

Why is it important to register with a Medical Practice?

A Medical Practice is your family local surgery and is the main point of contact for general healthcare for NHS patients. All UK residents are entitled to the services of an NHS Medical Practice.

GPs are highly skilled doctors who help you to manage your health and prevent illness they are trained in all aspects of general medicine. Also within the Practice are Specialist Nurses; Practice Nurses and Healthcare Assistant, who are also able to carry out consultations. This includes:

- child health;
- mental health;
- adult medicine,
- diagnosis and management of medical and surgical conditions;
- Management of long-term health conditions including diabetes and asthma,

Some GP practices carry out practical procedures such as minor surgery.

When you contact the Practice to make an appointment, you will be asked by staff to give an outline of the reason for the visit – this is meant to help the reception staff book you in with the person with the most capability and skill to support you. This could be something like an appointment with the Asthma Nurse or a Practice Nurse to have a blood test.

GPs assess, diagnose, treat and manage illness. They carry out screening for some cancers and promote general health and wellbeing. GPs support and represent patients, ensuring they receive the best and most appropriate health and care available.

GPs also work closely with other healthcare colleagues to arrange hospital admissions, the provision of care closer to home and referrals to specialists. Additionally they collect and record important information from other healthcare professionals involved in your treatment to ensure that the care you receive is safe and of the highest quality.

It is very important that you get any medicines you are taking from a UK doctor or pharmacy – this so the appropriate treatment can be given if you are taken suddenly ill.

Visits to the GP practice are free.