



# MARDEN NEWS

The monthly newsletter from Marden Medical Practice

Issue 98 March 2015

## If you have one of these...



... make sure it's  
still current.

**You could face a penalty of £100 if you continue to claim free prescriptions with an out of date exemption certificate.**

Shropshire-born journalist Sybil Ruscoe has highlighted the issue after she was fined despite having a condition which entitles her to free prescriptions.

She had type 1 diabetes diagnosed in 1999 and was told that she was entitled to free prescriptions for life. The system changed in 2002 and a new medical exemption certificate that needed **renewing every five years** was introduced. But those issued the old exemptions were not informed of the change. They have started facing fines since the NHS Business Services Authority took over responsibility for checking people's eligibility last September.

Charities and pharmacists said patients were being labelled "fraudsters" and being "unfairly" punished.

**The NHS said it was the "patient's own responsibility to check their entitlement".**

Radio presenter Sybil said: "I have been fined for having free insulin. Hundreds of us have had fines in the post. Basically we're being criminalised for having a chronic illness. It's bad enough having type 1 diabetes - you have to prick yourself with needles seven or eight times a day - and now I'm being criminalised for doing something I wasn't told was wrong."

*Information from BBC News*

### Useful Numbers

Health Visitors 452300

District Nurses 277709

RSH 261000

Family Planning 283382

### Pharmacies

Rowland's On Site

369446

Asda 276810

Sainsbury's 244744

Taylor - Radbrook

249931

Williams Co-op

344277

Conway 352352

Lunt's - Hereford Rd

351918

Boots - Pride Hill

351311

Rhodes 343998

Boots - Copthorne

350747

Boots - Coleham

362496

Lloyds - Riverside

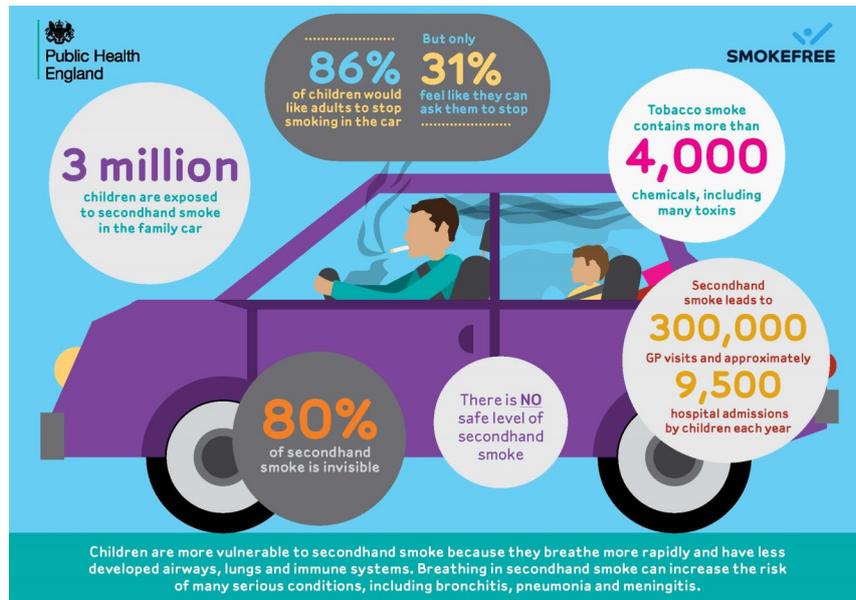
344523

Tesco

845449

Pharmacy Express

245715



The Smokefree Homes and Cars campaign aims to raise awareness of the damage second hand smoke causes children ahead of law change from **1 October 2015**, whereby drivers and passengers throughout England will not be allowed to smoke in private vehicles when carrying children under 18. This new law will make it an offence to smoke in a private vehicle with someone under 18 years old present, and for a driver to fail to prevent smoking in a private vehicle with someone under 18 years old present. People who fail to comply could be issued with a £50 fixed penalty notice.

**A survey by the British Lung Foundation found that 86% of children who are exposed to smoking in cars would like the smoker to stop; yet only 31% actually feel able to ask them to do so**

Karen Calder, Shropshire Council’s Cabinet member for health, and member of Shropshire’s Health and Well-being Board, said: “The only effective way to protect children is to prevent them breathing second hand smoke. Stopping smoking in cars carrying children will help do this. I would urge those who do smoke, to consider the risk to their child’s health when exposed to second hand smoke.”

**If you want help to give up smoking, the help to quit nurse at this practice is available to offer support on Friday mornings. Please ask at reception for further information.**

### **DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT DEMENTIA?**

The Dementia Community Roadshow, the first of its kind in the UK, has been touring since June 2011, providing members of the public with information, advice and support about dementia. So far we have reached over 120,000 people across the UK. Visitors are able to receive free, tailored, and confidential advice if they are worried about their memory or that of a loved one, living with dementia or caring for someone with dementia from local trained Alzheimer’s Society staff.

**NEXT VISIT TO SHROPSHIRE 7-10TH APRIL DEAN SQUARE, TELFORD SHOPPING CENTRE 9-6PM.**

Find out more at : [alzheimers.org.uk/roadshow](http://alzheimers.org.uk/roadshow) or call the helpline 0300 222 1122

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