OAKLEY HEALTH GROUP

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2025



Medicine Shortages

Medicine shortages can happen for a variety of reasons. Manufacturers may have problems sourcing ingredients or making or transporting the medicines. Sometimes a sudden increase in demand can also lead to a shortage.



Here are a few things you can do to help:

• Check what medicines you have at home just in case you have some already.
• Order your medicines in good time (5-7 days before you are due to run out of them).
• Only order the medicines you need. If you have unused medicines at home, use those first (make sure to check the expiry date).
• Your practice can issue the item on a single prescription, allowing you to try another pharmacy without disrupting the supply of your other medicines.
• If your usual pharmacy is out of a particular medicine, try another pharmacy before asking your doctor for an alternative. Different pharmacies use different wholesalers so stock may vary.
• If your usual pharmacy does not have the medicine in stock but another one does, you may ask for your prescription to be returned to the system (this is where the pharmacy returns the prescription to the "NHS Spine", which makes it available for another pharmacy).
• If no pharmacy has the medicine that you have been prescribed, ask the pharmacy what alternatives are available, so you can share that information with your GP practice.

By following these tips, you can help to ensure that you have access to the medicines you need when you need them.

To help reduce the impact of medicine shortages you should:

• Ask your GP practice whether there are alternative medicines you can take.
• Be prepared to wait for your medicine if there is a shortage. The pharmacy may be able to supply some of your medicine and contact you when the remainder becomes available.
• Be understanding if your pharmacy is unable to fill your prescription right away. Your pharmacy team works very hard to obtain medicines during times of shortages.

Is there anything else I should know?

In some circumstances community pharmacies can supply an alternative medicine without going back to the prescriber. This is subject to written national guidance which names the alternative medicine allowed to be dispensed and may limit the quantity to be supplied. The named alternative medicine may not be suitable for all patients. Where a pharmacy supplies a medicine in this way, you will be made aware of this.



CHECK & CANCEL

Check and Cancel is an appointment self-serve feature aimed at reducing traffic into reception and giving patients greater flexibility.

When you call the surgery you can choose Option 1 on the phone menu, enter your date of birth and this will give you the ability to check your upcoming appointments, choosing to cancel them if needed.

We hope this will improve our DNA appointment numbers and enable these appointment to be used by another patient..

NHS FRIMLEY SMOKING CESSATION SURVEY

NHS Frimley will be sending personalised text messages to patients who are current smokers or have smoked in the past 12 months. These texts are designed to raise awareness about local Stop Smoking Services that can help you quit. They will also send a follow-up survey to gather your feedback.

Responding to the survey is completely optional. If you would prefer not to participate, please ignore, or delete the text. If you choose to opt-out to receiving any further related messages, then your response will be noted, and you will receive no further communications linked to this campaign.

NHS Frimley Smoking Cessation Survey | Frimley Health and Care
https://www.frimleyhealthandcare.org.uk/smokingsurvey







OAKLEY HEALTH GROUP 2025

COMING SOON

FUNDRAISING

FUNDRAISING FOR 3 LOCAL CHARITIES, WE AIM TO RAISE £1,500

LUNG SCREENING

55-74 YEAR OLD, SMOKERS & EX-SMOKERS WILL BE CALLED FOR SCREENING

NEW STARTERS

DR SHEILA THANGARAJOO - MATERNITY LEAVE
DR KOMAL BHATT-POULOSE- COVER MATERNITY
BRYANY WHICKER - HCA
REBEKAH HARMES - PRACTICE NURSE

TRAINING



The Oakley Health Group will be CLOSED

from 12.30pm – 6.30pm
on
Thursday 23rd January 2025

for essential staff training organised by Frimley ICB

Local doctors & nurses will be working, if you need urgent medical advice when we are closed call the NHS 111 service

Urgent treatment, walk-in and minor injury centres will be open

A&E or 999 only for those who are seriously injured or critically ill

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) UPDATES

The PPG met before the Christmas break and welcomed Dr Jamie Buxton who has been with the surgery for several years and been a partner for the last 1 ½ years. OHG is a training practice and Dr Buxton works four days a week with trainee doctors as well as his own surgery. All trainees are qualified doctors who want to specialise in becoming a GP. He spends one morning a week in tutorials and once a month on broader training. We would like to thank Dr Buxton for giving us his time.

We asked what benefits are to OHG as a training practice. Dr Buxton responded:

· Trainees carry out face to face appointments, but if they need extra help or guidance, they can ask one of the resident practice GPs.

· It gives the practice extra help

· It makes recruitment easier straight from the programme

Fundraising: OHG will be carrying out fundraising throughout the year and are in the process of choosing 3 local charities. They plan to work internally and externally from January.

Lung Screening: There is a pilot lung screening programme initiated by NHS England which will roll out nationally. Patients aged 55 to 74 who are current smokers or been previous smokers will be receiving a yellow envelope and will be invited in for a chat.

Spreading the News: We are always trying to think of ways to get news about OHG out to patients. Although the posters have recruited some new virtual members, there is still room for improvement. We continue to work on this.

Hampshire Health – Action Hampshire: Hampshire Health support charities through a national scheme and have access to grants. They are looking for feedback regarding healthcare which the PPG has agreed to apply for and carry out.

GOOD NEWS – **Clip and Suture Removal Reinstated**. OHG has been successful in receiving funding for this above essential service.

Please feel free to contact the PPG committee if you have a question. We are your voice.
Please note we cannot discuss any medical problems or any complaints – these should be dealt with OHG directly.



If you would like to give the Patient Participation Group (PPG) your feedback, email frimleyicb.ohg.communications@nhs.net & include the title "PPG"