**Pharmacy First**

The **Pharmacy First** scheme was launched by the government and NHS England on 31 January 2024 to give patients quick and accessible care and ease pressure on GP services. Pharmacy First will enable community pharmacists to supply prescription-only medicines, including antibiotics and antivirals where clinically appropriate, to treat seven common health conditions without the need to visit a GP.

**Earache (aged 1-7 years old) Impetigo (aged 1 year and over)**

**Infected insect bites (aged 1 year and over) Shingles (aged 18 years and over)**

**Sinusitis (aged 12 years and over) Sore throat (aged 5 and over)**

**Urinary Tract Infections (UTI’s women aged 16 – 64 years)**

**Changes to our on-call doctor service from March 2024**

Demand on our service is at an all time high and we need to ensure patients with urgent medical problems are dealt with quickly.

From March 2024 we will be making changes to how we deal with urgent medical problems. For more information go to our facebook page, website or ask a member of the reception team to talk you through it.

 Thanks to our Patient Participation Group who gave their feedback and opinions on the new ways of working.

**Welcome to our Spring 2024 Newsletter!**



**Welcome to to Dr Emily Sweeting our new GP registrar. We hope you will enjoy your time with us!**

**Hay fever season is just around the corner - symptoms are usually worse between late March and September.**

**F**ollow the link to check symptoms of hay fever and for advice on treatment. [**https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hay-fever/**](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hay-fever/)



**Did you Know????** As well as seeing a GP you can get a smear, a coil fitted, an NHS health check, a blood test or BP check done at the HUB on a Saturday.

May is world laughter Day!

Here are a couple of Doctor jokes……….

Patient Doctor my wife is pregnant and her contractions are only 2 minutes apart!

Doctor Is this her first child?

Patient no this is her husband!



Doctor Doctor I’ve got a strawberry stuck in my ear!

Don’t worry I have some cream for that.

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| **Bank Holidays and Staff Training days for Spring 2024**The surgery is closed on the following dates for Bank Holidays:* Good Friday 29th March 2024
* Easter Monday 1st April 2024
* Monday 6th May 2024
* Monday 27th May 2024

**The Hub service will remain unchanged.**The surgery is closed from 12.00 for staff training:* Thursday 14th March 2024
* Thursday 2nd May 2024
* Thursday 23rd May 2024

and will re-open 08.00 the following day.If you need medical advice when the surgery is closed, use NHS 111 online (111.nhs.uk) or call 111, they can direct you to the best place to get help if you cannot contact your GP during the day, or when your surgery is closed. **Always call 999 in a medical emergency.** |

**Seasonal COVID-19 vaccines**

The NHS will contact you if your NHS record suggests you are eligible for a seasonal spring COVID-19 vaccine. You may be offered a vaccine from April 2024 if you:

* are aged 75 years old or over.
* live in a care home for older adults.
* are aged 6 months old or over and have a weakened immune system.



Thank you for reading our newsletter. Look out for out next issue which will be Summer 2024

Have you visited our website recently? It’s regularly updated! [**http://www.thorntonmedicalcentre.nhs.uk/**](http://www.thorntonmedicalcentre.nhs.uk/)