**Cambridge House Surgery
Patient Newsletter**

**October 2020**

Flu Special



We are now in the middle of the Flu vaccination season and we felt it might be a good time to explain some of the things that are different this year.

**When are our vaccines ordered?**

Our flu vaccinations were ordered in August last year. We ordered enough to vaccinate all patients that were eligible for the vaccine at that time.

We pay for these vaccines and if we don’t use the vaccine by the end of February, we have to throw them away.

The earlier we order, the earlier the manufacturer will deliver.

**Is it true that healthy 50-64 year olds or Shielding patients should be given a Flu Vaccination?**

This year, the Government announced that vaccines will be available for ‘extra’ groups of patients (those aged between 50 and 64 and Shielding patients and their families).

We are really pleased that we can offer this group of patients a vaccine and we now have clinics set up for this. Please make an appointment for one at the surgery.

We are also still vaccinating the following patients :

* **Adults aged 65 and over**
* **People with some medical conditions including diabetes, heart failure and asthma**
* **People who were required to shield from coronavirus and their household**
* **Pregnant women**
* **Children aged between two and 11**
* **Health and social care workers**

**Why are your clinics so late this year?**

Our first flu clinic is held the day after we receive the vaccines.

This year, our flu vaccine deliveries are 10th September and 13th November.

In addition, normally at a flu clinic, we vaccinate one patient every minute. This year, due to Covid, we have to schedule 3 minutes per patient so that we can maintain social distancing and don’t have too many patients in the building at any time.

**Why did an 80 year old get their vaccine in September but a 64 year old with diabetes has to wait until November?**

This is because there are two different types of vaccine. One for Under 65’s and one for Over 65’s. They come from different manufacturers and have been delivered at different times.



Finally, thank you for being so patient with us this year. We know it’s been confusing and it may feel as though we’re being unhelpful by not booking your vaccination or not letting you wait in the waiting room

Although we are open as usual we need to make sure that we don’t have too many patients in the waiting room at any time so that we can maintain social distancing.

The Practice is a place where the people who visit are sick, frail or elderly and we must do everything we can to keep you all safe.

Thank you for your understanding.