

Keith Marshall

From: Barnabas Patient Voices <keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk>
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To: Barnabas Patient Voices
Subject: Barnabas Patient Voices Monthly Update, October
Attachments: BPV_Minutes_20240724.pdf; BB40.pdf; PPG Newsletter - 2024 - September.pdf; PA_News.pdf

Email to All **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 a rather shorter than usual October update for **Barnabas Patient Voices** members. Where is this year going? How is it October already?

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 Update

Covid

It isn't over – unfortunately. Reading the scientists on the little data which is available, we've come out of the summer wave of infections. However in the last two weeks rates have increased again sharply and as of late last week they were higher than the peak of the May wave. It seems likely this is being driven by return to school and work combined with a cold and wet September.

Additionally there is a new variant, XEC, which is starting to spread both here and in many other countries. It looks to be more infectious but so far it's unclear to what extent it causes serious illness. And it is not yet prevalent enough to be the cause of the recent rise in cases.

There's a BBC article on XEC at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1jddenj5p5o>.

Prof. Christina Pagel (University College, London) has written briefly about the new wave, and recent evidence to the ongoing Covid Inquiry at <https://christinapagel.substack.com/p/another-wave-hits-and-the-ongoing>.

And don't forget, if you're eligible, to get your autumn booster Covid jab. You can book at <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/covid-19-vaccination-services/book-covid-19-vaccination/>. This is your best protection against serious illness. Masks are good protection too.

Flu

Flu Jabs are now available. If you're eligible you should have received an invitation from the Practice, or you can book your flu jab at the same time as your Covid booster.

Barnabas Patient Voices News

Open Meeting – Saturday 2 November

As outlined in last month's update, we have rejigged our remaining open meeting for this year. We will now meet on **Saturday 2 November, 11:00, at the Medical Centre.**

The draft agenda is:

1. Introductions & Apologies
2. Approve Minutes of July Meeting [attached]
3. Back Surgery (Matt Edwards)
4. 2025-27 Group Plan: Where should we Focus?
5. Meeting Dates for 2025
6. Member Feedback
7. Practice Updates
8. Other PPG Updates
9. Matters Arising, AOB

If you cannot make the meeting, but have thoughts on either our next two-year plan or on meeting dates for next year, then please drop me a note and I'll add them to the discussion.

Barnabas Practice News

Barnabas Bulletin

The September issue of the Practice's newsletter, *Barnabas Bulletin*, is now available. A copy is attached, and there's a link to a downloadable version at the end of this note; printed copies are also available in the waiting area.

Regrettably the Practice has decided that from now on there will be just two issues a year of *Barnabas Bulletin*, in March and September. This is a reflection of the level of work and resource needed to produce and distribute each issue.

Staff Updates

The Practice has recently welcomed Carla to the reception team, and they are still wanting to find another receptionist.

It is also expected that by the end of the month we will have two additional salaried GPs. They should cover not only the currently vacant sessions but provide an additional day a week of appointments. Watch this space.

Local Healthcare News

A&E Frequent Attenders

Ealing Hospital is to investigate why some people become high intensity users of the accident and emergency department. Users who attend A&E at least six times in as many months include those with mental health problems, substance abuse, long term conditions, dementia, and unexplained symptoms. There's a local press report at <https://www.ealingtoday.co.uk/info/eanhs090.htm>.

Wembley Hospital Building in Chaplin Road

The NHS is to sell off the surplus land of the old Wembley Hospital in Chaplin Road. It is likely that the site will see a residential development. Local press report at <https://wembleymatters.blogspot.com/2024/09/nhs-to-sell-off-old-wembley-hospital.html>.

General NHS & Healthcare News

Covid and Flu Jabs

Please see the notes at the top of this update.

NHS Performance

Prof. Lord Ara Darzi has released his report on the performance of the NHS, which was commissioned by Wes Streeting, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. The purpose of the report was to provide a “diagnosis” of the NHS, with a focus on assessing patient access to healthcare, the quality of healthcare being provided and the overall performance of the health system. His conclusion: *the NHS is in critical condition, but its vital signs are strong*.

You can find Lord Darzi’s (rather long) letter summarising his report at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-investigation-of-the-nhs-in-england/summary-letter-from-lord-darzi-to-the-secretary-of-state-for-health-and-social-care>.

Sickness Absence

Why are so many people in Britain off sick? It seems the answer is more complex than appears and it often involves a web of denied or postponed treatment, poor public transport, poor housing, under resourced social care, and so on. There’s a Guardian article looking at the issue at

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/sep/27/britain-sick-answer-benefits-crackdown>.



Newsletters

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

- **Patients Association** weekly news for 06/09, 13/09, 20/09, 27/09. PDF attached, but as usual due to the size no printed copies.
 - **Mike Lally’s PPG Newsletter** for September – attached.
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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 all for this month. Stay well, and don't forget your Covid and Flu jabs!

Keith



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