

NHS Pharmacy First Referral Criteria

Full treatment pathways can be found here: https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/PRN00936_ii_Pharmacy-First-Clinical-Pathways-v.1.6.pdf

Who can be referred to pharmacy:	Main symptoms to trigger referral to pharmacy:	When to book in to see one of our clinicians (excluded from pharmacy referrals):
Uncomplicated Urinary Tract Infection		
Women aged 16-64	Burning pain when passing urine, needing to pass urine in the night, Urine cloudy to the naked eye (patient to report, no need for urine sample)	Pregnant individuals, urinary catheter, recurrent UTI (2 episodes in last 6 months, or 3 episodes in last 12 months), fevers, vomiting, kidney pains
Shingles		
Adults 18+	A tingling or painful feeling in an area of skin, a rash will usually appear a few days later, red dots on a pink/red background which develop into blisters. The rash appears on 1 side of the body only. A headache and fever may develop.	Shingles rash affecting eye area, patient who says they are immune-compromised, pregnant individuals
Acute Otitis Media		
For children aged 1 to 17 years	Earache, or in younger children holding/tugging ear and non-specific symptoms such as fever, crying, poor feeding, runny nose, cough	Recurrent acute otitis media (3 or more episodes in 6 months or four or more episodes in 12 months), pregnant individuals aged under 16 years
Acute Sore Throat		
For adults and children aged 5 years and over	Sore throat with/without fever or pus/swollen tonsils, can be in absence of cough/runny nose	Pregnant individuals aged under 16 years
Acute Sinusitis		
For adults and children aged 12 years and over	Nasal blockage (obstruction/congestion) or Nasal discharge with ONE or more of: Facial pain/pressure (or headache) or Reduction (or loss) of the sense of smell (in adults) OR Cough during the day or at night (in children)	Immunosuppressed individuals, chronic sinusitis (sinusitis that causes symptoms that last for more than 12 weeks), pregnant individuals aged under 16 years
Infected insect bites		
For adults and children aged 1 year and over	Redness, pain, swelling of insect bite which is getting worse, with skin hot to touch. Maybe discharge at site of the bite.	Pregnant individuals aged under 16 years
Impetigo		
Non-bullous impetigo, for adults and children aged 1 year and over	Impetigo starts with red sores or blisters, but the redness may be harder to see in brown and black skin. The sores or blisters quickly burst and leave crusty, golden-brown patches which can be itchy.	Bullous impetigo (boils), recurrent impetigo (defined as 2 or more episodes in the same year), pregnant individuals aged under 16 years

NHS Pharmacy First Minor Ailments Referral Criteria

This service is only for **patients aged over 1 year** of age

CONDITIONS	What conditions are SUITABLE for referral to community pharmacists?			Do NOT refer in these circumstances	
Bites/stings	Bee sting Wasp sting	Stings with minor redness	Stings with minor swelling	Drowsy Fast heart rate	Severe swellings or cramps
Colds	Cold sores Coughs	Flu-like symptoms	Sore throat	Lasted +3 weeks Shortness of breath	Chest pain Unable to swallow
Congestion	Blocked or runny nose	Constant need to clear throat	Excess mucus Hay fever	Shortness of breath	Facial swelling
Ear	Earache	Ear wax Blocked ear	Hearing problems	Something may be in the ear canal	Deafness Vertigo
Eye	Conjunctivitis Red or irritable eye	Sticky eye Eyelid problems	Dry/sore tired eyes Watery/runny eyes	Severe pain Pain on 1 side only	Light sensitivity Reduced vision
Gastric/bowel	Constipation Diarrhoea	Heartburn Indigestion	Haemorrhoids Nausea/vomiting	Severe/on-going Lasted 6+ weeks	Patient +55 years Blood/weight loss
General	Hay fever	Sleep difficulties	Tiredness	Severe/on-going	
Gynae/thrush	Cystitis Vaginal discharge	Vaginal itch or soreness		Diabetic/pregnant Under 16 /over 60 Unexplained bleeding	Had thrush 2x in last 6 months OTC treatment not worked
Pain	Acute pain Ankle or foot pain Headache Hip pain or swelling Knee or leg pain	Lower back pain Lower limb pain Migraine Shoulder pain	Sprains and strains Thigh or buttock pain Wrist, hand or finger pain	Condition described as severe or urgent Conditions have been ongoing for +3 weeks	Chest pain/ pain radiating to the shoulder Pharmacy treatment not worked Sudden onset
Skin	Acne, spots and pimples Athlete's foot Blisters on foot Dermatitis/dry skin Hair loss	Hay fever Oral thrush Rash – allergy Ringworm/threadworm	Scabies Skin dressings Skin rash Warts/verrucae Wound problems	Condition described as severe or urgent Conditions have been ongoing for 3+ weeks	Pharmacy treatment not worked Diabetes related?
Mouth/throat	Cold sore blisters Flu-like symptoms Oral thrush	Hoarseness Mouth ulcers Teething	Sore throat Sore mouth Toothache	Lasted 10+ days Swollen, painful gums Sores inside mouth	Unable to swallow Patient has poor immune system Voice change
Swelling	Ankle or foot swelling Lower limb swelling	Thigh or buttock swelling Toe pain or swelling	Wrist, hand or finger swelling	Condition described as severe or urgent Condition ongoing for +3 weeks	Discolouration to skin Pharmacy treatment not worked Recent travel abroad