



PRACTICE NEWSLETTER NO.2

Flu Vaccination:

This year the Ministry of Health is delaying the annual Flu Vaccination until after April 1st. Normally vaccination starts earlier. The reason for this is to ensure peak immunity coincides with the time of highest risk. We will hold flu clinics on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

These will be bookable online. This worked well last year.

Hepatitis C:

Curative treatment for one type of this serious condition has been available for some time. Now Pharmac has funded another drug (Maviret) that treats all types, so it can cure those patients who previously missed out.

Maviret apparently has fewer side effects and interactions with other drugs. As a once a day dose it is also simpler to take.

Domestic Violence:

Unfortunately this is common. It affects too many New Zealanders, and can lead to death or life-long and even generational cycles of trauma and abuse.

On April 1st the Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act comes into effect. This provides paid leave for victims of violence to get help, or escape abusive situations. Womens Refuge provides support and safety for women and children who need to escape such situations, but there are other services too.

The Act potentially puts a significant cost on employers, but the heavy cost of domestic violence is something we all bear one way or another.



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Advanced Care Plans:

A public campaign launched in mid-February encourages conversations with whanau and health professionals about what matters if you are seriously ill and what kind of care you would or wouldn't want.

Advanced care plans, even when written, haven't always been binding, or available at the time. It looks like this will change. An electronic version of such a plan, available through the shared record Health One is under development, but is not available yet.

Another difficulty is that it is hard to predict what could happen and how you would feel at the time. Look out for information on this, and discuss it with those who care for you.

Charges for Missed Appointments:

Life is busy, and it is easy to forget a booking. However if an appointment isn't cancelled it can't be given to someone else who needs it. We always reserve the right to charge for missed appointments, but only did this if multiple appointments are missed.

Now if you miss one appointment without cancelling or re-booking, we will let you know. Then if you miss a subsequent appointment you will be charged \$15.