

## **PharmacyFirst Scheme**

You may already know about the newly introduced PharmacyFirst Scheme. This has been trialled in other parts of the UK with an overwhelmingly positive response. It enables 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 refer patients to participating pharmacies, that offer the service. Please note our GP receptionists can only refer for acute sore throats and UTIs at present but watch this space!

Further information is available at:

<https://healthmedia.blog.gov.uk/2024/02/01/pharmacy-first-what-you-need-to-know/>



## **Minchinhampton Surgery**

*Here with you*



## **Newsletter June 2024**

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## New Build Update

Spring is here, bringing better building weather and things are progressing nicely on the new Surgery site. Ground floor walls and flooring of the second level are now complete. We are working with various providers to allow us to make the building adaptable to whatever changes in work the future health service requires. Final planning for interiors and equipment is underway - the current surgery is full of colour samples, carpet tiles and furniture to allow us to decide on the look. Thank you to everyone who attended the Spring Song Fundraiser - it was a resounding success! 😊

If your child did a decorated tile for our waiting room wall here in the current building (about 20 years ago!) and you would like it back, please let us know and we will see what we can do!

## Hearing Aid Clinics

Hearing Aid Clinics are provided by Gloucestershire Deaf Association (GDA) here at the surgery. GDA hosts free hearing aid clinics for NHS hearing aid users to get new batteries and their hearing aids cleaned and re-tubed. Unfortunately, the amount of clinics provided has been reduced for 2024 with the only remaining one being in September. We have been advised that a reduced service will continue in 2025, dates TBC. Further information can be found at [www.gda.org.uk](http://www.gda.org.uk) or by calling 01452 372 999.

## Blood Pressure Monitoring Machines

A gentle reminder to anyone who has borrowed a blood pressure monitoring machine from the surgery to please return it when you have completed your blood pressure checks.

## Sexual Health Matters

Did you know that here at the surgery we have a dedicated nurse-led sexual health and contraception clinic, open to men and woman of any age? Patients are encouraged to book an initial telephone consultation directly with our sexual health nurse without needing a GP appointment. Contraceptive choices are wide and varied now, ranging from the traditional pill, implant, hormonal coil, and non-hormonal coil options.

Patients on the contraceptive pill should expect a '**pill check**' appointment with a practice nurse every 12 months before their prescription is renewed.

For those patients wanting to explore **long-acting contraception options** such as implants, injection, coils - an appointment can be booked with our specialist nurse to discuss suitable options in-depth, and an appointment for the procedure will be arranged if appropriate.

For those patients who already have a **hormonal coil** fitted (usually a Mirena coil) - the guidance has recently changed, and it is now effective for up to 8 years. Please make a note of this as you will not be recalled when you are due a refit.

We offer **screening** for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Self-screening swab test kits for chlamydia & gonorrhoea are available from the surgery – just contact the sexual health nurse.

**Hope House in Gloucester** also offers emergency contraception and sexual health advice for women of any age. They can provide long-term contraception to women under the age of 25. You can self-refer via [www.hopehouse.nhs.uk](http://www.hopehouse.nhs.uk) or by calling 0300 4216500.