



Patient Participation Group (PPG) Newsletter August 2025

🚑 Protecting Our Children – One Jab at a Time! 💉 🧒

You may have seen the recent news about falling childhood vaccination rates across the UK. At Watership Down Health, we are supported by parents and have a strong uptake locally, but we know there's always more we can do to keep our little ones safe.

✅ If your child is due or overdue any of their routine vaccinations – or if you're just unsure – we're here to help. If you need an appointment later in the day, please ask.

💬 Give us a call or check your child/rens' immunisation record on the NHS App and book any outstanding vaccines. Every appointment makes a difference in protecting not just your child, but the whole community.

Let's keep our children happy, healthy, and protected.

GP Connect

By the 1st October 2025, your GP practice, Watership Down Health, will be required by the Department of Health & Social Care and NHS England to ensure the following two functions are enabled in GP Connect:

The first function allows 'read only' access to patients' care records maintained by the GP Practice by other NHS commissioned providers, for the purposes of direct patient care. 'Read only' access for providers of private healthcare will also be allowed but only in cases where the private provider obtains explicit permission from the patient to access their NHS GP care record, and they are providing direct care to the patient.

The second function allows Community Pharmacy registered professionals to send consultation summaries into the GP practice workflow or GP Connect Update Record.

Please be advised that Watership Down Health will be activating these two functions. In all cases, where a Community Pharmacy/3rd party sends consultation summaries to the GP practice, if patients have any queries with this information, they will need to approach the Community Pharmacy who initiated the correspondence in the first instance.

Any queries regarding this policy will need to be raised with **gpconnect@nhs.net** rather than the GP practice itself.

Flu and Covid-19 Seasonal Vaccination Programme: Autumn/Winter 2025/26

Patients eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine in autumn/winter 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 immunosuppressed, as defined in tables 3 and 4 of the COVID-19 chapter of the Green Book (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67d8a1979dc953ac3bfe9382/GreenBook-chapter-14a-COVID-19-17_3_25.pdf)

As stated in the National Flu Immunisation Programme letter, flu vaccination dates for eligible patients are as follows:

- Pregnant women and all eligible children will start from 1st September 2025. For school aged cohorts, vaccination in schools should be completed by 12 December 2025 with further catch-up opportunities as appropriate.
- All other adult flu cohorts will start from 1 October 2025 and will run until the 31 March 2026 with the majority of the vaccinations to be completed by November 2025 to provide the best possible protection going into winter.

The COVID-19 programme will run from 1 October 2025 to 31 Jan 2026. However, the majority of COVID-19 vaccinations should be completed by 19 December 2025.