

GSPG message mid March

Hello there,

I found myself unexpectedly moved seeing the children coming out of school again last week. It suddenly felt enormous, that glimpse of normality. So I hope you are all faring well, deep down and on the surface.

### Vaccinations

I'm so glad I didn't send the "no news" email I wrote on Monday. It looks like 2nd vaccinations in Chiswick are imminent. The Clinical Commissioning Group is not shouting about it because the roll out is not even right across Hounslow, and it still depends on the right trucks turning up at the right places on Monday and Wednesday next week! But here is the hoped-for plan...

This weekend our practice will be going all out to administer 2nd doses of vaccine to the care homes and the housebound who had their first jabs in early January.

Next week will be the turn of people vaccinated at Chiswick Health Centre from January 7, but this time spread more evenly across the week (January 7 was massive).

Once again, texts or calls on behalf of our practice will start inviting the over-80s then the 75+. And so on. Appointments will be at Chiswick Health Centre.

I'm told not everyone who received a first vaccine in the week beginning January 4 will be recalled next week. Certainly some younger people who helped "use up" the unexpected supply then, will have to wait a while longer. This is because the vaccine programme has now been extended so that everyone who is eligible for a flu jab has become eligible for a first vaccination (this is important for people with severe asthma), so they will also be fitted in. That means no "spare" vaccine this time.

I just hope I'm not raising hopes too soon. (I did notice that 12 weeks from January 7 is April Fools Day. Pinch, punch, jab...).

The NHS website has now reduced the age of eligibility to 50 for booking on its website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/who-can-get-the-vaccine/>

In addition a new NHS mass vaccination centre has been set up at the Hammersmith Novotel Hotel ( also inviting Chiswick/Hounslow residents) 09.00-19.30 7 days a week. You need your NHS number.

<https://novotelconferencecentre.nhsbookings.com/v2/#book/service/1/count/1/provider/any/>

### Something completely different

Meanwhile, something the PG committee has been and remains concerned about, is whether GPs are informed enough when, or even if, one of their patients is discharged from hospital. This applies across Hounslow. In many cases it turns out the surgery waits for the patient to contact it, post a hospital stay.

There are two reasons for this:

Firstly, the discharge notes that we walk out of hospital with may not reach the GP for several weeks. They are sent by post. Whoever reads them will then put them on a patient's file but this may not trigger any GP or pharmacist intervention.

Secondly, there is no computer connection between hospital systems and GP systems. So if you are admitted after an accident, the GP may well not know.

This means that when your consultant in hospital says, "your GP will follow this up in the next week or two", what they should be saying is, "call your GP to follow up".

Carers of people who are hospitalised have often been even more in the dark about the way ahead.

All in all, it's not good enough, although Hounslow has set up a new "discharge hub" to improve things. But what if you are admitted outside Hounslow eg St Mary's the major trauma unit in Paddington?

So we are pressing the CCG ( the North West London CCG as at April 1), with other patient groups in Hounslow and nationally via the National Association of Patient Groups, for:

- a) the automatic creation of a GP appointment following a hospital inpatient stay or, failing that, because the systems don't join up (aargh),
- b) a clear notice on the front of all patient discharge notes saying something like "Make an appointment with your GP to review these notes" or
- c) Chiswick's social prescribers being charged with calling up anyone who has been in hospital (if they know, see a!): a bit like Victim Support calls if you report a crime.

In the meantime I share this with you in case you are unfortunately taken into hospital, to remind you to follow up with Grove Park Surgery afterwards to discuss the way ahead.

Take care of yourselves.

Best wishes  
Liz and the GPSPG committee

PS You'll have your own view on what you've read about the Astra Zeneca vaccine. But I see 17 million AZ vaccines administered and 37 unusual cases scattered in ones and twos all over Europe and my way of thinking is that they are unlikely to be connected and, anyway, other things in life are far riskier.