

The NHS Minor Ailments Scheme –Pharmacy First

The Minor Ailments Scheme aims to simplify access to advice and treatment for a specified range of minor ailments, removing the requirement for a GP appointment.

The scheme is a local arrangement whereby patients registered with a GP, who are suffering with a specific minor ailment, can access effective advice and treatment via their local Community Pharmacy.

Patients can either self- refer to the Pharmacy, or can be directed there by their GP surgery.

If the patient is exempt from prescription charges, they will not have to pay for their treatment. If the patient normally pays for their prescriptions, they will be given the choice of paying a standard prescription charge for their treatment, or purchasing it over the counter if this is cheaper.

The Pharmacy will need to establish that each patient is registered with a participating GP surgery, and will issue patients using the scheme with a 'Pharmacy First Passport' document which they should present on each use of the scheme.

The NHS Minor Ailments service is available at pharmacies in Scotland, Northern Ireland and selected stores in England and Wales so check locally with your pharmacist for availability.

Because this is an NHS service which is only available in pharmacies, not every store will be able to treat the same list of minor ailments. However examples of ailments which are commonly treated include:

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| Back ache, sprains and strains | Haemorrhoids | Minor fungal infections of the skin |
| Colds | Hay fever | Mouth ulcers |
| Conjunctivitis | Head lice | Nappy rash |
| Constipation | Headache and fever | Sore throat |
| Coughs | Heartburn and indigestion | Teething |
| Diarrhoea | Insect bites and stings | Threadworm |
| Earache | Mild eczema and dermatitis | Thrush |