COMMUNITY PHARMACY
MINOR AILMENT SCHEME

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES FOR GP’S AND SURGERY PERSONNEL?
WHAT IS A MINOR AILMENT SCHEME?

- A locally tailored scheme whereby patients are given the opportunity to see a pharmacist for treatment and/or advice for minor illnesses as an alternative to seeing their GP

- Free of charge for patients who are exempt from prescription charges

- Community pharmacy minor ailment schemes are enhanced services within the community pharmacy contractual framework

- Commissioned locally by a CCG
EFFECTS OF MINOR AILMENTS ON GP WORKLOAD

- Research suggests 51.4 million GP consultations a year are solely for minor ailments\(^1\)

- 18% of GPs’ workload or an hour a day for each GP is spent on minor ailment consultations\(^1\)

- Total cost to the NHS of these consultations is £1.8 billion and 80% of this is attributable to the cost of GPs’ time\(^1\)
**BENEFITS OF A COMMUNITY PHARMACY MINOR AILMENT SCHEME**

- Improves access to medicines and increases patient choice of primary care services
- Promotes self-care through pharmacy, educates and empowers patients in caring for themselves
- Provides access for patients to appropriate advice and/or treatment
- Delivers triage
- Improves primary care capacity by reducing GP practice workload related to minor ailments
- Helps GP practices to meet various GMS contract targets
MORE BENEFITS

- Improves GP access for patients with more complex conditions
- Makes better use of pharmacists skills
- Promotes the role of the community pharmacist
- Promotes better working relationships between community pharmacists and GPs
- Could potentially reduce waiting times in A&E
- Helps Commissioning Bodies to achieve local and national targets around GP access and choice in primary care
EXAMPLES OF MINOR AILMENTS COVERED BY THE SERVICE

- Allergies
- Athlete’s foot
- Bites & Stings
- Cold & Flu like symptoms
- Conjunctivitis
- Constipation
- Cystitis
- Diarrhoea
- Head Lice
- Indigestion/ Heartburn/ Tummy Upset
- Mouth Ulcers
- Vaginal Thrush (Adult)
- Warts & Verrucae
EVIDENCE

- Evaluations of existing minor ailment schemes have shown them to be safe, effective and well received.

- Evidence suggests that minor ailment schemes are most successful in socially disadvantaged areas and are particularly well received by mothers with young children.
COMMUNITY PHARMACY MINOR AILMENT SCHEMES HELP TO:

Realise the governments agenda in relation to:

• A patient-centred health service

• Support for self-care

• Responding to ever increasing expectations of convenience and customer service from the public

• Making better use of the skills of NHS staff

• Community pharmacy being an integral part of the NHS