

Other services offered by the local pharmacies

Help with your medicines

Pharmacists are trained experts in using medicines safely. They can advise you on the safe use of prescription and over-the-counter medicines.

New Medicine Service

If you are prescribed an anticoagulant (a blood-thinning medicine) or a medicine to treat asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), type 2 diabetes or high blood pressure for the first time, you can get extra help and advice about your medicine from your local pharmacist through a free scheme called the New Medicine Service (NMS).

Medicines Use Review (MUR)

Lots of pharmacies now offer a detailed consultation about your medicines called a Medicines Use Review (MUR).

An MUR is especially useful for people who are taking several medicines.

You can talk about what you're taking, when you should be taking it, and any side effects you might be concerned about.

You should also tell your pharmacist if you are taking any over-the counter medicines or any herbal remedies. They can advise you whether these can be taken at the same time or not.

If you're having problems, your pharmacist can offer advice or, if necessary, advise you to see your GP.

You can ask for an MUR, or your pharmacist or GP might recommend one.

They are done in a private consultation room in the pharmacy and you don't have to pay.



Minor ailment scheme

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In Chorley there is an NHS minor ailment scheme. This allows pharmacies to provide you with medicines for free on the NHS, as well as giving you advice and support about how to care for minor conditions yourself.

Anyone who doesn't normally have to pay for prescriptions from their GP is eligible for the scheme and will not need to pay for the medicine that the pharmacist suggests.

However, if you do normally pay for your prescriptions, then you will still need to pay a prescription charge for any medicines your pharmacy recommends.

Visiting your pharmacy about common health problems frees up time for GPs and the Urgent Care and A&E departments.

Every year, millions of us visit our GP with minor health problems that a local pharmacy could help with.

By visiting your pharmacy instead of your GP, you could save yourself time and trouble – no need to book an appointment, just walk in. This also means your GP can focus on treating people who are sicker than you.

Pharmacists can help recognise and treat many common illnesses. They can give advice and where appropriate, recommend over-the-counter medicines that could help clear up the problem.

If they think you need to see a GP for your illness, they will advise you to do that.

Your pharmacy may be able to help with:

- mild skin conditions, such as acne, eczema, psoriasis, impetigo, athlete's foot
- coughs and colds, including blocked nose (nasal congestion), and sore throats
- bruises, sunburn, and minor burns and scalds
- constipation and piles (haemorrhoids)
- hay fever, dry eyes and allergies (including rashes, bites and stings)
- aches and pains, including earache, headache, migraine, back pain and toothache
- vomiting, heartburn, indigestion, diarrhoea and threadworms
- period pain, thrush and cystitis
- head lice (nits)
- conjunctivitis, cold sores and mouth ulcers
- warts and verrucas
- nappy rash and teething

You're entitled to free NHS prescriptions if you:

Are aged:

- Under 16
- Aged 16-18 and in full time education
- Aged 60 or over

If you receive any of the following benefits or tax credits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit paid together
- Working Tax Credit including a disability element

If you have a maternity exemption certificate

- Supplied by the midwife or GP and lasts during the time you are pregnant and for 12 months after

Have a valid pre-payment certificate

Have a valid war pension exemption certificate

Have a valid medical exemption certificate

- Supplied by the GP surgery for a number of long term conditions

Have a HC2 form (for low income)

Information taken from www.nhs.uk