

GPs and their wider team need time to give patients the best care they possibly can. You can help free up time for those who really need expert advice by considering three alternatives before booking an appointment:

#### **Self-care**

For minor ailments you could safely treat your symptoms at home, for example through rest or with appropriate over the counter medicines.



## **Use trusted online services**

NI Direct Stay Well offers sensible advice on a range of health issues and is a useful place to turn to for initial guidance.



## Seek advice from a pharmacist

Pharmacists are highly skilled healthcare professionals who can offer valuable advice.

#### You should always seek urgent medical attention in an emergency.



Royal College of General Practitioners

# #3beforeGP