

THE UPPER DALES HEALTH WATCH

The Patient Participation Group for the Central Dales GP Practice

Synopsis of the meeting held on January 26th 2015

- **Anti-coagulation near patient testing kits** are now in operation at both surgeries. This is benefitting some 90 patients. This will allow new dosages of Warfarin to be given to the patient during the appointment.
- Both Hawes & Aysgarth **Surgeries are undergoing refurbishment**. This will allow greater privacy for patients. Both surgeries now have alcohol hand gel dispensers in the waiting rooms.
- Dr West will be retiring on 31st March 2015. **As from 1st April the GPs will be:**
Dr Jones, Dr France, Dr Brown and Dr Pain.
- Joy Parrington is the new **Practice Nurse at Aysgarth**. She has been working for the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust as a Palliative Care and Respiratory specialist.
- The Muker Band generously gave the Practice £2,200 to provide a **spirometer** to both surgeries.
- **Friends & Family test** feed-back can be given on line (www.iwantgreatcare.org) or a card can be completed and put in the box available in both surgeries.
- **Opening Hours Pilot** - Hawes Surgery will now be open 6.00-8.00pm on Wednesdays for pre-booked appointments with either Dr Jones or Dr Brown. Details have been sent to Parish Councils. Patients can also make appointments to see a GP on other nights of the week at the following surgeries: Leyburn, Mayford House – Northallerton, Harewood – Catterick Garrison, Aldbrough St. John, Great Ayton Health Centre and Stokesley Health Centre. GPs at these Practices will be able to access Central Dales' patients' medical records IF, and only if, a patient gives permission. Appointments need to be made via the Hawes or Aysgarth Surgeries for an "Open for longer" appointment. Patients will be told which surgeries are open when (days of the week vary between practices and will not be the same week to week). The Receptionist will also be able to tell a patient the name of the GP on duty and whether it is a male or female doctor. There will also be a pilot Saturday & Sunday GP Surgery 9.00am – 1.00pm at both Harewood Medical Practice (Catterick Garrison) and at the Friarage Hospital, but the dates are still to be finalised due to IT problems.
- **SystemOnline** - Patients can apply to either surgery for a unique user name and password. With effect from April 2015. This will also allow patients to access their recent medical record, and order repeat prescriptions using an App or smart phone.
- **Hambleton Richmondshire & Whitby CCG** – the D&S has printed a list of commissioning activity (30.01.15). The South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has appointed a full time, highly thought of, paediatrician to replace 2 part timers who have retired. It is hoped the Short Stay Paediatric Assessment Unit's opening times will be restored in the not too distant future. The Lay Representative for Richmondshire does not sense that there is any likelihood of the Friarage Hospital being in any danger of being closed in the foreseeable future. Government policy that there should be consultant availability 24/7 will mean fewer, large specialist hospitals for seriously ill/hurt patients.
- The bids for a **Resusci Anne** to Richmondshire District Council and HRWCCG have been successful. The dummy will be available for communities to borrow to practise CPR.