

St Catherine's Surgery Carers Support Policy

If you are a carer, you might find it difficult to access our services without extra support.

If you identify yourself as a carer, our staff will try to offer you:

- 1. Flexibility with type of appointment (i.e. telephone) if caring responsibilities mean you cannot leave the person you care for at home or bring them with you to the surgery.**
- 2. Flexibility with appointment times where possible.**
- 3. Information about local carers support services which may be able to help with information and support for unpaid carers.**
- 4. An annual flu and Covid jab.**
- 5. Information about your right to a Carers' Assessment of your own needs as a carer.**

In some cases, caring roles are full time and very demanding. We would like to support you in your caring role where we can. We will avoid making assumptions about the amount of care you wish to take on.

Caring should not be at the expense of your own health and wellbeing. Please tell us how your caring role is affecting you and if you have any support needs.

We will try to help you by:

- **Respecting your privacy and confidentiality and conducting conversations of a personal nature in private.**
- **Discussing the benefits of appropriate information sharing with patients who need or may in future need care from a relative or friend.**
- **Providing you with information about the condition and needs of the person you care for, such as the effects of medication, where that person gives consent.**
- **Always listening to and respecting the information you give us about your caring role and the needs of the person you care for.**
- **Providing you with general information about health conditions when you ask for it when we do not have consent from the person you care for to share their personal information.**

**Our Carers Champion is:
Heidi Suckley, Receptionist**

Please contact them if you have any queries about our support for carers - they will be happy to help and treat the conversation in strictest confidence.