

PPG meeting minutes 4th May 2016

Chair- Susan Devi

Contributing to student Dietician Training

Susan introduced Jane McClinchy, Programme tutor in dietetics from the University of Hertfordshire.

Jane gave an outline of her role in the recruitment and teaching of students in dietetics and how we could help.

Principally by helping to interview prospective students to see if as a member of the public you would like to be treated by the candidate- assessing communication skills etc. Secondly if you have a condition that requires dietary advice and dietician input to allow the students on the course to 'practice' on you.

Time commitment can be anything from 1-16 hours. Jane handed out information packs on how to volunteer in this role. LR will brief staff and GP's about it.

A very interesting discussion followed about diet, media involvement, where Students do placements etc

Surgery Update

Liz Richards updated on the following.

1. Patients are now able to request to view their medical record online. The PPG is going to help the surgery pilot this. Alan has already signed up and has sent round an overview. Please feel free to sign up.
2. The CCG has requested there to be a change in the way repeat medication is ordered by patients. Ordering must now be done online or by using the right hand side of the prescription, ticking what is needed and crossing through what is not, the patient then needs to sign. Leaflets are being handed out with all prescriptions. These changes are being introduced to decrease waste.
3. We are holding a carer's coffee morning on 8th June at 10am. If anyone can attend from the PPG we would value your support. Alan to e mail round.
4. As a surgery we will be doing more signposting and referring for exercise and weight management for our patients with long term conditions and also those newly retired to consider volunteering.
5. We are training up some phlebotomists to increase the clinics we offer. We currently offer 2 clinics each week. Once all the training is complete we will be offering 9 clinics. The PPG were instrumental in setting up phlebotomy in the first place at the surgery.
6. If you wish to consent to have your summary care record with additional information shared amongst NHS organisations, you can now do this. Everyone is opted in to the basic summary care record (unless you opted out) which shares medicines you take, allergies and bad reactions to certain medicines. The summary care record with additional information also includes long term health conditions, relevant medical history, healthcare needs and preferences and immunisations. You have to opt into SCR-AI. Please discuss with your GP or ask at reception.

7. Dr Elias leaves in August, he will be replaced with 2 salaried doctors who will share his list. The PPG wished to thank Dr Elias for his hard work.
8. Following the last meeting the newsletter now reaches thousands of patients as we are bulk e mailing it and texting a link to it.

2.4 bn spending boost for primary care

LR did not have any further information about this. Frustration was voiced about the lack of progress in St Albans for a hub and the development of St Albans Hospital.

LR advised that the PPG could help by writing to the council, CCG and MP about the slowness and to support The Maltings interest in moving into a hub.

General consensus that the hub should be town centre based. The PPG would like to know what the doctors would like the developments to look like. LR to try and organise a speaker to clear up the confusion around the plans. Dacorum have managed to get plans together for a hospital and Harpenden have a proposed hub. Nothing for St Albans yet.

Web site forum

There is now the facility to have conversations and discussions. There has been one about extended hours and seven day working already. Feedback was not wanting tired doctors, evening appointments would be good but not so crucial at weekends. PPG asked how the surgery would manage 7 day working- LR explained that this was one reason that the federation has been put in place to be able to share this workload amongst surgeries in the town.

Opt outs

Patients choices have now been uploaded. Anne Maine MP responded to Alan's letter. Great success for the PPG.

AOB

Thank you to Susan for Chairing- great job
Thank you to Alan for all his hard work.

Next meeting July 6th 2016, 7pm.