

NHS changes

The NHS is going through yet another reorganization, designed to build on patient choice, retain accountability and give more decisions to clinicians rather than managers.

Here at the surgery we are given increasing amounts of activity information that compare us with our colleagues in mid-Essex, including Braintree.

We are now pressed to only refer to consultants when there is definitely a need. Patients' needs are uppermost, but sometimes the doctors can ask for specialist advice before referring

every time, for example. The Primary Care Trust has set strict criteria for having your tonsils out, your varicose veins done, your knee replacement etc.

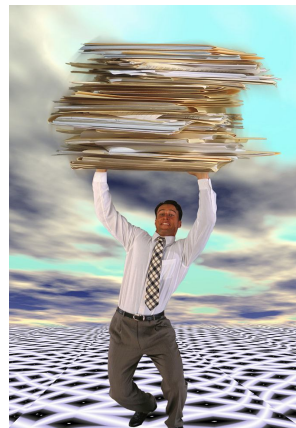
The mid-Essex GPs are retaining the current PCT area taking this forward into GP Commissioning.

The government are announcing their review and more details will no doubt follow.

We find the amount of paperwork and data absorption quite challenging and wish we had more time and staff to digest and deal with the

many inaccuracies that are sent.

Nevertheless we enjoy our work and strive to improve our services for the benefit of our patients. We appreciate feedback, positive and negative. See below about the phone system!



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The telephone system!



GP surgeries up and down the country struggle to meet high demand call times, typically Monday mornings. When we moved here from London Road we contracted a new system with more phone lines. This has enabled us to answer many more calls.

However we still have a glitch that many phone systems have

and that is the call queuing facility.

Consequently we have commissioned a new much improved system that we hope will go live **June 22nd 2011**. If you are told you are number 4 in the queue you really WILL become number 1. We look forward to the new technology.

Contact numbers:

Reception
 01376 347100

Emergency
 01376 347100 Press 7

Appointment cancellation
 07890 164869

Dispensary
 01376 374100 Option 2

Secretaries
 01376 347100 Option 3

Fax
 01376 349934

NHS Direct
 0845 46 47



Travel vaccinations and malaria tablets

If you are booked on a nice holiday in the next few months, quite often there are travel vaccinations and malaria tablets to consider.

Please go to reception and fill in a HOLIDAY FORM. You will need one for each person going on the holiday.

Once these forms are

completed please then hand them back to reception. They are then passed to our nurses who will advise what immunizations and any malaria tablets are needed, based on the latest recommendations for where you are going.

If you then telephone or call in at reception a couple of days later we will let you know what

is needed, how much the cost is (if any) and when to book with the nurse.

Most vaccinations are needed at least one month before departure. Some courses take longer.

We wish you safe and healthy travelling!

Breast cancer awareness

A team from the surgery have entered the RACE FOR LIFE at Great Notley Park on Saturday June 18th 2011, 11a.m.

This annual event is a popular way to raise much needed funds for cancer charities generally. It also provides an

opportunity to remember a loved one who currently has cancer or has died from the disease.

The team of 6 volunteers have been in training and would willingly accept any donations in support of the cause.



We will see anyone here

A guy walks into work and both of his ears are all bandaged up.

The boss says, "What happened to your ears?"

He says, "Yesterday I was ironing a shirt when

the phone rang and **** I accidentally answered the iron."

The boss says, "Well that explains one ear, but what happened to your other ear?"

He says, "Well, you know, I had to call the doctor!"