

What is the future for your occupational health service?

As we have previously reported in these regular Practice newsletters, the Local Area Team at NHS England are continuing to fund provision of occupational health services until 1st April 2015. However, it is highly doubtful there will be comparable funding from April 2015. We understand there is a small possibility of minimal funding remaining, which most probably will be allocated to emergency needlestick cover for medical staff. The responsibility for commissioning occupational health services will fall to local Federations, Clinical Commission Groups and potentially even individual Practices. Occupational health service provision is a significant issue warranting immediate attention to ensure suitable provision and seamless transfer of services from 1st April 2015.

At Workplace Health & Wellbeing, we view this as an exciting opportunity for the current service provision to be remodelled to meet developing organisation need. Using the CQC requirements as a framework, we can offer varied service packages which ensure essential occupational health services are provided, whilst proactive occupational health services remain available under more flexible, bespoke arrangements.

To achieve a continuous service provision from April 2015, Workplace Health and Wellbeing would welcome the opportunity to meet key stakeholder within CCG's and Federations. For further discussion please contact Hilary Winch Head of Workplace Health, Safety and Wellbeing at hilary.winch@nnuh.nhs.uk / **01603 287030** or Rachel Hunt Business Manager at rachel.hunt@nnuh.nhs.uk / **01603 286840**



Keep your staff healthy & at work ***Flu Vaccinations available at our lowest ever price.***

For most healthy people, flu (influenza) is an unpleasant illness leaving them poorly in bed for up to 2 weeks. An outbreak of flu in the work place will undoubtedly cause a sudden spike in absence. This can be incredibly difficult for organisations to manage. Furthermore certain people are more likely to develop potentially serious complications from contracting flu. Individuals such as pregnant women, children, the elderly and those with a pre-existing health condition are particularly at risk if they contract flu. By offering your staff access to a flu vaccination you will not only help to protect the health of your Practice, but also the health of those who are more vulnerable to the serious effects of flu.

For the Winter of 2014/15 we can offer flu vaccinations at our lowest ever price, from just £9.00 per employee provided onsite at your business premises.

Please contact rachel.hunt@nnuh.nhs.uk now to find out more.



FREE NHS Health Checks. Now available in your workplace.

We are now working in partnership with Public Health Norfolk to offer a national disease prevention programme called "NHS Health Checks" and are able to bring this to your workplace free of charge.

The Health Check is for aimed at those aged between 40-74 years and looks for early warnings for heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. The good news is all these conditions are preventable!

The Health Check will take no longer than 30 minutes and will include;

- Blood pressure measurement
- Height and weight
- A lifestyle assessment, which will help employees to understand how diet and activity levels could affect health.
- A simple blood test to check cholesterol and/or blood sugar levels if required

For more details about the National Health Check programme, please see NHS Choices - NHS Health Checks. To find out when we could visit your business please contact rachel.hunt@nnuh.nhs.uk



Are staff suitably protected?

We have provided immunisation guidance regularly in previous newsletters, but it's apparent the message still needs to be promoted especially in line with CQC assessment requirements. In 2007 the DOH published guidance on Health Clearance for tuberculosis, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV. This document also detailed the other vaccinations required by all Health Care Workers which includes GPs, Dentists, Practice Nurses, Dental Nurses, Receptionist, Cleaners.



The key areas

- **Hepatitis B** – Health care workers are encouraged to have Hepatitis B protection if they come into contact with blood and body fluids.
- **Exposure Prone Procedure (EPP) Clearance** – If your staff perform surgical procedures / dentistry, they need to have EPP clearance, which is a combination of hep B / C and HIV tests depending on when they commenced practicing EPP procedures.
- **TB Protection.** Immunity is tested by undertaking a Mantoux test / OH professional checking a BCG Scar. If you have employees coming to work for you from High risk TB countries then additional screening tests are necessary.
- **Chickenpox** – If employees are unsure about their immunity it can be checked by a blood test. For those not immune there is vaccine available for health care staff.
- **Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)** – all staff should be able to demonstrate immunity or have the vaccine.

Incident of sharps and blood/body fluid incidents are on the rise.

In 2013/4 there were in excess of 90 needlestick and sharps reported incidents, within Norfolk GP & Dental NHS Practices. This is an increase on previous years and the majority of the incidents were preventable with improved staff awareness.

We are on hand to help. We can provide bespoke training and have a suitable promotion material to display in staff areas. Please ensure all staff are aware of the steps they should take in the event of an incident.

Was this information of use?

Are there any occupational health other concerns your Practice requires advice on?
Does your Practice know about the breadth of occupational health services offered to all NHS GP and Dental Practices in Norfolk **FREE** at the point of contact....?

For further information on how we can support the health and wellbeing of your organisation please contact our Business Managers,

Rachel Hunt or **Jane Egle** on **01603 286840 / 286667** or visit;
www.workplacehealthandwellbeing.co.uk for further information.

For electronic access to this newsletter and previous versions, please log onto
www.nnuh.nhs.uk/Publication.asp
and scroll down to
'Occupational Health News'.

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals



NHS Foundation Trust