

Keith Marshall

From: Barnabas Patient Voices <keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk>
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To: Barnabas Patient Voices
Subject: Barnabas Patient Voices Monthly Update, September
Attachments: BPV_Minutes_20260718.pdf; PPGukNews - 31 August 2026.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 the September update for **Barnabas Patient Voices** members.
Quite a short update this month as the country seems to have been on holiday.

Infectious Disease Update

Covid

Looking at the recent data it is clear that after a long respite we are into another wave of Covid. According to the poor monitoring we have, infection rates have been steadily rising for the last few weeks and are now reported to be "above baseline levels", so we do seem to be in another wave. It isn't clear when the wave will peak, or how large it will be. But sticking my neck out I would guess the peak is likely late this month or early next as back to work, school and university work their way through. So if you are eligible (or can afford to pay) please get your autumn booster jab which will be available from 1 October (you can book now). A look at the latest data at <https://bhawkins3.substack.com/p/covid-situation-report-sep-3-2026>.

Flu

Flu vaccinations are now available for schoolchildren, the pregnant and a few others. The majority of those eligible can book now for an appointment from 1 October.

Meningitis B Vaccination

A reminder for those who are starting university (or who are already students but not already vaccinated) to get your Meningitis B vaccination. Meningococcal group B bacteria can cause serious, life-threatening illnesses including meningitis and septicaemia which can both lead to sepsis. More details at <https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2026/06/12/who-is-eligible-for-the-new-one-off-menb-vaccine-programme/>.

Barnabas Patient Voices News

September Open Meeting – Agenda

This month's Open Meeting is on **Saturday 12 September**, 10:30 at the Medical Centre – that's a week earlier than originally planned.

The agenda for the meeting is:

1. Introductions & Apologies
2. Approve Minutes of July Open Meeting [attached]
3. Focussed Discussion Topic: *Improving Patient Self-Care*
4. Members' Feedback
5. Practice Updates
6. Group Updates

7. Matters Arising, AOB

Please come to the meeting if you can; it is your opportunity to influence the Practice!

Barnabas Practice News

Accurx

Good news! eConsult is no more. The Practice is now running a full triage system based on Accurx, which is much easier and more friendly to use.

Practice Manager, Matt Edwards, writes:

Barnabas Medical Centre is now running a full triage system, using the platform Accurx. This facility allows patients to put both clinical and administrative requests directly into the practice using a simple and user friendly form. The form can be found on our website, <https://barnabasmedicalcentre.co.uk/> or you can access this via your NHS app.

The service runs from 8:00am to 6:30pm Monday to Friday. All requests are triaged by a member of the GP team and are prioritised and a response will be sent to you within 2 days (and often less). If you have requested a discussion or face-to-face appointment a message will be sent to you with a link in order for you to book an appointment at the day and time of your choosing.

If you do not have online access or have difficulties using the internet please contact the practice, either by phone or in person, and a member of our team will assist you.

The triage system will greatly reduce the number of telephone calls we receive and will make accessing the practice services much easier.

This also means that the phone messages have again been updated and the phone queue is much shorter.

Local Healthcare News

Ealing Hospital Emergency Department

Ealing Hospital's Emergency Department (A&E) is getting a £1.65 million refurbishment designed to expand capacity, improve patient flow and strengthen safety. The work is taking place over 14 weeks and should be complete later in the Autumn. Local media report at <https://www.ealingtoday.co.uk/default.asp?section=info&page=eanhs131.htm>.

General NHS & Healthcare News

NHS App Videos

There is a group of nine short videos on various aspects of using the NHS App available on YouTube. The videos have subtitles and BSL translation as well as the spoken commentary. Find the videos at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnhASgDToTkuPtdsIVQStTmgo4Bij5T4k>.

Patient Goals

The Patients Association has a recent podcast looking at *What matters to you versus what's the matter with you? Do patients' goals really shape their care?* At almost an hour it is a long listen, but it does include contributions from a number of experts. You can find the podcast at <https://www.patients-association.org.uk/what-matters-to-you-versus-whats-the-matter-with-you-do-patients-goals-really-shape-their-care>.

Newsletters

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

- **Patients Association** weekly news for 07/08, 14/08, 21/08, 28/08, 04/09 – attached as a single document, but as usual no printed copies due to the size. (You can always find the PA latest news online at <https://www.patients-association.org.uk/Pages/News/Category/latest-news>.)
- **PPGukNews** for August – attached

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

As I said, a short update this month due to the holidays. More next month, in the meantime please take care and if you can please come along to the Open Meeting on 12/09.

Keith



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