



## **Community Pharmacy Consultation Service**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is this new service about?**

From Wednesday 18 August 2021, when you call the practice, you will be asked about your symptoms. If this indicates that you could be helped by a pharmacist, you will be given a same day referral for a booked consultation with a community pharmacist at your local choice of pharmacy.

Community pharmacies have already successfully seen thousands of patients for a consultation for a minor illness following a call to NHS 111. This new way of arranging consultations with pharmacists by GP practices has been successfully piloted around the country.

#### **Why are you doing this?**

Pharmacists are qualified healthcare professionals and experts in medicines. They can offer clinical advice and over-the-counter medicines for all sorts of minor illnesses, and a same day consultation can be arranged quickly and at a time to suit you. This in turns frees up GP appointments for those people with more complex symptoms who need to see a GP.

#### **What happens when I see the community pharmacist?**

We will share your personal details with the pharmacist and details of your minor illness, and the pharmacist will contact you to arrange your consultation on the same day, or at a time that suits you.

You may be seen in person in a private consulting room, if the pharmacist thinks it is appropriate, or your consultation may be carried out over the telephone or via video.

You will be asked about your medical history and symptoms and current medication - in the same way the GP would ask you about them.

Usually, the pharmacist will provide you with advice and can sell you an over-the-counter product where needed, if you choose. They will also send details of your consultation back to us for our records.

If the pharmacist feels you need to be seen by a GP urgently, they will call us to ensure you are seen, or they will advise you to contact the hospital Emergency Department if deemed necessary. You may also be referred back to us to arrange a routine appointment or follow-up.

### **What if I usually get a free prescription from my GP?**

Your pharmacist will provide you with advice on how to treat your symptoms, which may include a medicine or product. Medicines that can be purchased in a pharmacy to treat minor illnesses are usually inexpensive and would not normally be prescribed by your GP anyway.

You are free to choose if you wish to make a purchase or not.

### **What happens if I don't want to see the pharmacist?**

We want to ensure that you are offered an appointment with the most appropriate qualified healthcare professional based on your symptoms. If you have minor illness symptoms that can be treated the same day through a consultation with a qualified community pharmacist, but do not want to accept this referral, you will be offered a routine appointment with your GP at a future date.

### **What if the patient is my child?**

Children aged 12 months and over are eligible to use this service and can be seen by the pharmacist.

Older children who are able to make their own decision about their health may be seen unaccompanied.

### **Why is this a good thing for patients?**

Community pharmacies are local; are often open longer than the GP practice, and can offer you the same consultation outcome at a time that is more convenient for you. If the pharmacist thinks you need to see the GP, they can arrange an urgent appointment for you.

Patients who have already used the service liked the convenience of having a consultation on the same day, on a day that suited them, at a pharmacy of their choice.

78% of people who had a consultation with a community pharmacist were successfully helped.

**For more information on how pharmacies can help you, please visit:**

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/pharmacies/what-to-expect-from-your-pharmacy-team/>