

DID YOU KNOW ?

During February/March all patients over the age of 15 years and 6 months received a letter about **Summary Care Records (SCR)**. The only information that is stored on the SCR is **Medication, Allergies and Adverse Reactions**. This can be changed at any time by patient request. There is a very strict need to know only policy in place for when a Health Professional needs to access the records. When patients need hospital care etc they will be asked for their permission to see their record and can refuse at any time. If the patient is unable to give their consent e.g. if unconscious or confused then the SCR may be viewed without patient consent. However all actions must be recorded for investigation by a Privacy Officer. Patients can choose who can view their record e.g. they may allow a doctor but not a nurse. The SCR can only be accessed using a special computer unit and a special smartcard issued to a specific worker.

In August our group had an interesting talk from Jan Thomas, from Suffolk Integrated Health Care who explained that the **out of hours service** was set up by The Suffolk Doctors in 1996, which was replaced by the Ambulance Trust and then by Take Care Now (TCN). This year however the service has once again been replaced by Harmoni, which is a large company and has centres all over the East of England. Jan went on to explain that the office and ancillary staff have not changed, most of who have been in post for many years and their centre remains at Riverside in Ipswich. All doctors working for out of hours are assessed on their performance and command of the English language and there is an advisory board of four Doctors who monitor this performance list. In this part of the country 72% of the listed doctors are G.Ps.

The dates for the flu Clinics will be:-

Saturday 9th October surnames A-G.

Saturday 16th October surnames H-R.

Saturday 23rd October S-Z, and catch-up.

Beccles Medical Centre Patient Participation Group

