Notes of the Riverside Medical Centre PPG Meeting

**Held on Wednesday 20.11.2024.**

**Present:**

Emma Wilson Riverside Medical Centre

Janet Eaton Patient Representative

Dorothy Coomber Patient Representative

Barbara Chilton Patient Representative

Joyce Swindlehurst PPG Chair

Kath Brooks Patient Representative

Sylvia Megson Patient Representative

Pat Burgess Patient Representative

Susan Elliott New member – Patient Representative

**Apologies:**

June Price Patient Representative

Denise Chippendale Patient Representative

**Matters Arising**

* **Minutes of last meeting**

Group agreed they are a true reflection.

* Incident reported by group. Family member attended hospital and reported to our reception same day requesting blood test appointment. This was declined and advised to see GP. Patient was not given letter or blood forms by hospital and no information provided as to why or what blood tests were needed. Discussed that a clinician needs to request blood tests as nurses need instructions of what blood tests are needed and instructions sent to lab regarding what levels need checking and the reasons for this. Blood tests can check a multitude of levels and a specific blood test will be requested depending on the presenting symptoms. In this situation, the hospital should have either taken the bloods themselves, given the patient a blood form or sent a letter to the Practice advising what blood tests were needed.
* Dr Cho

Sadly, Dr Cho has decided to leave the Practice at the end of February. W are currently trying to recruit a replacement.

* **In house Clinical Pharmacy Team**

The group discussed our in-house Clinical Pharmacy team. We have our own pharmacists in Practice who conduct medication reviews and will contact patient to follow up after starting certain medications to ensure they are not experiencing and symptoms. Discussed the role and how they support the GPs at the practice by managing the medication reviews so that GP’s can focus on seeing patient that are unwell.

* **National Insurance Contributions**

Joyce wanting to raise the issue of the planned increase to NIC and how this will impact the Practice. Discussed the implications of the increase and advised we were awaiting an update from the NHS about whether funding to the Practice would be increased inline with the planned increase in NIC.

* **Pharmacy First**

Discussed the Pharmacy First Scheme recently introduced. This scheme allows patients to attend the Pharmacy for an assessment and receive treatment for 7 conditions. Patients do not need to see a GP and can attend a pharmacy of their choosing. This scheme has been introduced to relieve pressures on General Practice for Minor illnesses, empower patients to seek pharmacy help when over the counter self-management is appropriate and to support local pharmacies.

**Next meeting Wednesday 26th February 2025 at 2pm**