

The first session is:

**Understanding Your Medicines: What, Why, How**  
with Barnabas's Clinical Pharmacist, **Paresh Virji**

Tuesday 10 April, 1300 hrs, in St Barnabas Church Hall, Raglan Way  
(Tea/coffee will be provided; bring your brown bag lunch if you wish)

### Note the time: 1300 hrs.

The Open Forum will be followed by our normal PPG meeting at 1400 hrs, for which the agenda will be:

1. Introductions & Apologies
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Volunteer Champion Models (Lindsay Topham, Ealing CCG)
4. PPG Activity Updates
5. Practice Updates
6. Other PPG Updates, Matters Arising & AOB

**If you can, please come along to the Open Forum: it is your opportunity to find out things you always wanted to know, but didn't like to ask.**

### Meet the Patients

Having cancelled the last Meet the Patients session at the last minute (due to the weather) we will be attempting to run the March session on the morning of Thursday 22/03. Do drop by for a chat to us, or to other patients.

### Barnabas Bulletin

The latest issue of the Practice's newsletter, *Barnabas Bulletin* is now out. This issue contains information on the Open Forum sessions, and also important information on the changes to the repeat prescription process.

I have attached a copy or you will be able to download one from the Practice website or our Facebook page within the next day or so.

### Satisfaction with the NHS overall

Since 1983 the British Social Attitudes survey has asked members of the public about their views on, and feelings towards, the NHS and health and care issues generally. The latest survey was carried out between July and October 2017. Among the key findings this year were:

- Public satisfaction with the NHS overall was 57% in 2017 – a 6 percentage point drop from the previous year. At the same time, dissatisfaction with the NHS overall increased by 7 percentage points to 29% – its highest level since 2007.
- The four main reasons given for satisfaction with the NHS were: quality of care, the NHS is free at the point of use, attitudes and behaviour of NHS staff, and the range of services and treatments available.
- The four main reasons for dissatisfaction were: staff shortages, long waiting times, lack of funding, and government reforms.

For those who like the detail, the full report is available at <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/public-satisfaction-nhs-2017>

### **Prescription Charges**

As usual at this time of year, prescription charges are increasing. From 1 April the current £8.60 charge will increase to £8.80 for each item dispensed. Latest available statistics show that while 40% of the population are liable to pay the prescription charge, in practice over 90% of prescriptions are dispensed free of charge.

### **Flusurvey**

Having just had this year's flu (despite having had my flu jab) I'm reminded about **Flusurvey** – an online system for measuring influenza trends. The UK Flusurvey was launched in July 2009 during the swine flu epidemic; it is part of a Europe-wide initiative to monitor influenza-like activity and understand how epidemics spread. Flusurvey collects data directly from the general public (rather than via hospitals or GPs) during the flu season, roughly October to April; this is important because many people with flu don't visit a doctor so don't feature in traditional flu surveillance. Anyone who lives in the UK can register to take part. You will be asked to complete a profile of general questions about yourself and your flu risk factors (eg. age, vaccination status). Then each week you'll be asked to report any flu-like symptoms experienced since your last visit – and you'll get to see a map of reported flu in your area. Participation is entirely voluntary and information is collected for research purposes only; all analysis is carried out on anonymous datasets.

I have been completing Flusurvey each week for a number of years and believe the handful of minutes a week it needs is a good way of contributing to ongoing research. There aren't many participants in our area: none in UB5 and just a handful in UB6, so if you feel inclined to take part you can find Flusurvey at <https://flusurvey.org.uk>.

### **Healthwatch Ealing March 2018 Newsletter**

Healthwatch Ealing's latest newsletter is now available and is available at <https://healthwatchealing.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Healthwatch-Ealing-Newsletter-March-2018.pdf>.

### **NAPP eBulletin**

Finally I attach the latest (March) eBulletin from NAPP. As always it contains a number of interesting and useful news items which I have not covered above.

More next month. Meanwhile have a good Easter and I hope to see you at the Open Forum on 10 April.

Keith

---

Keith Marshall, Chairman, Barnabas PPG  
76 Ennismore Avenue, Greenford, UB6 0JW  
Phone: 020 8864 7993      Mobile: 07847 149 417  
Email: [barnabas.ppg@gmail.com](mailto:barnabas.ppg@gmail.com) or [kcm@cix.co.uk](mailto:kcm@cix.co.uk)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/barnabas.ppg/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/barnabas.ppg/)

---