How can I help reduce healthcare associated infections?

Infection control is important to the well-being of our patients and for that reason we have infection control procedures in place. Keeping your hands clean is an effective way of preventing the spread of infections. We ask that you, and anyone visiting you, use the hand sanitiser available at the entrance to every ward before coming in to or after leaving the ward. In some situations hands may need to be washed at the sink using soap and water rather than using the hand sanitiser. Staff will let you know if this is the case.

www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk
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Non medical prescribing by health professionals

Patient information leaflet
If you require a translation of this leaflet please call the Pharmacy Medicines Helpline on 01494 425355

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What is non-medical prescribing?
Doctors and Dentists are normally known as medical prescribers. Over the past 10 years or more, changes in law have allowed other health professionals (such as Nurses, Pharmacists, Optometrists, Physiotherapists) to prescribe medicines, provided they have completed a period of specialist training and are registered with their professional body. They are called ‘non-medical prescribers’.

A number of healthcare professionals at Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust are qualified as non-medical prescribers and are authorised to write a prescription for you.

There are two types:

**Independent prescribers**, who are able to prescribe medicines for medical conditions within their speciality and competence.

**Supplementary prescribers**, who can prescribe further supplies of medicines and monitor your treatment, once a Doctor or Dentist has given an initial diagnosis and agreed on the medicines that should be prescribed for you.

Contact us
If you have any questions or concerns about non-medical prescribing, please call: Pharmacy Medicines Helpline on **01494-425355** (12 noon to 5pm, Monday to Friday).
Is it safe?
Yes. Your non-medical prescriber will have undergone additional training and will have been approved by a professional body so that they can prescribe for you.

What can my non-medical prescriber prescribe for me?
Your non-medical prescriber will only prescribe medicines for you that fall within their specialist area of practice. They will adhere to their Code of Professional Conduct and they are professionally accountable for their prescribing practice.

Can I still see a doctor?
Yes. However there are times when an Advanced Nurse Practitioner or Consultant Nurse/Midwife will be the main person delivering care to the service you are under so it may take some time to arrange an appointment for you with the Doctor.

Other useful links and contacts:

Medicines Information
Offers advice and information on the safe use of medicines by experienced pharmacists.
Tel: 01494-425355

NHS 111
Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.
Tel: 111

NHS Choices
Provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make choices about your health.
Web address: www.nhs.uk

We will ask whether you agree to receiving prescriptions from a non-medical prescriber. You may say no, or ask for more time to think about it. Whatever you decide, you will still be given the best appropriate treatment and care.
If you would like to see a Doctor, please speak to your non-medical prescriber so he/she can arrange for this to happen as soon as possible.

If your non-medical prescriber has any concerns about your condition or your medicines they will speak to your Doctor, and may book an appointment for you to see them as well.

**What can I do if I am not happy with the decisions made?**
Discuss any concerns that you might have with your non-medical prescriber, as an open and honest approach is the only way we can improve the quality of our service. Please ask a member of staff for a comment card, so that you can raise your concerns or complaints.

**How will I get a repeat prescription?**
That will depend on the medicines you are taking. Your non-medical prescriber may want to monitor the effectiveness of your treatment and then decide whether you need a repeat prescription or you may need to continue your treatment with your GP. You will always be told where to get repeat prescriptions.

**Who can I contact for more information?**
If you have any further questions about your treatment or your medicines (for example, whether there are any side effects) please ask your non-medical prescriber when you see them or call them using the contact details below:

**Non-medical prescriber’s name:** ________________

**Contact telephone number:** ________________

Please remember to bring:
- All the medicines you are taking with you whenever you visit the hospital.
- All the medicines you have been prescribed
- All the medicines that you use.
- Any herbal medicines, vitamins.
- Any medicines that you have bought.
- Any medicines that have been bought for you.