

'Pharmacy First' NHS Service

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What is 'Pharmacy First'?

The **'Pharmacy First'** service builds on the NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service. The consultation service enables patients to be referred into community pharmacy for a minor illness **or** an urgent repeat medicine supply.

G.P surgeries nationally are unable to cope with the number of patients requesting G.P appointments; therefore **'Pharmacy First'** has been set-up to enable patients to go to a participating pharmacy instead of needing to see a G.P.

The conditions that can be seen under **'Pharmacy First'** are:

Conditions	Age range
Acute otitis media*	1 to 17 years
Impetigo	1 year and over
Infected insect bites	1 year and over
Shingles	18 years and over
Sinusitis	12 years and over
Sore throat	5 years and over
Uncomplicated urinary tract infections	Women 16-64 years

If you have symptoms that suggest you may have one of these conditions, you can now walk into a pharmacy and be offered a consultation with the pharmacist. Pharmacists can provide advice and, if clinically necessary, will offer an NHS medicine such as antibiotics to treat it (NHS prescription charge apply if you normally pay for medicines supplied on prescription).

If you contact the surgery requesting a G.P appointment, your request will be reviewed by a clinician under our Clinical Triage system, and if your medical condition meets the criteria for **'Pharmacy First,'** an electronic referral will be sent to a pharmacy of your choice, where you will be seen on the same day.

Any treatment supplies by a pharmacy will be recorded in your G.P health record, via new IT developments.

All G.P surgeries are now using 'Pharmacy First' and G.P appointments will not be offered to patients that meet the criteria for 'Pharmacy First' as these appointments are needed for other medical needs that cannot be dealt with elsewhere.