

## **RINGMEAD PATIENT GROUP INFORMATION**

There have been several recent issues when patients have been sent home from Hospital with instructions that generally say to go back to their GP surgery for dressing changes and further advice. When a patient was being treated at Hospital, that Hospital remains liable for all care until the Consultant discharges them. There is not a written policy on this matter, although there are policies relating to safe discharge from hospital which MUST be followed before a patient is sent home. These involve a number of specialisms such as Occupational Therapists, Radiologists etc. Patients receiving hospital care should make sure that a care package is in place before they agree to be discharged.

Ringmead Medical Group is fully participating in the 'Race for Life' and there will be a 'Just Giving' page set up for donations which will go to Cancer Research, UK. So many of us have been touched by this terrible disease and the whole Practice would appreciate donations from those patients in a position to donate. The race will be held at Prospect Park, Reading on 16th July, 2023.

Patients may be aware that all Lloyd's Pharmacies have now closed and are being taken over by others. Easthampstead and Great Hollands Pharmacies have re-opened under new management this week.

Some pharmacies do not have a permanent pharmacist on site. Issues with medication supplies are being monitored by NHS England and GPs are being kept advised on the situation.

The KLINIK triage system has greatly enhanced the patient/Practice interface with many patients reporting call backs from our Clinicians on the same day, it also avoids patients wasting their time seeing a GP when they probably need an alternative Clinician. If you don't have access to the internet or are not good at completing forms, please don't worry one of the friendly Patient Services Assistants are ready to help you.

NHS England are currently making use of Pharmaceutical Companies (Astra Zeneca in this area) to contact patients directly with long term illnesses and medication needs as a service to patients. The aim is to reduce the carbon footprint and update some medication, e.g. CFC Free inhalers for COPD and Asthma Patients. Spirometer tests for COPD patients will still be done at the surgery, face to face. Some patients may be issued with their own 'apparatus' enabling them to do their tests at home.

Patients may recently have seen information relating to a 'new NHS initiative' regarding choice of hospitals. This is not a new innovation as patients have been able to choose which hospital they go to for procedures for some years. Generally you would be referred to hospitals which are considered local, but patients have the right to opt for another and the referral will be made in accordance with their wishes. This comes under the 'Choose and Book' Website.

Copies of a booklet called 'Understanding the Menopause' have now been put together by Menopause Support and reviewed by a panel of Clinicians. Some copies will be available at each surgery and it is also accessible on the Internet. This is such a massive step forward and will greatly benefit our patients and their families and partners, enabling everyone to understand the changes and issues that Peri-Menopause and Menopause brings.