How do I get more information on Pharmacy First?

If you have any comments you wish to make on the Pharmacy First Scheme or require more details of how the scheme works in Nottingham City please contact:

Tania Cook, Prescribing Team
Nottingham City Primary Care Trust
1 Standard Court
Park Row
Nottingham NG1 6GN

Telephone: 0779 0003761
Email: tania.cook@nottinghamcity-pct.nhs.uk

If you want to access health advice when your practice and your pharmacy are unavailable you can telephone NHS Direct who are available 24 hours a day. Trained staff and nurses will be available to help you over the telephone.

NHS DIRECT
Telephone: 0845 4647

The confidential 24 hour helpline is staffed by qualified, experienced nurses and fully professional health information advisors.

If in doubt check with your pharmacy

Why wait for a Doctor’s appointment?

You may be able to get appropriate treatment from your pharmacy sooner

To contact NHS Direct ring 0845 4647 or visit the website at www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk
Are you or your children suffering from:

- Cystitis
- Hayfever
- Headlice
- Sore Throat
- Teething Pain
- Insect bites/stings
- Toothache
- Warts and verucas
- Fever

You may be considering seeing your Doctor because of any of the above problems.

However-

Pharmacy First offers you the chance to see your pharmacist without an appointment and if necessary, get the same medicines your Doctor would have given you for the problems. Your Pharmacist is a qualified healthcare professional who can help with your health problems.

Can I join Pharmacy First?

Yes, if you are registered with a doctor in Nottingham City and you are exempt from prescription charges.

If you pay for your prescriptions, the pharmacist will still be able to help you with your health problems, but you will need to pay for any medicines supplied. No treatment can be provided for children of less than 3 months of age under the scheme. Babies less than 3 months old should always be treated by their GP.

How do I join the Pharmacy First scheme?

If you go to any participating pharmacy in Nottingham City, and ask to join the Pharmacy First scheme the staff will be pleased to help you. Look out for the Pharmacy First sticker on the door, or a poster in store, which indicates that they are participating in the scheme.

The pharmacy staff will ask if you are exempt from prescription charges. If you are, then they will ask to see the evidence you would normally provide when you have a prescription from the doctor.

They will then ask for your details, including your name, address, postcode, date of birth and the name of your doctor. All this information will be added to a voucher book. You can also register all the eligible members of your family living at the same address as well. You will be asked to sign the voucher book which you will be given to keep.

If you are a parent or guardian of a child (under 16 years old) you may register your child with a participating pharmacy, even if you pay for prescriptions. He/She will need to be with you when you see the pharmacist.

Once you have registered with a pharmacy you are then free to use any of the pharmacies in Nottingham City whenever you need help, advice or medicines for future health problems, which are covered under the Pharmacy First scheme.

How does Pharmacy First work?

Once you have registered, the pharmacist will talk with you and offer advice, and if appropriate treat you with the same medicines as your Doctor would have chosen.

What if I don’t want to use Pharmacy First?

If you do not want to use Pharmacy First your surgery will make an appointment in the normal way.

What if the Pharmacist thinks I need to see the Doctor or Nurse?

The Pharmacist will decide if they can treat you or whether you should see a Doctor or Nurse.

If they think you need to see the Doctor or Nurse, the Pharmacist will provide you with a referral slip for you to take to your surgery. This will indicate to your surgery that you have already been to the pharmacy, and the reason you have been referred to them.