



PRACTICE NEWSLETTER NO.5

Apology:

Sorry there was no #4 July-August newsletter.

The editor was out of action with an injury and couldn't write one.

Confusion re script answerphone:

You can still order repeat medication by phone, even though we offer a repeat prescription service through the patient portal and no longer offer the service via the script answerphone.

If you want to place a phone order, just call and speak to any of our receptionists. They will write down what you want and put it through to the clinical staff to process. It pays to have a written list or the medication boxes handy. If you don't have accurate names and strengths a nurse will have to ring you back. Accuracy is everything.

Answerphone messages were often unclear which is the reason we discontinued it. Portal requests are clear and patients enjoy the convenience of ordering anytime. They also like getting a message when the script is ready.

Patients with level 2 access find it easy to just tick the medication they want.

If you want to learn how to use the portal ask at reception. We are happy to teach you.



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Measles:

This disease has not affected Nelson as it has South Auckland. This is fortunate because about a third of cases have required hospitalisation so far.

It is considered unwise to visit affected areas if you are unimmunised or immunocompromised. Up to date information can be summarised as follows. A child can receive MMR vaccine from 12mths on request from parents, and similarly all 15 month immunisations can be given at 12 months. This will become routine from July next year. Adults born in New Zealand before 1969 can be considered immune but those born after with no record of their immunity can receive MMR vaccination. Adults born in other countries have different dates before which they are considered immune, but most are within a decade or so of our date.

The practice nurses are constantly updated and are available to answer any of your queries.

You can also get good information on <https://www.immune.org.nz/> or by phoning 0800IMMUNE.

Reminders re CSC:

Increased subsidies for Community Card Services are making a big difference to the cost of medical care for eligible patients.

The cost of a normal adult consultation is now \$19 compared with \$47 for a non-cardholder. Not all eligible patients have the card yet however. Remember it is well worth getting one.

You can check your eligibility online and apply at:

<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/community-services-card.html>