

News release

15 December, 2011
For immediate release

Take note of opening times over the holiday period

Residents are being asked to take note of local surgery and pharmacy opening times to avoid being left in a panic about health problems and prescriptions over the festive period.

Traditionally at this time of year too many people wrongly visit A&E when they could get quicker, more appropriate treatment elsewhere.

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland PCT Cluster is providing residents with a list of GPs and pharmacies that open over the festive season should people feel unwell or need advice on minor ailments like coughs and colds, tummy aches, bugs and toothache.

Mr Patel, pharmacist at Patel's Chemist on Narborough Road, Leicester, said:
"Pharmacies should be a persons' first port of call if they feel poorly during the holiday period. We are trained to help with minor ailments including colds and flu, headaches, allergies and medication reviews. Our pharmacy stays open throughout the festive period. We want people to know they can come to us if they do feel unwell during this time.

"We are open from 9am until 8.30pm everyday including Christmas day and the bank holidays."

People are also advised to call their GP surgery ahead of the holidays to check any last minute changes to opening times.

Ben Teasdale, clinical lead for emergency medicine at Leicester's Hospitals, said:
"An unnecessary trip to the Emergency Department is not on anybody's Christmas list so please remember to only visit us in a real emergency. There are other places for you to receive treatment for less serious illness, such as, a local pharmacy, your GP, NHS Direct, an NHS walk in centre or the urgent care centre, which is based at the Leicester Royal Infirmary."

Residents are also reminded to keep a well-stocked medicine cabinet in the event that they can't get to a GP or pharmacy during the bank holidays. This should include paracetamol, plasters, rehydration and diarrhoea treatment, antiseptic cream, a thermometer and cold and flu remedies.

Patients will continue to be able to access services at walk-in centres and minor injury units across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland during the holiday period at:

- Oadby and Wigston Walk-In Medical Centre (8am-8pm, 365 days a year)
- Loughborough Walk-In Centre (24 hours, 365 days a year)
- Lutterworth Minor Injury Unit (9am-9pm, 365 days a year)
- Market Harborough Minor Injury and Illness Unit (9am-9pm, 365 days a year)
- Melton Mowbray Minor Injury and Illness Unit (weekends and bank holidays 9.30am-1.30pm)

- Rutland Minor Injury and Illness Unit (9am-5pm weekdays, 9am-9pm weekends and bank holidays)
- The Merlyn Vaz Health and Social Care Centre (8am-8pm, 365 days a year)
- Leicester Royal Infirmary Urgent Care Centre (24 hours, 365 days a year)

For more information visit <http://www.choosebetter.org.uk/ Pharmacy.aspx>, <http://www.leicestercity.nhs.uk/ YourHealth-Needhealthcare.aspx> or www.lcr.nhs.uk or call the PCT Cluster customer services team to find your nearest GP or pharmacist on 0116 295 7011.

ENDS

For interviews contact media officer Liz Thomas on 0116 295 7677 or liz.thomas@leicestercity.nhs.uk

Notes to editor:

In October 2010 NHS Leicester City and NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland joined forces to form a 'cluster', in line with the requirements of the Department of Health. Although we share one Cluster Board and our staff work across the city and county boundaries, we have not legally merged, and retain our separate statutory duties. Together we serve a population of more than a million people. Cluster formation is an interim stage in the reform of the NHS, involving on-going transfer of most local commissioning functions to GP-led clinical commissioning groups, in line with the Health and Social Care Bill, now before Parliament and the House of Lords.