

Barnabas Patient Voices

From: Barnabas Patient Voices <keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk>
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To: Barnabas Patient Voices
Subject: Barnabas Patient Voices Monthly Update, September
Attachments: PERC_Newsletter.pdf; PPG Newsletter - 2024 - August.pdf; PA_Newsletters.pdf

Barnabas Patient Voices Members ...

Printed copies to members without email.

A copy will also be posted on our Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/barnabas.ppg>, and website, <https://barnabasvoices.org.uk/>.

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 September update for **Barnabas Patient Voices** members.

***** PLEASE SEE BELOW RE OPEN MEETING DATES! *****

Please share healthcare news! (But not anything about your personal care.) Please be brief – just a link to a news item is fine. Email to me at keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk, or leave me a note with reception at the medical centre.

Infectious Disease Updates

Covid

The good news is that it seems the summer Covid wave is over, as infection rates have fallen considerably over the last 2-3 weeks. If you want more of the detail, see Bob Hawkins's *Covid Situation Report: Aug 29, 2024* at <https://bhawkins3.substack.com/p/covid-situation-report-aug-29-2024>.

The Covid Autumn Booster Campaign should start soon. The complete list of those eligible for the Autumn 2024 booster is:

- adults aged 65 years and over;
- residents in a care home for older adults;
- individuals aged 6 months to 64 years in a clinical risk group;
- frontline NHS and social care workers; and
- those working in care homes for older people.

Annoyingly this is slightly curtailed compared with the Autumn 2023 list, and yet again the UK is lagging behind other countries. More background and commentary at <https://sheenacruickshankimmunology.substack.com/p/the-autumn-vaccine-offer-for-covid>.

Some people are still eligible for free COVID-19 rapid lateral flow tests. Details at <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/testing-for-covid-19/who-can-get-a-free-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test/>.

Treatment for COVID-19 is also still available for some. Again details at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/treatments-for-covid-19/>.

Mpox (aka Monkeypox)

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a public health emergency of international concern because of the rapid spread of a new Mpox virus strain (clade 1b), after its emergence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and the potential for the virus to spread.

Currently, there are no known cases of Clade 1 Mpox in the UK, and the risk to the general population is considered to be low. Nevertheless health agencies are on the alert and plans are in place to deal with any cases and halt onward transmission..

Measles

Recent UKHSA data suggests a slowing in the number of confirmed measles cases in NW London, although other areas of London are still seeing a rising number of cases. However there could be a surge in cases as people return from holiday and schools go back. Parents should therefore continue to check that their children are up to date with their MMR vaccinations – it is never too late to catch up! BBC report at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9wjx781ngzo>.

Barnabas Patient Voices News

Open Meeting Update

Unfortunately, for many reasons, the Practice are unable to host the planned in person Open Meeting later this month, and it has not been possible to reschedule this during late-September or October.

Consequently we've decided to **cancel the meetings planned for Saturday 28 September and Wednesday 20 November**. Instead there will be an in person **Open Meeting at the Practice on Saturday 2 November, 11:00**. Agenda to follow nearer the time. **Please update your diary!**

Following this we will resume with meetings in January next year. Please let me know before 2 November if there are days/times which are especially good (or bad) for you, and I will try to accommodate them when scheduling for next year.

Barnabas Practice News

Flu Jabs

This year's flu vaccinations will be available for the majority of those eligible from 3 October, and the Practice are arranging vaccination clinics. Vaccination of pregnant women and children is available from 1 September. Eligibility for vaccination is much as in previous years:

- From 1 September 2024:
 - all children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2024
 - all primary school aged children (from reception to year 6)
 - secondary school-aged children (years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11)
 - those aged 6 months to under 18 years in clinical risk groups
 - pregnant women
- From 3 October 2024:
 - those aged 65 years and over
 - those aged 18 years to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
 - those in long-stay residential care
 - carers in receipt of carer's allowance, or who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person
 - close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
 - frontline workers in health & social care

It looks from this as if many 4-year-olds will miss out, as could many 16-17 year-olds, which seems strange.

Barnabas Bulletin

The September issue of *Barnabas Bulletin* will be published towards the end of this month, and will be circulated once available.

Regrettably it has been agreed that, following this issue, *Barnabas Bulletin* will be published just twice a year (not four times, as now) in March and September. This is necessitated by the time and resource required to both write and distribute the newsletter. Why these dates? September will coincide with flu vaccinations and other autumn vaccination campaigns (eg. Covid) as well as back to school/university. Similarly March supports spring vaccinations, and upcoming holiday vaccinations.

Local Healthcare News

Ealing Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

Ealing council are reviewing their Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA), which looks at health needs in the borough, the level and accessibility of pharmacy services, and how these will be maintained and improved. There is a short survey at <https://www.ealing.gov.uk/pna>, which is open until 6 October.

New Ealing Community Diagnostic Centre Opens

The Ealing Community Diagnostic Centre (ECDC) at Ealing Hospital was opened in mid-August. It offers a range of diagnostic services including CT, MRI and ultrasound scans, and is intended to help ease pressure on existing hospital services and reduce waiting times. It is the largest CDC to open in North-West London and will serve communities in Ealing, Hanwell, Southall and Greenford, as well as supporting Brent and Harrow boroughs. GPs can make direct referrals to the centre. Report at <https://www.ealingtoday.co.uk/info/eanhs087.htm>.

Portable Liver Scanner at Northwick Park Hospital

Northwick Park Hospital now has a new “suitcase-sized” portable scanner to detect liver damage in patients at an early stage. This allows same-day results, significantly speeding up diagnosis compared to traditional methods. Report at <https://harrowonline.org/2024/08/19/new-portable-scanner-being-used-at-northwick-park-hospital/>. [h/t Sennen Chiu]

General NHS & Healthcare News

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccination

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common cause of coughs and colds. While infections usually get better by themselves, they can sometimes be serious for babies and older adults. From this month there are two RSV Vaccination Programmes.

- (1) All women who are 28 weeks or more pregnant.
- (2) All adults aged 75-79.

More information at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv/> and <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/rsv-vaccine/>.



Newsletters

A round-up of potentially interesting newsletters received since the last update.

- Patients Association weekly newsletter for 09, 16, 23, 30 August [attached, but due to size, as usual no printed copies]
- Patient Experience Research Centre, Public Involvement Newsletter [attached]
- Mike Lally's PPG Newsletter for August [attached]

Links / QR Codes for the Latest Publications

These will always take you to the latest versions ...

Barnabas Bulletin https://barnabasvoices.org.uk/docs/Barnabas_Bulletin.pdf	
What's Where near Barnabas https://barnabasvoices.org.uk/docs/Whats_Where_near_Barnabas.pdf	

That's it for this month. Enjoy what little remains of the summer!

Keith



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