

Alternatively

- You may be able to see a local GP and ask for a prescription.
- Staff at an NHS walk-in centre may be able to arrange for you to see a GP.
- In some cases, you may be able to get medication from an NHS walk-in centre after you've seen a nurse.
- A GP out-of-hours service may give you a prescription for your medicine.

REMEMBER.....

- If you are travelling abroad to book an appointment well in advance of your trip with one of Practice Nurses for advice on vaccinations.
- If you are travelling within Europe apply for a European Health Insurance Card. The card entitles you to reduced cost medical treatment and is provided free. To apply by phone, call 0845 606 2030, collect a form from your local post office or apply on line at www.nhs.uk
- If you are travelling outside of Europe you may also receive free healthcare provided that the country in question has a reciprocal healthcare arrangement with the UK.

More information is available on the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk

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Obtaining Urgent Prescriptions

when you are away from home

Planning ahead

If you're going away on holiday or a business trip, make sure you have enough medicine to cover the time you'll be away. If your usual repeat prescription will be due while you are away, remember:

- to ask for extra medicine to cover this period
- that GP surgeries and pharmacies are usually open for limited periods at weekends and bank holidays
- to check your local pharmacy's opening hours to make sure you can get your prescription in time

It is always worth taking extra medication in case your trip is extended. Ideally this should be kept in a different place to your daily dose. For example if you are flying, we recommend that you keep some in your hand luggage and some in your suitcase. This way if a bag or coat is lost, stolen or damaged you would still have access to the reserve supply of your medication.

Consider taking the counterfoil of your prescription with you when you go away as most chemists will dispense an 'emergency' prescription from this, although a fee is usually charged.

Alternatively if you are able to take the packet of your medication and some form of identification to the chemist this is usually accepted also.

What if I run out of medicine?

In an emergency, you may be able to get your medicine from a pharmacist. You must have been prescribed the medicine before. Other conditions also apply to this service. For example, the pharmacist:

- will usually need to see you face-to-face,
- must agree that you need the medicine immediately, and
- can supply your medicine for up to 30 days.

Supplying medicine in an emergency is a private service, not funded by the NHS, and pharmacists are entitled to charge for it. The charge will vary, depending on the medicine you need and the policy of the pharmacist.

Occasionally the pharmacist may agree to accept a prescription that has been faxed from your usual GP surgery. We are able to provide this service, but we cannot do it by return as all prescriptions have to be authorised by the GP which they do at the end of their surgery. We will ask you to provide us with the fax and phone number and full postal address of the chemist that you will be collecting your prescription from.