

Beacon Medical Practice

Patient Newsletter



Easter 2017

NHS Minor Ailment Scheme

If you do not pay for prescriptions, you may be able to use the NHS Minor Ailment Scheme to get advice and, when appropriate, free treatment for certain common illnesses, without seeing a GP.

Help for common illnesses

If you want help dealing with a common illness such as a cold, cough or diarrhoea, you may be able to use the NHS Minor Ailment Scheme at selected local pharmacies. The pharmacist will be able to offer advice and may be able to offer you medicines for a minor illness without you having to book an appointment to see your GP.

Who is this service for?

Schemes may vary between locations, but the NHS Minor Ailment Scheme is for adults and children who:

- Are registered with a GP surgery which is taking part in the scheme.
- Want treatment for a minor illness included in the local scheme.
- Medicines can be supplied free of charge to the customer if

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NHS Pre Payment Certificates

If you regularly collect more than three prescriptions every three months, or twelve prescriptions every twelve months, then NHS prepayment certificates (PPC) could save you money on your prescriptions.

NHS prepayment certificates are available for either three month or 12 month periods. Your PPC covers all of your prescription costs including dental prescriptions. However, they can only be used for the individual named on the certificate. You cannot use a PPC for other members of your household. You also cannot use your NHS prepayment certificates for certain other health costs including, but not exclusive to items such as wigs and fabric supports.

The NHS prepayment certificates are a one off charge that cover all prescription charges, no matter how many you collect during the time that the certificate is valid. They are ideal for patients with chronic or long-term conditions that require regular and frequent prescription medications and treatments. NHS prepayment certificates are intended to minimise the financial impact of chronic or long term illnesses and conditions.

How to apply

You can purchase your NHS prepayment certificates online on the NHS website. This is the quickest and easiest way to purchase for your prescription.

Alternatively, you can purchase your certificates by telephone on 0300 330 1341.

You can also apply by post. Call into your local Pharmacy and request an application form.

Once you have completed the form it should be sent to:

NHS Help with Health Costs
PPC Issue Office
PO Box 854
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE99 2DE

Further information on NHS prepayment certificates is available on the NHS website:

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they are exempt from NHS prescription charges.

The NHS Minor Ailment Scheme is available at selected pharmacies across England and Wales and is available across Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Why not ask at your local pharmacy whether they offer the scheme?

If so, they'll check to see if you are eligible to use it.

How it works

Talk to a Pharmacist about your illness and they will offer advice.

If a medicine is needed, the Pharmacist will check your eligibility and whether the illness is covered by the scheme.

A suitable medicine may be offered to you*

*Charges will apply if you normally pay for prescriptions. If you're exempt, for example people under 16 or over 60, then you won't pay for the medicine as this service is funded by the NHS.

What minor illnesses are covered?

Illnesses supported within the scheme may differ between locations. Some illnesses covered include:

- **Back-ache, sprains and strains**
- **Colds**
- **Conjunctivitis**
- **Constipation**
- **Coughs**
- **Diarrhoea**
- **Earache**
- **Haemorrhoids**
- **Hay fever**
- **Head lice**
- **Headache and fever**
- **Heartburn and indigestion**
- **Insect bites and stings**
- **Mild eczema and dermatitis**
- **Minor fungal skin infections**
- **Mouth ulcers**

- **Nappy rash**
- **Sore throat**
- **Teething**
- **Threadworm**
- **Thrush**

Benefits

Convenience:

No need to make an appointment

Advice:

Pharmacist can refer you to a GP if necessary

Flexibility:

Many Pharmacies are open at the Weekend

The poster features the NHS logo in the top right corner. The word 'Paracetamol' is written in large, bold, white letters on an orange background. Below this, a blue box contains the text: 'Please do not request paracetamol on prescription for short-term minor illnesses such as headaches, fevers, coughs and colds.' A red box below that states: 'Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Groups spent over £1.2m on prescribed paracetamol last year. This is equivalent to 270 hip replacements, 39 more community nurses or 1,000 drug treatment courses for Alzheimer's.' A green box follows with: 'Low cost generic paracetamol tablets are available in packs of 16 from supermarkets and other retailers costing 30p per pack or less. Wherever possible, we would prefer that you please purchase your own supplies.' A light green box at the bottom of the text area says: 'However if you are prescribed paracetamol regularly for the treatment of a long-term condition such as arthritis, you can continue to request it on prescription.' At the very bottom, there is a red heart icon with the text 'LOVE YOURSELF LOVE YOUR NHS' and the slogan 'The NHS belongs to you, use it responsibly.'

Feedback, Comments or Issues

Your views are important to us. If you have any comments about the Practice, there are suggestion boxes at all 3 sites that are reviewed by our PPG (Patient Participation Group) and at our staff meetings.

