**PHARMACY FIRST: A NEW SERVICE FOR PATIENTS**

Patients can now get treatment for seven common conditions directly from their local pharmacy, without the need for a GP appointment or prescription. Pharmacists can now supply prescription-only medicines to treat these health conditions:

* sinusitis
* sore throat
* earache
* infected insect bite
* impetigo (a bacterial skin infection)
* shingles
* uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women (they can be more complicated in men).

You can also get oral contraceptives, covid and flu jabs and general advice, and have your blood pressure checked to reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes.

Doctors’ receptionists, NHS111 and emergency care providers are all able to direct patients to this service. Or alternatively you can walk into the pharmacy or phone for advice.

When you arrive at the pharmacy you will be seen privately in a [[1]](#endnote-1)separate consulting room. The pharmacist will be able to recommend the best course of action and supply medication, including antivirals or antibiotics if needed. They will also add this treatment to your NHS records.

The main benefits of this service are:

* You can be seen, diagnosed and treated quickly
* There will be more GP appointments for patients with more complex conditions and therefore less time waiting to be seen.

*Sent by Dr Virmani and Dr Bedi’s patient participation group*

1. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)