

J.W.W. ALLISON - YOUR INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY PHARMACY

Sometimes, when I'm walking around town on my lunch, or at weekends I bump into one or more of our patients. Often, we exchange greetings and discuss the weather as normal British folk should do.

Occasionally, I am questioned as to why I'm not in the shop and whether I've snuck out without anyone noticing. I remind them that I work there rather than being a prisoner and that there's some kind of law that allows me to eat at least once a day.

I must admit that I have done quite well for holidays this year and a few months back I was on the way down to Portsmouth to catch a ferry to Brittany. We stopped off at Lenny Henry's preferred hotel chain on the way down to break up the journey. Imagine my surprise when I was getting my money's worth out of the breakfast buffet the next morning only to hear: "Hi Nat" from one of our patients. You get away with nothing when you work in our shop.

This was added to when I went on a last-minute trip to Portugal. I didn't bump into anyone on the holiday but was informed on my return by a patient, that she was on the same flight as me both ways and was only two rows behind me on the flight back!

Maybe I'm looking at this the wrong way and it's the patients who are worried why their pharmacist is stalking them.

Shoe Review!

I've written recently about the regulations faced by pharmacists and pharmacies and how those regulations are going through a process of change.

They have introduced something called peer review, where you discuss aspects of your professional roles with another pharmacist. As I've said before, we are something of pharmacy innovators at Allison's and I witnessed an example of peer review before this change was even mentioned.

I walked into the dispensary to find most of the staff comparing their Skechers and awarding each pair points for style and comfort. When they'd finished, it was unclear whether they were all wearing the shoes they started with.

We are pleased to say that we have recently had our routine pharmacy inspection. We are not pleased that we had the inspection but pleased that we can now breathe for a little while. They don't realise just how tough it is to not be within 10 feet of a cake, sweet or biscuit at all times.

The inspector was very happy with us, which was encouraging and the fact that we are still open confirms that this was what she reported back to her bosses. The convenient timing of a patient saying how wonderful our text notification service was didn't do any harm at all.

That year 'flu' in!

We are approaching flu season again and look forward to seeing you all for your injection, whether they are free NHS vaccines or private vaccines for those not eligible for the NHS service.

Last year, we vaccinated more patients on our free NHS service than any other pharmacy in England. Unfortunately, it was not enough to win a trophy at the flu awards ceremony but I'm not bitter and we did get a framed certificate of commendation. The uptake of our service highlighted the willingness of our patients to use us for vaccines and hopefully the fact that we run a pretty efficient and patient-friendly service. We will provide information about flu and our services in the shop, on our website, Facebook page and should be ready to start vaccinating in mid-September.

I promise that my injection technique is far superior to the pun used for the title of this section.

Nat Mitchell

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 Monday to Friday: 8.30am - 6.00pm and
 Saturday: 8.30am - 4.00pm

CUSTOMER NOTICE

The changes to the prescription ordering process does not stop your prescription getting dispensed by us

Simply ask for it to be sent to Allison's



GOING SOMEWHERE EXOTIC?

We can now administer your travel vaccines* and antimalarials' including:

- **Diphtheria Tetanus and Polio**
- **Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B**
- **Japanese Encephalitis**
- **Meningitis ACWY**
- **Rabies**
- **Tick Borne Encephalitis**
- **Typhoid**

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We also vaccinate against Meningitis B (from 2 years old) and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) in both boys and girls

Vaccinations require a consultation with our trained pharmacist and some need to be started weeks before travelling. Please get in touch to arrange advice or an appointment. We aim to give you comprehensive advice on the spot and carry a range of vaccines. Many patients have actually received their vaccination the same or next day at a price that matches or beats most other clinics.

**Please note that these are private services and are therefore chargeable. We are not yet a designated Yellow Fever centre.*

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