



Patients' Newsletter

22nd August 2025

Welcome to our August newsletter. We hope you have been enjoying the lovely warm Summer period. We certainly have seen a decrease in the amount of patients seen this month which is great news if it means you are all feeling well and enjoy your holidays. We do frequently publicise when we find ourselves with available appointments on our social media channels.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter of our practice news.

Best wishes

Sharon Nunweek

Practice Manager

Sample Drop off box

Please ensure any samples left in the drop off box are labelled with the sample pot fully sealed.

Please also only drop off faecal/stool samples before 11:00am. We cannot accept faecal samples in the afternoon.

The Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG) has been rebranded to the 'Friends of Ifield Medical Practice'.

We are looking for a new structure and looking for patients to contribute and provide constructive helpful feedback to shape the practice as well as hopefully organising and running social events for our patients.

Another local practice have weekly strolls coordinated by patients, coffee mornings and their own newsletter with suggestions on how to maximise your appointment etc.

A PPG is an essential provision within General Practice and we hope for input from our patients with as much or as little as your time allows.

The practice can assist the PPG with any questionnaires or newsletter preparation but we are here to listen to you all with some hopefully good suggestions.

Please do email us at **ifieldmedicalpractice@nhs.net** if you wish to join the PPG

The Practice in numbers

We have 11,105 patients registered at the practice

The average age of our population is 38 years old

51% of our registered population are male

We have 71 housebound patients

We have 5 patients in a care home

The busiest day of the week is always a Monday

We have 2541 children registered at the practice

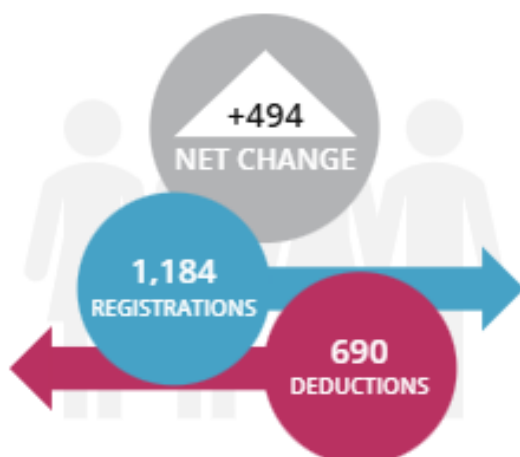
7035 patients are working age adults

We have 1568 patients over 65 years old

Last month 1 in 32 appointments were missed by patients resulting in 38 hours of missed hours of practitioner time.

We have increased our appointments availability by 797 appointments per month when comparing July 2024 and July 2025

CHANGE IN POPULATION (12 months)



NATURAL CHANGE



In the last 30 days....

65% of patients were seen face to face

We happily offer patients the choice of telephone call or face to face.

In the last year...

We have seen 47,131 patients in appointments in the last year.

Available options

I have an admin request

Includes fit (sick) notes, test results and repeat prescriptions



I have a health problem

Contact your GP about a new or ongoing problem



I want to read online advice

Read NHS information on conditions, symptoms and treatments



I want to self-refer

Find local services you can access without a GP referral



Reminder to select the right option on the triage request form:

For an appointment please only select 'I have a health problem'.

For repeat prescription requests, extension to FIT notes, requests for Doctors letters or request for Nurse appointments please select 'I have an admin request'.

The admin form is open 24 hours a day for patient ease but we do have patients frequently trying to request appointments via the admin form, if the main appointment request option is closed when we meet capacity. We have to reject these incorrect forms. You must please use the 'I have a health problem' form.

If you wish for a new FIT/Sick note you will need to request an appointment please



**We are closed on Monday
25th August 2025**



Eligibility

The announced and authorised cohorts eligible for a Flu vaccine in 2025/26 are:

- Residents in a care home for older adults
- All adults aged 75 years and over
- persons aged 6 months and over who are severely immunosuppressed, as defined in tables 3 and 4 of the COVID-19 chapter of the Green Book.

This will commence from the 1st October 2025 starting with the over 75 years.
You can reserve your appointment now.

Child nasal flu 2-3 years from 1st September

We are getting ready for our dinosaur themed child flu season 🦖.

Our receptionist Sam has hand knitted gift bags (and is teaching her colleagues to knit more at home) and Maria has brought the books pens and bracelets.
They love it and so generous.

The waiting room has been decorated with dinosaurs already too.





Cervical screening



Cervical cancer recall has changed

The National Cervical screening programme has made changes to the recall period for cervical smears. After the 1st July 2025, the standard recall period for smears will be five years rather than three years, as it had been for some age groups.

There are some variations to this dependent on sample results which our Practice Nurses will advise you of.

86% of patients said our website was very easy to use and contact us via our website.



Please see the updated West Sussex website all about childhood immunisation changes

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/campaigns/childhood-immunisations/#1>

Immunisation is the safest and most effective way to prevent the spread of many highly infectious diseases. Vaccination not only protects you but also benefits your entire community through 'herd immunity'. When a sufficient number of people are immunised, infections cannot spread easily from person to person.

Vaccines provide the best protection when given on time. The UK childhood vaccination schedule is undergoing changes, with key updates including the introduction of an 18-month vaccination appointment and adjustments to the timing of existing vaccines.

[Link for advice for immunisation for premature babies](#)

[Link for advice of the immunisation schedule](#)