

COMMUNITY PHARMACY MINOR AILMENT SCHEME

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES FOR GP'S
AND SURGERY PERSONNEL?

WHAT IS A MINOR AILMENT SCHEME?

- A locally tailored scheme whereby patients are given the opportunity to see a pharmacist for treatment and/or advice for minor illnesses as an alternative to seeing their GP
- Free of charge for patients who are exempt from prescription charges
- Community pharmacy minor ailment schemes are enhanced services within the community pharmacy contractual framework
- Commissioned locally by a CCG

EFFECTS OF MINOR AILMENTS ON GP WORKLOAD

- Research suggests 51.4 million GP consultations a year are solely for minor ailments¹
- 18% of GPs' workload or an hour a day for each GP is spent on minor ailment consultations¹
- Total cost to the NHS of these consultations is £1.8 billion and 80% of this is attributable to the cost of GPs' time¹

BENEFITS OF A COMMUNITY PHARMACY MINOR AILMENT SCHEME

- Improves access to medicines and increases patient choice of primary care services
- Promotes self-care through pharmacy, educates and empowers patients in caring for themselves
- Provides access for patients to appropriate advice and/or treatment
- Delivers triage
- Improves primary care capacity by reducing GP practice workload related to minor ailments
- Helps GP practices to meet various GMS contract targets

MORE BENEFITS

- Improves GP access for patients with more complex conditions
- Makes better use of pharmacists skills
- Promotes the role of the community pharmacist
- Promotes better working relationships between community pharmacists and GPs
- Could potentially reduce waiting times in A&E
- Helps Commissioning Bodies to achieve local and national targets around GP access and choice in primary care

EXAMPLES OF MINOR AILMENTS COVERED BY THE SERVICE

- Allergies
- Athlete's foot
- Bites & Stings
- Cold & Flu like symptoms
- Conjunctivitis
- Constipation
- Cystitis
- Diarrhoea
- Head Lice
- Indigestion/ Heartburn/ Tummy Upset
- Mouth Ulcers
- Vaginal Thrush (Adult)
- Warts & Verrucae

EVIDENCE

- Evaluations of existing minor ailment schemes have shown them to be safe, effective and well received¹
- Evidence suggests that minor ailment schemes are most successful in socially disadvantaged areas and are particularly well received by mothers with young children¹

COMMUNITY PHARMACY MINOR AILMENT SCHEMES HELP TO:

Realise the governments agenda in relation to:

- A patient-centred health service
- Support for self-care
- Responding to ever increasing expectations of convenience and customer service from the public
- Making better use of the skills of NHS staff
- Community pharmacy being an integral part of the NHS