



April 2020

Hi everybody.

There are so many changes happening on a daily basis, and we are doing everything we can to keep you updated on what is happening at Queen Street Medical, mainly via our Facebook page – Queen Street Medical UH.

The situation feels very overwhelming as I'm sure you will all agree, and we are doing our utmost to keep our staff and you as patients safe and well.

We have a few staff that are no longer able to work from our premises and this will have a small impact on nursing appointments.

The Ministry of Health have instructed all medical centres to cut down on face to face consults, so we will be offering phone consults for a range of issues like WINZ certs, ACC18 and medical issues not requiring examination. We hope to be offering video consults in the very near future. These both will be charged at a normal consultation price.

If you do need to see your Doctor, they will give you a call and see if it is something that can be dealt with over the phone or they will ask you to come in as normal if they need to do an examination.

Our phone lines are going CRAZY so please be patient with us, we promise to get to you as soon as we can.

This is an incredibly stressful and uncertain time for all our medical staff, please be kind, we are doing our very best for you.

Please stay safe and well and please remember **unless you must go out, stay at home.**

COVID-19

Covid-19 numbers in the community continue to rise. It is important to ensure you have accurate information on this illness so please regularly check <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

If you believe you might have Covid-19 please take the following actions:

- If you have mild symptoms that you are managing at home but aren't sure if you need testing, please call the Covid Healthline on 08003585453
- If you believe you need medical assessment, please call Queen Street Medical and a Doctor or nurse will call for a phone consult or arrange for a face to face assessment.
- If you are very unwell: such as struggling to breathe or confused, please call an ambulance to take you to hospital.

Stay at Home and phone the Ministry of Health's Coronavirus Hotline 0800 358 5453.

Flu Vaccines.

As you are probably aware, the flu injections have arrived and at this stage are only for the over 65-year old's and anyone this is eligible for a free funded one. A full break down at the end of this newsletter. Unfortunately, everyone else at this stage, is having to wait until the end of April...

It appears that there is once again a shortage of vaccine's, and due to being short of nurses, we are no longer running the evening clinics but will hopefully continue to hold the Saturday clinic on the 18th of April and the 2nd May if more vaccine's come available

Repeat Scripts and GP Consultations

If you are requesting repeat prescriptions or having a GP consultation, we would prefer these are paid on line. Our Bank account details are BNZ – 021269 0035104 00. Please use your full name or NHI.

Keep an eye on our Facebook Page for updates.

Funded influenza immunisation criteria as set by PHARMAC:

1. People 65 years of age and over; or

2. People under 65 years of age who

have any of the following cardiovascular diseases:

ischaemic heart disease, or

congestive heart failure, or

rheumatic heart disease, or

congenital heart disease, or

cerebrovascular disease; or

have either of the following chronic respiratory diseases:

asthma, if on a regular preventative therapy, or

other chronic respiratory disease with impaired lung function;(a) or

have diabetes; or

have chronic renal disease; or

have any cancer, please refer to the vaccine precaution below#, excluding basal and squamous skin cancers if not invasive; or

have any of the following other conditions:

autoimmune disease(b), or

immune suppression or immune deficiency, or

HIV, or

transplant recipients, or

neuromuscular and CNS diseases/disorders(c), or

haemoglobinopathies(d), or

children on long-term aspirin, or

a cochlear implant, or

error of metabolism at risk of major metabolic decompensation, or

pre and post splenectomy, or

Down syndrome, or

pregnant women (any trimester); or

3. Children aged 4 years or under who have been hospitalised for respiratory illness or have a history of significant respiratory illness

Unless meeting the criteria set out above, the following conditions are excluded from funding:

asthma not requiring regular preventative therapy

hypertension and/or dyslipidaemia without evidence of end-organ disease

Also refer to the New Zealand Pharmaceutical Schedule on the [PHARMAC website](#).

On a brighter note - Happy Easter everyone – I wonder if the Easter Bunny is allowed out or if he is Lockdown too?

