

Will you always receive medication?

- No, because not every ailment requires a medicine. If this is the case the Pharmacist will give you advice on how best to treat your symptoms.
- If it is appropriate the Pharmacist will provide the right medicine for **YOU**. This medicine is only for **YOU**, it may not be right for anybody else (even if they have similar symptoms).
- The Pharmacist will also tell you the best way to take the medicine and other ways to help manage your symptoms.
- You will need to sign the back of the pharmacy voucher and to show evidence of your exemption if you do not pay (just as you do on a doctor's prescription). If you do not show this evidence then the Pharmacist will still provide you with the medicine but the exemption status will be checked later.

What should you do if your symptoms persist?

IT IS IMPORTANT that if your symptoms persist you seek further advice from your Pharmacist or GP. Take this leaflet with you to your Doctor so that he/she knows which pharmacy you have been to and the medicine you may have received there.



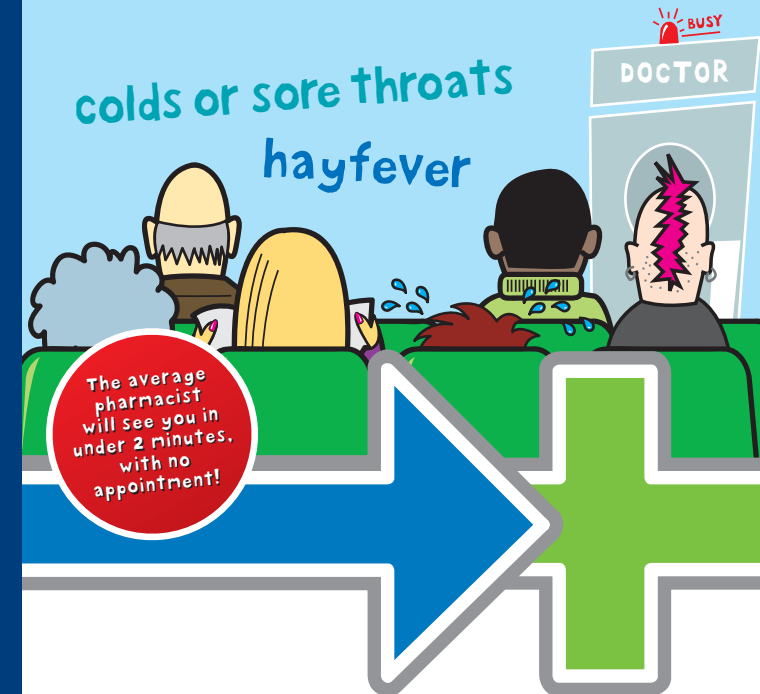
PHARMACY STAMP

If you have any comments on the service please contact the Pharmacy Directorate in your Health and Social Service Board area.

NHSSB: 028 2531 1140
SHSSB: 028 3741 4622
EHSSB: 028 9055 3794
WHSSB: 028 7186 0086

This leaflet can be made available in Irish, Chinese, Audio Cassette, Braille and large type. The department will also consider requests for translations into other ethnic minority languages.

MINOR AILMENTS?



For common minor ailments, there is more than **ONE WAY** to get your medicine...

...GO STRAIGHT TO YOUR PHARMACIST!



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn
**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

Do I need to visit a Doctor for treatment of every minor ailment?

Not always. You can visit your local Pharmacist for expert advice and receive a recommendation for a medicine to treat your minor ailment where appropriate. Under the new Minor Ailments Service eligible patients may receive medicines free of charge.

Why go to your Pharmacist first?

Many GP consultations are for ailments that could potentially be treated with non-prescription medicines available directly from the pharmacy. Pharmacists are trained to deal with minor ailments and now have the opportunity to supply some medicines free to eligible patients. This service benefits patients because they receive expert advice in the pharmacy without the need to make an appointment with their GP. The service is designed to allow GPs to spend more time focusing on those patients that really need their input.

Are you eligible for the Minor Ailments Service?

Your pharmacist will advise you on the ailments included in the service. If you are exempt from prescription charges you can use this service without incurring any costs for the medication. As with a normal prescription you will be asked for proof of exemption. If you are not exempt you will be asked to pay the retail price for the medication you receive. The Pharmacist will not charge you for their advice and time.

Can you go to any pharmacy?

Most pharmacies in Northern Ireland are involved in the Minor Ailments Service. You can visit any pharmacy displaying the logo below, where the Pharmacist will see you without an appointment.

What will the Pharmacist ask?

The Pharmacist will ask a number of questions to establish your eligibility for the Minor Ailments Service. In addition, you will be asked about your symptoms, current medication and details of any other medical conditions. This is to make sure that any medicine to be provided through the scheme is suitable for you. All details given to the Pharmacist will be treated confidentially and will only be used to help develop the service further. **Call into any Pharmacy displaying this logo.**



The average pharmacist will see you in under 2 minutes, with no appointment!

