

# Primary care matters

## Practice staff newsletter

### Welcome

Welcome to the September edition of Primary Care Matters. This month sees us finalising our winter plans so that we can be as prepared as possible for the increase in demand for hospital services the colder months inevitably bring. We have been meeting with key system partners in a spirit of constructive collaboration and challenge to examine our joint escalation plans and ensure that all parts of the system – social care, primary care, community care and acute hospitals – work effectively together at all times.

Within the hospitals we have robust plans across our clinical divisions to ensure that we are focused on areas which we know will come under pressure over the winter months, including capacity planning, workforce, patient flow and discharge. We will monitor these plans closely over the coming weeks. As always your cooperation in continuing to consider all alternatives to the use of acute hospitals unless clinically necessary is gratefully appreciated.

We are delighted to see the national 'Stay well this

winter' campaign rolling out across the BNSSG area, through online, radio and print advertising, with the aim of ensuring that those who are most at risk of preventable admission to hospital over the winter are motivated to take action to keep themselves well – particularly the over 65s, those with COPD, and children under five years old. The focus over the next few weeks is to ensure that all those eligible for a flu jab take up the offer. The flu vaccination programme for staff working at UH Bristol began on 5 October and runs through the winter months. We are asking those staff who have had a flu jab at their GP or with another provider to let us know.

On a separate note, we are looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the Bristol CCG Members' event on 10 November. It is through events like this, where our clinicians can talk directly to you and understand your concerns and priorities, that we will find ways of working better together to improve outcomes for patients.

*Anita Randon, interim director of strategy and transformation*

## New hospital role to deal with alcohol-related health harm

Anne McCune, hepatology consultant, has been appointed clinical lead for alcohol at UH Bristol where she will lead a scoping exercise to explore how to enhance treatment for patients suffering from alcohol-related harm. She will also investigate how to help the hospital cope more effectively with a rising demand for services.



Dr Anne McCune

"The role is a challenging one as we've seen an increased number of admissions to hospital due to alcohol-related harm as well as a rising number of alcohol attributable diseases such as liver cirrhosis."

## Secure emailing of DXA referrals

We'd like to remind you that you can use ICE to refer your patients for a DXA scan at our rheumatology department. Simply log onto ICE, select GP from the top menu bar, then select Rheum DXA from the left hand option list. Finally, click the box to start the DXA scan referral.

**For those practices not using ICE, the secure email address for DXA referrals at UH Bristol is:**  
[ubh-tr.DXAScanClinicCoordinators@nhs.net](mailto:ubh-tr.DXAScanClinicCoordinators@nhs.net)



## Award for new ward block

CODA Architects has won a UK Property Award for the Best Public Service Building for its design of the new BRI ward block. With spacious new wards, an older persons assessment unit and acute medical unit along with a brand new intensive care unit, the ward block is the most visible sign of our

continuing efforts to transform how we care for patients.

The Trust has also been nominated in two arts categories as part of the Building Better Healthcare Awards 2015



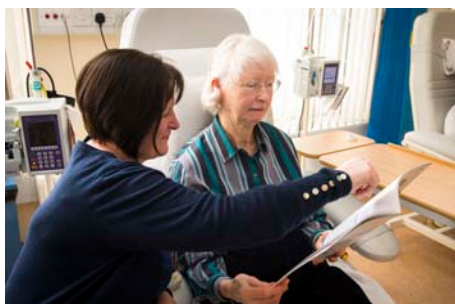
The new ward block, completed in 2014

## Health matters event - 12 Nov

We are delighted to have Dr Shane Clarke, consultant rheumatologist and lead clinician for osteoporosis services, as our keynote speaker at the next Health Matters event, taking place on Thursday 12 November.

Dr Clarke will give an overview of the condition and will talk about treatments and ways of keeping bones healthy. This will be followed by a Q&A session in which you will have the opportunity to ask Dr Clarke any questions you may have.

The National Osteoporosis Society will also speak about the support they offer to help people with osteoporosis live the lives they want to lead.



## Open day for South Bristol Community Hospital

On Saturday 17 October more than 150 people attended the open day at South Bristol Community Hospital. The hospital opened its doors as part of Healthy City week, and visitors were able to look round the hospital and take a self-guided tour which included areas that are usually off-limits.

People in South Bristol campaigned for a local hospital for more than 50 years and it is important that local people are aware of what is on offer there. More than 100,000 people have come through our doors since it opened at the end of March 2012, but it still has capacity to treat more patients.



## Antibiotic awareness week

European Antibiotic Awareness Day on 18 November is an annual event that aims to raise awareness on how to use antibiotics in a responsible way that will help keep them effective for the future.

For the first time this year, the awareness day is part of World Antibiotic Awareness Week – which

runs from 16 to 22 November – and the anti-infective pharmacists working at UH Bristol, will be running a number of events across the hospital with the aim of sharing this important message with staff, patients and the public.

For further details about the work of the anti-infective team please contact the lead pharmacist for anti-infectives Sue.Taylor@UH Bristol.nhs.uk

If you have any feedback about any items in this month's newsletter please contact: [gpliaison@uhbristol.nhs.uk](mailto:gpliaison@uhbristol.nhs.uk)

