

TAMAR VALLEY HEALTH PATIENTS' GROUP NEEDS AN INJECTION!

In the last few months, for a variety of personal and health reasons, your Patients' Group has lost several key members of its Committee. In fact, the Committee has virtually ceased to exist and useful projects have had to be dropped for lack of support. You will all be aware of the pressure that GP services are under across the country and it is becoming very difficult to maintain the high standard of care that we have become used to and expect. In addition, major changes are being planned for how primary health and social care services will be provided in Cornwall in the future. It is very important therefore that patients have an effective way of expressing their views on these issues and can contribute to their solution.

Here are some of the key things that Practice Patient Groups do:

- * Collect feedback from patients on their experience of the care provided both by survey and by direct contact.**
- * Make suggestions for changes and improvements to the services provided.**
- * Advise and comment on changes and developments planned by the Practice.**
- * Support the Practice by helping to publicise important issues that affect their patients.**
- * Sponsor and publicise campaigns for healthier living.**
- * Monitor official NHS and other surveys comparing the Practice with others.**

Overall, you could say that the Patients' Group acts as a "Critical Friend" of the Practice.

We would like to hear from you if you are a patient of the Tamar Valley Health Practice based at either Callington or Gunnislake Health Centres and can spare some time to help the Practice keep up and if possible improve its current standards of service. Volunteers are needed for roles such as officers or members of the Committee and people able to offer occasional help with individual projects.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact nhskernowccg.tvh.ppg@nhs.net