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Pharmacy First Service

We all know how difficult it can be sometimes to try and get an appointment with a GP so we thought we would let you know about the Pharmacy First Service which is now offered by most pharmacies in England.

This free NHS service allows you to get quick access to healthcare advice for the following seven conditions:

- Earache (aged 1 to 17 years)
- Impetigo (aged 1 year and over)
- Infected insect bites (aged 1 year and over)
- Shingles (aged 18 years and over)
- Sinusitis (aged 12 years and over)
- Sore throats (aged 5 years and over)
- Urinary tract infections (UTIs) in women (aged 16 to 64 years)

If you have symptoms that suggest one of these conditions, you can walk into a pharmacy and be offered a consultation with a pharmacist in a private consultation room. This is a walk in service with no appointment necessary.

Your GP surgery may also refer you to a pharmacy of your choice for this service.

The pharmacist will provide advice and, if clinically necessary, prescribe medicine to treat the condition (NHS prescription charges apply if you normally pay for medicines supplied on prescription).

If the pharmacist can't treat you, they will direct you to your GP surgery or another health professional.

If you have symptoms that suggest you have one of the above conditions, why not give the Pharmacy First service a try?