

Minutes of a meeting of the Wirral Practice Nurse Association 2nd July 2008.

The meeting was held at the Grove House Hotel, Wallasey and was sponsored by Becky from Merck, Sharp and Dohme. 15 Practice Nurses attended.

Education meeting.

The meeting was opened by vice chair Caroline Mellon who introduced Dr Raj Kumar, Consultant Stroke Physician, Aintree University Hospital who gave an excellent presentation which was enjoyed and felt to be very relevant. He is very knowledgeable and approachable speaker. 125,000 people annually have a stroke, 30,000 of these then have a second stroke, so primary prevention is definitely valuable. Aspirin first line if tolerated and not contra-indicated. Hypertension is the most prominent risk factor. He went on to talk about brain tissue recovery following thrombolysis, showing some fascinating MRI scan pictures. The evidence for early treatment is very strong leading to less brain tissue loss. At Aintree they are developing their stroke service aiming for 24/7 cover but only currently Mon- Fri 9-4.30. Stroke is a medical emergency and access in UK to get treatment should be a maximum of 70 minutes (proven by studies). Arrowe Park will eventually be involved with Chester in establishing an improved stroke service.

Business meeting.

Sue Smith made several announcements:-she mentioned the current problems with vaccine allocation, our feelings are being made known but the problems are national.

Any issues with Travax contact Sue or Carol. HPV awareness sessions to be announced soon, vaccine will be Cervarix, probable dates 29th July and 7th August at Royal Standard House by Jenny Hopwood. The schedule will be administered mainly by school nurses who will also do "mop-up" sessions.

There are places on the prescribing course starting Feb 2009 if anyone is interested contact Sue or Carol but you need to apply before September.

Vacc and Imm training September 9th and 16th. Heart failure training September 25th, all at the Pavilion, Birkenhead Park.

Behavior change study day by Jane DeVille-Almond, excellent speaker to be announced.

Ear syringing update soon, small cost approx 20.

Sue mentioned that we should all now be using disposable speculums and instruments where ever possible. Also ensure Smear form and specimen dated the same as this causes problems in the lab, it was felt that this was probably a GP problem.

Vacancies

Professional Development nurse Bebington/West Wirral.

Practice Nurse Teehey Lane, Bebington Fridays plus holiday cover, possibly more hours in future, contact Rose Flynn 639 7054.

Next meeting Tuesday September 9th, speaker Tracey Kirk, venue and more details soon.