

Pharmacy First Scheme

Did you know that patients can now get treatment for seven common conditions directly from their local pharmacy, without the need for a GP appointment or prescription?

The Pharmacy First scheme was launched by the government and is now available to give patients quick and accessible care to ease pressure on GP services.

The service will enable community pharmacists to supply prescription-only medicines, including antibiotics and antivirals where clinically appropriate, to treat seven common health conditions without the need to visit a GP.

What are the seven common conditions?

- Sinusitis
- Sore throat
- Earache
- Infected insect bite
- Impetigo (a bacterial skin infection)
- Shingles
- Uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women.

How can I access treatment from my pharmacy?

You can get treatment for these conditions by walking into the pharmacy or contacting them virtually. GP receptionists, NHS 111 and providers of emergency care will also be able to direct patients to pharmacies.

What will happen when I arrive at the pharmacy?

The pharmacist will be able to speak to you privately in a separate consultation room. They may perform an examination or ask to access your medical records. The pharmacist will be able to recommend the best course of action on an individual patient basis, including by issuing prescriptions for antibiotics or antivirals where necessary.



How do I know if my local pharmacy is offering the service?

More than 10,000 pharmacies have already signed up to Pharmacy First – that's over 95 per cent of all those in England.

Will I have to pay for my medication?

Usual prescription charges will apply for the seven common conditions. Patients that are already exempt from prescription charges will still be exempt.

Will pharmacies be able to cope with the increased demand?

The government has invested £645 million over two years to help community pharmacies, including providing improved IT and a wide range of guidance and support.

Patients can still choose to visit a GP if they wish to. The service offers an alternative access for these seven conditions. People are being encouraged to make the most of this service and to consult the highly trained professionals in their local pharmacy.

The aim is to free up 10 million GP appointments a year by next winter for more complex diagnosis. Four in five people in England can reach a community pharmacy within a 20-minute walk and there are twice as many pharmacies in the most deprived communities, making access to care quicker and more convenient.

Note from our Founder

Welcome to the Spring 2024 edition of our newsletter.

We are delighted to share with you the news about our Mobile App which sees us moving away from mainly paper based information to digital. The most notable benefits are secure data exchange, more immediate accessibility of up-to-date information, improved efficiency, and time savings.

You can read more about the benefits and features in this edition and, as always, if you have any questions or queries, please contact the office on 01625 526850 or email info@alicechilton.com. We hope to provide you with a date for Phase 2, the launch of eMARs (Medication Activity Records) soon.

Please let us know if there are any changes to support on the 6th or 27th May, both Bank Holidays. If you do wish to cancel, we can always look to reschedule your calls to another day.

Best wishes



Karen Perry, Founder
karen@alicechilton.com

Next edition 1st July 2024

Stockport Community Support



Caroline, our Registered Care Manager (pictured on the left) and Freya, our Care Supervisor have been out and about recently, meeting with support services in the Stockport community.

In January they spoke at the Signpost for Carers network meeting. Signpost are an independent charity who support

unpaid carers, they talked about the services we offer, and the partnership we have with Signpost to provide respite support while the main carer takes a break. The network meetings provide unpaid carers an opportunity to meet and socialise with others who also care for loved ones and is a forum to share concerns and challenges that can be raised with the Stockport Carers Partnership. The network is open to anyone with an unpaid caring role in Stockport, as well as anyone that works with unpaid carers in the borough.

For more information visit www.signpostforcarers.org.uk

On the 28th February Caroline and Freya attended the Healthwatch Stockport event. Healthwatch works in each local authority in England and has statutory powers under the health and social care act 2012. Their purpose is to help individuals and families get the best out of their local health and social care services.

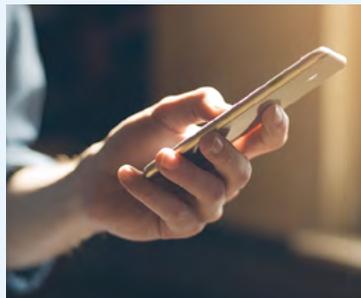
Here's a summary of what Healthwatch Stockport can provide:

- Information about health care services in the local area and how to get in touch.
- An online feedback centre where people can share their experiences of health and social care services in Stockport.
- Regular meetings and coffee mornings to meet and share information.
- Forums focussing on specific topics such as Dementia Awareness for individuals and their carers to attend.
- Newsletters and reports covering local and national health care matters.

For more information visit www.healthwatchstockport.co.uk

Care Team Mobile App

We will soon be introducing a Mobile App for our care team, the App is linked to our current care planner platform and has been designed to improve the level of service we provide for you, our clients, and to give our team easier access to up-to-date information.



Here's an overview of the features and benefits.

- Our team will always have an easy to view and up to date schedule to hand. As soon as a change is made in the office it is available to our team in the field, no longer relying on email correspondence.
- Full off-line functionality (no need for WIFI) meaning that information is available all the time and updates will be saved in the App until connectivity returns.
- Up to date care and support information (Care Profiles) for every scheduled appointment on the go.
- Call monitoring facility, we can see the time of arrival and departure for all client appointments.
- There is a facility to make notes to record observations, incidents and updates which are immediately visible to the office team.
- Facility for the team to leave notes and instructions for the next carer.
- All communication between the Mobile App and our servers is encrypted, as is all data stored on the device. Access to the App itself is via a pin code and access can be revoked by an administrator at any time. Upon revocation of access, data is wiped from the device.
- Phase 2 - eMAR (Medication Activity Record (providing a traceable, auditable, and easily updatable alternative to paper MAR sheets.
- This is a business investment so no additional cost for the client.

A pilot test has been running for some time to ensure that the App works in the way we would like it to and to highlight any questions or concerns the care team may have.

We will be in touch soon with the launch date and in the meantime if you have any questions or queries you can contact the office on 01625 526850 or email info@alicechilton.com

MAY 2024

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| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

May Bank Holidays

6th May 2024 is the Early May Bank Holiday and **27th May 2024** the Spring Bank Holiday. Both are designated holidays and double time charges will apply.

Should you wish to cancel or re-arrange your support on any of these days then please contact the office on 01625 526850 or email info@alicechilton.com to let us know.

Please remember that the schedules are completed 7 days in advance and that the cancellation policy applies in all cases.

If we do not hear from you then your calls will remain in place and the charges will apply.


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