

MINOR AILMENT SCHEME FOR MEDICAL CARD PATIENTS

Choose well: The option to feel better quicker

What are you waiting for?



We are trying something new in your area so that you can choose the most appropriate place to seek treatment of your minor ailment. Currently, if a patient needs treatment for a minor ailment under their medical card, they must go to their GP to get a prescription. Your local pharmacy and the HSE have introduced a Minor Ailment Scheme.

A Minor Ailment Scheme means you can go straight to your pharmacist for assessment and treatment for a number of ailments, simply paying the prescription levy as usual.



**IRISH
PHARMACY
UNION**

The voice of
community pharmacy



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Why should I go to my pharmacist first if I am suffering from a minor ailment?

- Pharmacists are trained healthcare professionals who deal with minor ailments every day.
- You will receive expert advice without the need to make an appointment or wait to see your GP.
- GPs will have more time to focus on patients that need more help.

What kinds of ailments are covered by the scheme?



Pharmacists can recommend treatment for **five** minor ailments under the scheme:

1. **Dry Eye**
2. **Dry Skin**
3. **Scabies**
4. **Threadworms**
5. **Vaginal Thrush**



How does the service work?

1. You may be suffering from one of the five minor ailments listed above.
2. You attend your local pharmacy and explain your symptoms to the pharmacist.
3. Your pharmacist will ask questions about your symptoms, other medicines you take and illnesses you have. They will then recommend an appropriate treatment for you. In some cases, your pharmacist may need to refer you to your GP.
4. Your pharmacist will explain how long it should take for symptoms to resolve.
5. Your pharmacist will ask you to sign a form to confirm that you have used the service and have been recommended treatment. You may also be asked to provide feedback on the service.

If your symptoms persist or worsen instead of improving, you should seek further advice from your pharmacist or make an appointment with your GP.