

How do I join the scheme?

If you have any of the minor ailments listed in this leaflet, you can access this service through a participating community pharmacy.

To use this scheme you need to register with a pharmacy that is part of the Minor Ailments Scheme using your NHS number.

Your pharmacist will request a consent form to be signed before you can participate with this service.

Once registered, you can use the service for free medication (if applicable) up to maximum of six times per year. However, you can use the service anytime for advice and for purchase of over the counter medication as required.

Help the NHS to
help you – think
pharmacy first

What minor ailments can be treated under the scheme?

- + Cough
- + Fever (High Temperature)
- + Conjunctivitis
- + Earache, Pain and Headache
- + Athletes Foot
- + Bites, Stings and Allergies
- + Cold and Flu
- + Cold Sores
- + Constipation
- + Cystitis
- + Diarrhoea
- + Dry Skin (Simple Eczema)
- + Dermatitis/Allergic Rash
- + Earwax
- + Hayfever
- + Heartburn and Indigestion
- + Haemorrhoids
- + Infant Decongestant
- + Mouth Ulcers and Teething
- + Nappy Rash
- + Oral Thrush
- + Scabies
- + Sore Throat
- + Sprains and Strains
- + Sunburn
- + Threadworm
- + Vaginal Thrush
- + Warts and Verrucae



Pharmacy First

Minor Ailments Scheme



What is the minor ailments scheme?

Everyone can go to their pharmacist for free advice or to buy a medicine for a minor illness or ailment.

The minor ailments scheme (called “Pharmacy First”) is a new service for people registered with a Dudley GP who do not pay NHS prescription charges.

Pharmacy First allows you quicker and convenient access to similar advice from your pharmacist for a minor ailment as you would get from your GP. Where clinically appropriate, over the counter medications will be supplied free of charge, without having to wait for a GP appointment.

Who is the service for?

The service is available to patients who are:

- + Entitled to free prescriptions on the NHS
- + Registered with a Dudley CCG general practice
- + Suffering from a minor illness included within the Pharmacy First conditions list.

Why visit the pharmacy?

- + Pharmacists are trained to treat minor ailments
- + You will not have to visit your GP for a prescription
- + Your GP will be able to spend more time treating patients with more serious illnesses
- + This is a confidential and high quality service, designed to meet the needs of patients
- + Open until late and at weekends

Which pharmacy can I go to?

You can go to any pharmacy displaying the Pharmacy First Sign (e.g. poster) or you can access a list of participating pharmacies at the website below.

What will the pharmacist ask me?

The pharmacist may ask you a range of questions about:

- + Your symptoms
- + Your current medication history
- + Any other illness you have
- + Your NHS number

The answers will help the pharmacist to make a diagnosis and offer you advice and treatment if necessary.

Will I always be given treatment?

You will always be given advice and treatment if appropriate. The pharmacist may decide that you need to see a GP and refer you back without giving you any medicine.

Will I still be able to see a GP?

Yes, if your symptoms do not improve after seeing the Pharmacist, you can make an appointment to see the GP or nurse.