



## WELCOME

Hello to our patients and carers, here is the fourth and final newsletter for 2025. It covers a range of subjects and news, so we hope you find something that interests you in it.

### Health Issues

There is a new treatment for **Type 2 diabetes**, consisting of two drugs matched to patient's needs, and focussing on heart and kidneys. If you would like to know more about this, ask for details at your next diabetes review.

From January 2026 a free **chicken pox vaccine** will be available through the NHS for young children in England and Wales. It will consist of two doses, one at 12 months and a follow up at 18 months, combined with the MMR vaccine. You are urged to take advantage of childhood vaccinations offered, which are successful in shielding young children from the effects of childhood diseases.

A **shingles** vaccine is available for all adults reaching 65, those aged 70 to 79, or 50 and over with a severely weakened immune system.

# Peel Medical Practice

Patient Participation Group  
Newsletter 4 - 2025



**Emergency Dental Appointments** – Staffordshire’s ICB is introducing more than 16,000 additional dental appointments for people with pain, infection or other dental issues. The service is accessed by calling an advice line on 0300 123 0981, where callers will be assessed and diverted to the nearest dental practice.

While dealing with dental matters, **Tamworth House Dental Practice** is now taking on NHS patients and is particularly keen to reach out to patients who are financially challenged e.g. those on Universal Credit and exempt from NHS charges who may not be aware they can access free NHS dental care.

Tamworth House Dental Care can be found at 21 Church Street Tamworth B79 7DH. Telephone 01827 64743

A new text service is offering support for **mental health issues** and is now available 24/7 in Tamworth and district, to access call 07507 330 605



### Patient Care

In August this year a **Patient's Charter** was introduced by the NHS. It explains what patients can expect from their GP surgery and gives advice on how to get the best out of the services available. "You and your general practice" can be found on the Peel practice website.

A new system of **transport for patients** needing to get to hospital has opened in Tamworth. Community Together CIC has set up "Betty's Community Transport", which fills the gap created when Tamworth Community Transport closed in June 2024. Charges are reasonable and cheaper than a taxi. To access this service call 0808 1754 041.

In October a national initiative saw **Total Triage** introduced in GP practices. When patients contact their practice, whether by phone, in person at the front desk or using online facilities, the practice has to assess their symptoms and decide how, when and by whom their needs can best be met. The Peel practice has been using a form of triage for some time now, and the new requirements will not see a need for big changes. The use of a form in which patients are asked to describe their symptoms is available online or at the front desk for patients who need help to complete it. The triage system can help practices to allocate healthcare services according to individual needs, ensuring everyone receives the care most suited to them. To find out more about triage, visit the NHS website.



**Two Flu and Covid vaccination sessions** were held on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. In total clinical staff vaccinated almost 1000 patients. This year's arrangements worked very well and the average waiting time was under ten minutes. Well done everyone!

### **What the PPG has done this year**

Throughout this year your PPG has met monthly with members of the practice clinical and administrative staff. We have discussed a wide range of issues affecting patients, and our advice has been asked for on a number of matters, including the recorded telephone message patients hear when calling the practice, the management of flu and Covid vaccine clinics, and how to prevent misuse of the car park. The minutes of the meetings are displayed on the practice Community noticeboard and on the practice website.

In addition, the PPG has provided four Newsletters updating patients on healthcare changes both national and local, new facilities now available in the town, and what patients can do when taking responsibility for their own health and wellbeing. We have also given patients information about what the staff working in the back office do, and how a GP spends a typical day. This last item was also the focus of a notice board display earlier in the year. The newsletters are also displayed on the Community noticeboard and on the practice website.

# Peel Medical Practice

## PPG Newsletter 4 - 2025



In September PPG members worked alongside practice staff to hold a Coffee Morning for Macmillan, one of the practice's named charities. A successful morning raised £140 for Macmillan, through sales of hot drinks and cake, and a very popular tombola.

In October the PPG was delighted to be asked by the practice to marshal patients waiting to receive flu and Covid vaccines. On two successive Saturdays, from 9am to 2pm, we guided patients to the treatment rooms, assisted patients with mobility problems, and advised patients on how to prepare to be vaccinated. Our work was much appreciated, and the refreshments were delicious!

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. We hope you have found it interesting and informative. Any comments you wish to make should be sent via email to [peelppg@gmail.com](mailto:peelppg@gmail.com)

All good wishes for a happy Christmas from members of your PPG committee.